

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS

Board Member Qualifications

Any person is eligible to be a Governing Board member, without further qualifications, if he/she is 18 years of age or older, a citizen of California, a resident of the school district, a registered voter, and not legally disqualified from holding civil office. (Education Code 35107) Any person who has been convicted of a felony involving the giving, accepting, or offering of a bribe, embezzlement or theft of public funds, extortion, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any such crime, under California law or the law of another state, the United States of America, or another country, is not eligible to be a candidate for office or elected as a Board member except when he/she has been granted a pardon in accordance with law. (Education Code 35107; Elections Code 20)

A district employee elected to the Board shall resign his/her employment before being sworn in or shall have his/her employment automatically terminated upon being sworn into office. (Education Code 35107)

(cf. 9224 - Oath of Affirmation)
(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

The Board encourages all candidates to become knowledgeable about the role of board members. The Superintendent or designee shall provide all candidates with information that will enable them to understand the responsibilities and expectations of being a Board member, including information regarding available workshops, seminars, and/or training.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide all candidates with the county election official's contact information and general information about school programs, district operations, and Board responsibilities.

(cf. 9230 - Orientation)
(cf. 9240 - Board Training)

Elections Process and Procedures

Election by trustee area

The district is divided into trustee areas and each trustee area shall be represented by a Board member who resides in and is elected by voters residing within that trustee area. Trustee areas shall be balanced by population as required by state and federal law.

Prior to March 1 following the year in which the results of each decennial federal census are released, the Board shall adjust the boundaries of the district's trustee areas based on population figures as validated by the Population Research Unit of the Department of Finance. (Education Code 5019.5)

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS (continued)

To ensure ongoing compliance with the California Voting Rights Acts, the Board may review the district's Board election method to determine whether any modification is necessary due to changes in the district's population or any of its racial, color, or language minority group composition. The review shall be based on the Superintendent or designee's report to the Board after the release of each decennial federal census.

If the Board determines that a change is necessary, it shall hold public hearings in accordance with Elections Code 10100 before adopting a resolution at an open meeting specifying the change(s), and shall, in accordance with Education Code 5019, obtain approval from the county committee on school district organization having jurisdiction over the district.

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

Campaign Conduct

All candidates, including current Board members running as incumbents, shall abide by local, county, state, and federal requirements regarding campaign donations, funding, and expenditures.

A Board member shall not expend, and a candidate shall not accept, any public money for the purpose of seeking elective office.

In order to help protect the public's trust in the electoral process as well as the public's confidence in the Board and district, the Board encourages all candidates to sign and adhere to the principles in the Code of Fair Campaign Practices pursuant to Elections Code 20440.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)

Statement of Qualifications

On the 125th day prior to the day fixed for the general district election, the Board secretary or his/her designee shall deliver a notice, bearing the secretary's signature and district seal, to the county elections official describing both of the following: (Elections Code 10509)

1. The elective offices of the district to be filled at the general election and which offices, if any, are for the balance of an unexpired term

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS (continued)

2. Whether the district or the candidate is to pay for the publication of a statement of qualifications pursuant to Elections Code 13307

(cf. 9223 - Filling Vacancies)

Candidate statements shall be limited to no more than 200 words. (Elections Code 13307)

Candidates for the Board may submit a candidate statement to the elections official for inclusion in the voter's pamphlet. Candidate statements shall be limited to no more than 200 words. (Elections Code 13307)

When the elections official allows for the electronic distribution of candidate statements, a candidate for the Board may, in addition to or instead of submitting a candidate statement for inclusion in the mailed voter's pamphlet, prepare and submit a candidate statement for electronic distribution.

The district shall assume no part of the cost of printing, handling, translating, or mailing of candidate statements filed pursuant to Elections Code 13307. As a condition of having candidate statements included in the hard copy and/or electronic voter's pamphlet, the district may require candidates to pay their estimated pro rata share of these costs to the district in advance pursuant to Elections Code 13307.

Tie Votes in Board Member Elections

Whenever a tie makes it impossible to determine which of two or more candidates has been elected to the Board, the Board shall immediately notify the candidates who received the tie votes of the time and place where the candidates or their representatives should appear before the Board. The Board at that time shall determine the winner by lot. (Education Code 5016)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1006 *Qualifications for holding office, county board of education*

5000-5033 *Elections*

5220-5231 *Elections*

5300-5304 *General provisions (conduct of elections)*

5320-5329 *Order and call of elections*

5340-5345 *Consolidation of elections*

5360-5363 *Election notice*

5380 *Compensation (of election officer)* 5390

Qualifications of voters

5420-5426 *Cost of elections*

5440-5442 *Miscellaneous provisions*

7054 *Use of district property*

35107 *Eligibility; school district employees*

35177 *Campaign expenditures or contributions*

35239 *Compensation of governing board member of districts with less than 70 ADA*

ELECTIONS CODE

20 *Public office eligibility*

1302 *Local elections, school district election*

2201 *Grounds for cancellation*

4000-4004 *Elections conducted wholly by mail*

10010 *District boundaries*

10400-10418 *Consolidation of elections* 10509

Notice of election by secretary

10600-10604 *School district elections*

13307 *Candidate's statement*

13308 *Candidate's statement contents*

13309 *Candidate's statement, indigency*

14025-14032 *California Voting Rights Act*

14050-14057 *California Voter Participation Rights Act*

20440 *Code of Fair Campaign Practices*

1021 *Conviction of crime*

GOVERNMENT CODE

1097 *Illegal participation in public contract*

12940 *Nondiscrimination, Fair Employment and Housing Act*

81000-91014 *Political Reform Act*

PENAL CODE

68 *Bribes*

74 *Acceptance of gratuity*

424 *Embezzlement and falsification of accounts by public officers*

661 *Removal for neglect or violation of official duty*

GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS (continued)

Legal Reference: (continued)

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

Article 2, Section 2 Voters, qualifications

Article 7, Section 7 Conflicting offices

Article 7, Section 8 Disqualification from office

COURT DECISIONS

Randall v. Sorrell, (2006) 126 S.Ct. 2479

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

85 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 49 (2002)

83 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 181 (2000)

81 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 98 (1998)

69 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 290 (1986)

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

Legal Alert on the Impact of Senate Bill No. 415 on School Board Elections, January 2017

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Secretary of State's Office: <http://www.ss.ca.gov>

Fair Political Practices Commission: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov>

Institute for Local Self Government: <http://www.islg.org>

Bylaw

Adopted: February 19, 2008

Revised: June 12, 2018

GAMUT: 7/17

SAUGUS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Clarita, California