

BOARD CANDIDATES AND CAMPAIGNING**Qualifications**

A candidate for the office of Member of the Board of Education shall meet the following qualifications:

- be a citizen of the United States;
- be at least 18 years of age on the date of the election; and
- be a resident of the District for at least one year preceding the election.

A person shall be ineligible for the office of Member of the Board of Education if:

- he/she has a family member already seated on the Board;
- he/she is a convicted felon;
- he/she has been removed from a District office less than one year prior to the date of the election; or
- he/she is the Superintendent of Schools.

Nominations

Candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education shall be nominated by petition. All nominating petitions shall be filed with the District Clerk between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:30 pm, not later than thirty (30) days preceding the Annual District Election.

Each nominating petition shall be directed to the District Clerk and shall contain the signatures and addresses of at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District, or two percent (2%) of those who voted in the last District election, whichever number is greater. The petition shall include the name and residence of the candidate and shall also describe the specific vacancy on the Board, which shall include, at least, the length of the term of office and the name of the last incumbent, if any.

The District Clerk shall supervise the procedure used to establish the order of names on the ballot, which shall be determined by a drawing by lot to be held for each vacancy. Candidates and/or their proxy shall appear at the District Office at 5:00 pm the next business day after the last possible date for candidates to file a petition for the drawing by lot.

Any candidate wishing to appear by proxy must provide the person so designated with a written proxy, which must be filed with the District Clerk no later than the time stated above. In the event that a candidate fails to appear in person or by properly designated proxy, the District Clerk shall act as such proxy.

Any objections to the actual drawing by lot shall be made at that time to the District Clerk so that defects, if any, may be corrected while all the candidates or their representatives are present. Failure to so object shall constitute a waiver of any defect. Candidates who fail to appear either personally or by proxy shall be deemed to waive their right to object to such proceedings. The

Board may reject nominations if the candidate is ineligible or has declared an unwillingness to serve.

Reporting Expenditures

If a candidate's campaign expenditures exceed \$500, the candidate must file a sworn statement with both the District Clerk and the Commissioner of Education itemizing their expenditures and contributions received. The statement must list the amounts of all money or other valuable things paid, given, expended, or promised by the candidate, or incurred for or on the candidate's behalf with his or her approval.

A candidate who spends \$500 or less is only required to file a sworn statement with the District Clerk indicating this to be the case. No other campaign expenditure statement is required.

An initial statement must be filed at least thirty (30) days before the election, a second statement must be filed on or before the fifth (5th) day preceding the election, and a final statement must be filed within twenty (20) days after the election.

Electioneering

Electioneering is prohibited within one hundred (100) feet of the polling place, and its designated entrances, while the polls are open during school elections. The District shall conspicuously place markers, one-half hour before the opening of the polls and shall remain until the polls are closed, indicating the limits of the prohibition and designating the entrances to the polling place. No banner, poster, placard, or other item on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate or issue to be voted upon shall be allowed in or upon the polling place or one hundred (100) feet therefrom. Any person who willfully violates these regulations shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. These regulations shall not prohibit the Board from displaying within any polling place a copy or copies of any proposition to be voted upon.

Cross-Reference: 1050, Annual District Election and Budget Vote
2120, School Board Elections
6120, Budget Hearing

Reference: Education Law §§ 2018; 2031-a

Adopted: March 21, 2017