



2018 Election Information for School Board Candidates

Serving on a school board is an opportunity to participate in American democracy at a vital, grass-roots level. Members of Nebraska's [Number] public school boards and Educational Service Unit boards are entrusted with the vital task of ensuring that Nebraska's public-school students attain high levels of academic achievement. This important job can be challenging and requires dedication, leadership, and a thorough understanding of the roles and responsibilities a board member must execute. To learn more about what is required of board members, please refer to *Preparing to Serve* for a more in-depth look at board service.

The information in this guide is designed to help potential candidates for local Nebraska boards of education navigate the process of filing and running for office on local school boards and ESU boards and provide a summary of the information and deadlines that current board members and school districts need to be aware of.

Election Information Varies by School District Class

In Nebraska, school board election procedures vary depending on school district classification. Under Nebraska Revised Statute §79-102, Nebraska's public schools are classified as follows:

- Class II – any district embracing territory having a population of 1,000 inhabitants or less that maintains both elementary and high school grades under the direction of a single board. [§79-102(2)]
- Class III - any district embracing territory having a population of more than 1,000 and less than 150,000 inhabitants that maintains both elementary and high school grades under the direction of a single school board. [§79-102(3)]
- Class IV - any district embracing territory having a population of 100,000 or more inhabitants with a city of the primary class within the territory of the district that maintains both elementary and high school grades under the direction of a single school board. [§79-102(4)]
- Class V - any district whose employees participate in a retirement system established pursuant to the Class V School Employees Retirement Act and which embraces territory having a city of the metropolitan class within the territory of the district that maintains both elementary grades and high school grades under the direction of a single school board and any school district with territory in a city of the metropolitan class created pursuant to the Learning Community Reorganization Act and designated as a Class V school district in the reorganization plan. [§79-102(5)]

Important Dates

December 1, 2017

First day a person may file for office to have their name placed on the ballot as a candidate at the 2018 election. (§32-606)

January 5, 2018

Last day for political subdivisions [the school board] to notify the Secretary of State, County Clerks or Election Commissioners of offices to be filled, terms, vacancies, votes to cast, and filing deadlines for each office. (§32-404 and §32-601)

February 15, 2018

Last day for **incumbents** (any current office holder) to file for office on the primary ballot. (§32-606)

March 1, 2018

Last day for **non-incumbents** (new filers) to file for office on primary election. (§32-606)

May 15, 2018

Statewide Primary Election
(§32-401)

June 15, 2018

ESUs holding elections in conjunction with the statewide general election must notify the Secretary of State, County Clerks or Election Commissioners of offices to be filled, terms, vacancies, votes to cast, and filing deadlines for each office. (§32-404 and §32-601)

July 15, 2018

Last day for **incumbents** (any current office holder) not on the Primary Ballot to file. (§32-606) Educational Service Unit Board Members; Class II Schools.

August 1, 2018

Last day for **non-incumbents** (new filers) to file for office. (§32-606) Educational Service Unit Board Members; Class II Schools.

November 6, 2018

Statewide General Election

What Do I Need To Know?

Contact your local school district or ESU office to inquire about the availability of all forms necessary to file for office.

Class II Districts:

- 5 to 9 members on board [§79-550]
- 4-year terms (in most circumstances) [§32-542(2)]
- The school board must notify the Secretary of State, County Clerk, or Election Commissioner of offices to be filled, term, vacancies, votes to cast, and filing deadlines for each office by January 5, 2018 [§32-404 and §32-601]
- Election of members only at Statewide General Election (November 6, 2018)
- Incumbents (current board members) must file for office by July 15, 2018
- Non-Incumbents (new filers) must file for office by August 1, 2018

Class III Districts:

(Except Westside Community Schools)

