

VOTE AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

The vote on the annual budget and the election of members of the Board of Education shall be held on the third Tuesday in May, unless this date conflicts with religious observances on that day, in which case it shall be held on the second Tuesday in May. The polls shall be open for those hours designated by the Board of Education. The following items shall be voted upon:

1. the annual budget,
2. any vacancies on the Board of Education, and
3. any special propositions that have been properly presented.

Special elections may be called as authorized by law.

Electioneering during the hours of any vote is prohibited within the polling place or within 100 feet of any such polling place. Displays or handout items of any political nature, except those provided by law, shall be prohibited by any individual, group or organization in any school building on those days when the polls are open for voting on School District matters, including, but not limited to, the annual school budget, candidates for the Board of Education, special propositions, etc.

Voting Procedures

Eligibility to Vote

A person shall be entitled to vote in any School District election and in all matters placed upon the official ballot, if such person is:

1. a citizen of the United States;
2. at least eighteen (18) years of age;
3. a resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days next preceding the election at which such person desires to vote;
4. qualified to register or is registered to vote in accord with section 5-106 of the Election Law which excludes:
 - a) those convicted felons who have not been pardoned or had their rights of citizenship restored, those whose maximum sentence of imprisonment has not expired; and/ or those who have not been discharged from parole;
 - b) persons adjudged mentally incompetent by a court.

Policy 2200

Challenges to voters believed unqualified to vote may be undertaken pursuant to Education Law provisions. Each annual or special election or meeting shall have a presiding chairman appointed by the Board of Education. Such chairman shall have the responsibility of properly handling any challenges to the qualification of any voter,

Voting

Personal registration of voters is required for all school district elections.

Voting machines shall be used for recording the votes on all elections, budget votes, and votes on special propositions. The only exception to the use of voting machines shall be an emergency situation whereby the machines are unavailable due to a mechanical failure, or state or local law prohibiting their use. If this should arise, paper ballots will be used.

Each voting machine shall have at least two election inspectors appointed by the Board of Education in attendance during all voting hours. It shall be the duty of the District Clerk and assistant clerk or clerks to keep a poll list containing the name and legal residence of each person before such person is permitted to vote.

Entering a voting machine with another person is prohibited, except upon request from a voter, in which case an election inspector shall be allowed to enter the voting machine with that voter for the sole purpose of assisting that person in the actual manipulation of the voting machine. The election inspector shall not advise or induce such voter to vote on any proposition or candidate, and the election inspector shall never reveal the vote(s) recorded by the voter to any other person at any time.

Write-in ballot slots are required. Ballots containing the names of nominated candidates will be provided by the Board of Education. On a paper ballot, one blank space will be provided under the name of the last candidate for each office so that voters may vote for candidates who have not been nominated for the offices to be filled at the election. There will be as many write-in slots as there are vacancies at the time of election. The writing in of a name in the blank space so provided, will sufficiently indicate a vote. The School District cannot require a voter to place any other mark beside the name of a write-in candidate.

Absentee Ballots

The Board of Education provides for the use of absentee ballots for voting. Such ballots shall be available for the election of members of the Board of Education, the adoption of the School District budget, and on questions and propositions submitted to the voters of the School District. The application must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days prior to the election, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter; or the application must be received by the day before the election, if the ballot is to be personally delivered. The application must be completed and returned, and the individual must verify therein that he/she meets all voting requirements, and explain the reason for his/her inability to appear in person to vote.

In particular, the individual must explain that he/she will be unable to appear to vote in person on the day of the School District election because:

1. he/she will be a patient in a hospital, or unable to appear personally at the polling place on such day because of illness or physical disability;
2. his/her duties, occupation, business, or studies will require him/her to be outside of the county or city of his/her residence on such day;
3. he/she will be on vacation outside the county or city of his/her residence on such day; or
4. he/she will be detained in jail awaiting action by a grand jury; awaiting trial; or is confined in prison after conviction for an offense other than a felony.

The School District shall request registration lists from the Board of Education for those voters whose registration record has been marked "permanently disabled" and shall automatically mail absentee ballots to such voters in advance of each School District vote or election.

Voter Initiated Propositions

The Board of Education has the authority to adopt reasonable rules and regulations concerning the submission of petitions by voters to the Board of Education to place propositions on the ballot. Unless otherwise provided by the Education Law, petitions for the submission of a proposition initiated by the voters must contain a minimum of twenty five signatures of the qualified voters of the school district or two (2) percent of the eligible voters who voted in the previous annual election, whichever is greater.

Petitions for the submission of a proposition initiated by the voters must be filed with the District Clerk at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting to facilitate the preparation and printing of ballots.

Propositions must include the specific appropriations necessary for the purposes listed. Wording of the proposed proposition must comply with legal requirements. If the wording does not comply, it may be changed or altered by the Board of Education, or the Board of Education may reject a petition for failure to comply.

Propositions received in accordance with the requirements set forth herein and the law will be placed on the ballot as amendments and will be submitted to the voters in the same manner as the proposed budget. The Board of Education will not be required to place any proposition on the ballot which is within the exclusive province of the Board or otherwise forbidden by law.

Prior to the annual budget vote and school board election, the Board of Education shall advertise and hold a budget hearing in the manner required by law.

Cross Ref: Policy 2160 Board Member, School District Officers and Employee Code of Ethics

Ref: Education Law §§1709(17); 2002; 2012; 2014; 2018; 2018-a; 2018-b; 2018-c; 2019; 2019-a; 2020; 2025; 2031; 2031-a; 2032(2)(e); 2035; 2102; 2103; 2113

Adoption date: June 21, 2016