

CANDIDATES AND CAMPAIGNING

Nomination

Candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education shall be nominated by petition. Such petition shall be directed to the District Clerk, and shall contain the signatures and addresses of at least 25 qualified voters of the district, or two (2) percent of the number of voters who voted in the previous annual election of the members of the board, whichever is greater. Such petition must state the name and residence of the candidate. Each petition shall be filed with the District Clerk not later than thirty (30) days preceding the annual or special district meeting at which the school board election will occur, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. If the deadline for filing nominating petitions falls on “a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, the filing may be performed on the next succeeding business day”.

The District Clerk will determine the order of names on the ballot. The Board may reject nominations if the candidate is ineligible or has declared an unwillingness to serve. Candidates for the Board are nominated to run for a specific seat on the Board.

Electioneering

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.

Campaign Expenditure Statements

If a school board candidate’s campaign expenditures exceed five hundred dollars (\$500), the candidate must file a sworn statement with both the District Clerk and the Commissioner of Education itemizing their expenditures and contributions received.

A candidate who spends five hundred dollars (\$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 30 days before the election, a second statement must be filed on or before the fifth day preceding the election and a final statement must be filed within 20 days after the election.

Ref: Education Law §§1528-1531; 2018(a); 2608(a); 2013-a; 2609 (4-a)
General Construction Law §25-a(1)
Appeal of Williams, 36 EDR 270 (1996)
Appeal of Johnson, 45 EDR 320 (2005)

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