



Indiana School Boards Association

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TO: All Interested Parties
FROM: Lisa F. Tanselle, Staff Attorney
RE: School Board Candidate Election Procedures, 2010*

I. Dates to Follow

A. Primary Election (May 4, 2010)

January 20, 2010	First day for filing Petition of Nomination with Clerk of Circuit Court. (IC 3-8-2-4)
12:00 Noon	Last day and hour for filing Petition of Nomination with Clerk of Circuit Court.
February 19, 2010	(IC 3-8-2-4)

B. General Election (November 2, 2010)

July 21, 2010	First day for filing Petition of Nomination with Clerk of Circuit Court. (IC 20-23-4-29)
12:00 Noon	Last day and hour for filing Petition of Nomination with Clerk of Circuit Court.
August 20, 2010	(IC 20-23-4-29)

II. Election Procedures

A. Petitions of Nomination

Petitions of nomination are available from and must be filed with the clerk of the circuit court of each county. (Some counties have established county voter registration offices. School board candidates residing in these counties must obtain and file any petitions of nomination with the county voter registration office as opposed to the circuit court clerk's office.) Candidates seeking election in a school corporation that is located more than one county must file their petitions with the clerk of the circuit court of the county that contains the greatest percentage of population of the school corporation.

The petitions are self-explanatory but basically require the candidate's signature and the signature of at least ten registered voters residing within the boundaries of the school corporation. (In some counties, more signatures are required. Candidates should check with the circuit court clerk to determine the number of signatures required.) Where the governing body selection plan requires residence in a specific district or voting in a specified district for any board member office, the petition must clearly state the residence or electoral district from or for which the individual is a candidate. (IC 20-23-4-29)

B. Campaign Financial Statements

Any school board candidate who receives \$500 or less in contributions or spends \$500 or less as a candidate is not required to file campaign finance reports. Any candidate who exceeds these amounts is required to file such reports and is subject to additional election law procedures, such as the designation of a principal committee and the appointment of a chairman and treasurer of such committee. (IC 3-9-1 & IC 3-9-5.) Please contact your county election board for information on the filing of these reports and other additional requirements. Campaign financial information may also be found on the website of the Secretary of State, Election Division, at www.in.gov/sos/elections.

***This memo is for informational purposes only. CONTACT YOUR COUNTY ELECTION BOARD TO VERIFY THE ABOVE DATES AND STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS.**

C. Campaign Violations

Among the criminal offenses for campaign violations are: filing a fraudulent petition of nomination; filing a fraudulent campaign financial statement; and failing to file a campaign financial statement. *(IC 3-14-1)*

NOTE: Any school board candidate who receives more than \$500 in contributions or spends more than \$500 as a candidate is also subject to civil penalties for failure to file reports required by law. *(IC 3-9-4)*

D. Applicable Laws

IC 3-9-2 (campaign contributions); IC 3-9-3-2.5 (advertisement notice); IC 3-9-4 (election boards' duties); IC 3-10-6 (school district elections in all cities; towns having a population of 3,500 or more; and towns in Marion County); and IC 3-14-1 (campaign violations).

E. Additional Information

Candidates should contact the county election board (or circuit court clerk) with any questions regarding dates, procedures, and completing the proper forms. Candidates may also contact the Indiana Election Division at 317/232-3939 or toll-free at 800/622-4941 or access the website of the Secretary of State, Election Division, at www.in.gov/sos/elections.

III. Eligibility Requirements

A. Voter Registration

A person is not qualified to run for:

- (1) a state office;
- (2) a legislative office;
- (3) a local office; or
- (4) a school board office;

unless the person is registered to vote in the election district the person seeks to represent not later than the deadline for filing the declaration or petition of candidacy or certificate of nomination. *(IC 3-8-1-1(b))*

B. Felony Conviction

A person is disqualified from assuming or being a candidate for an elected office if, among other things, the person has been convicted of a felony that has not been pardoned, reversed, vacated, set aside, or not entered because the trial court did not accept the person's guilty plea. *(IC 3-8-1-5)*

C. Multiple Lucrative Offices

A person may not hold more than one (1) lucrative office at a time, as provided in Article 2, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana. *(IC 3-8-1-3)*

D. Residence

A candidate for a school board office must have resided in the school corporation for at least one (1) year before the election, unless a longer period is required under IC 20 (see, for example, IC 20-23-7-5). If a candidate is seeking to represent an election district that consists of less than the entire school corporation, the candidate must have resided in the election district for at least one (1) year before the election, unless a longer period is required under IC 20 (see, for example, IC 20-23-14-5). *(IC 3-8-1-34)*

E. Age

No person otherwise eligible to assume office as a member of a governing body shall be disqualified on the basis of age, if the individual is at least twenty-one (21) years of age. *(IC 20-26-4-9)*

F. Property Ownership

Property ownership shall not be a qualification for serving as a member of a governing body. *(IC 20-26-4-10)*

G. School Corporation Employees

An individual who is employed as a teacher or as a noncertificated employee of the school corporation may not be a member of the governing body of the school corporation. *(IC 20-26-4-11)*