- 5 to 9 members on board [§79-549 or §79-550]
- The school board must notify the Secretary of State, County Clerk, or Election Commissioner of offices to be filled, term, vacancies, votes to cast, and filing deadlines for each office by January 5, 2018. [§32-404 and §32-601]
- Board members are nominated at the Statewide Primary Election (May 15, 2018) and elected at the Statewide General Election (November 6, 2018)
- Incumbents (current board members) must file for office by February 15, 2018.
- Non-Incumbents (new filers) must file for office by March 1, 2018

Westside Community Schools

- 6-member board
- Nominated by caucus
- Elected at the Statewide Primary Election
- Two members elected at each election for six-year terms [§32-543(1)]

Class IV Districts:

- Board members nominated and elected by city council district and at the same time as city council members are elected [§32-544]
- Board members serve 4-year terms [§32-544]
- The school board must notify the Secretary of State, County Clerk, or Election Commissioner of offices to be filled, term, vacancies, votes to cast, and filing deadlines for each office by January 5, 2018 [§32-404 and §32-601]
- Board members are nominated at the Statewide Primary Election (May 15, 2018) and elected at the Statewide General Election (November 6, 2018)
- Incumbents (current board members) must file for office by February 15, 2018
- Non-Incumbents (new filers) must file for office by March 1, 2018

Class V Districts:

- One member elected from each of 9 districts [§32-552]
- The school board must notify the Secretary of State, County Clerk, or Election Commissioner of offices to be filled, term, vacancies, votes to cast, and filing deadlines for each office by January 5, 2018 [§32-404 and §32-601]

- Board members are nominated at the Statewide Primary Election (May 15, 2018) and elected at the Statewide General Election (November 6, 2018)
- Incumbents (current board members) must file for office by February 15, 2018.
- Non-Incumbents (new filers) must file for office by March 1, 2018

Educational Service Units:

- The number of board members and the district each member represents vary for ESUs and are dependent on factors outlined in §79-1217.
- The ESU board must notify the Secretary of State, County Clerk, or Election Commissioner of offices to be filled, term, vacancies, votes to cast, and filing deadlines for each office by June 15, 2018. [§32-404 and §32-601]
- Election of members only at Statewide General Election (November 6, 2018)
- Incumbents (current board members) must file for office by July 15, 2018.
- Non-Incumbents (new filers) must file for office by August 1, 2018.

For Additional Election Information

For complete information regarding filing dates and deadlines, please see the Nebraska Secretary of State website at:

www.sos.ne.gov/elec/genvoterinfo.html

With information for candidates available at:

<http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/candidateinfo.html>

Nebraska Secretary of State's Office – Election Division
P.O. Box 94608, Lincoln, NE 68509-4608
Phone: 402-471-2555

You may also contact your local County Clerk's Office. Complete information for all county clerk's offices is available at <http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/clerks.html>

About the Nebraska Association of School Boards

The Nebraska Association of School Boards is a not-for-profit organization which has served local boards of education since 1918. Approaching its 100th year, NASB continues to provide assistance and information for the boards and districts it represents throughout Nebraska. Governed by school board members throughout the state, NASB is committed to the following goals on behalf of its member boards:

- Enhancing the ability and authority of local boards of education to represent the citizens of their school district;
- Working for increased public awareness and financial support of the public schools;
- Providing development, training, and consulting opportunities for school board members that will assist them in meeting their responsibilities for policy making, and effective and efficient management of the school district;
- Representing the interests of public education, and in particular, the viewpoints of local boards of education, to those who impact public education; and,
- Providing member boards with the specialized information needed to operate the public schools in the most efficient way possible.

To fulfill these goals, NASB offers a broad range of services to its members including:

- Legislative presence at the state level to represent the concerns of local policy makers;
- Cost-saving programs designed to give schools the services they need at the most competitive cost possible; such as:

ALICAP All lines insurance
Community Engagement
Unemployment insurance program
Lease purchase
Medicaid Consortium
Natural Gas purchasing
Negotiations software
SPARQ electronic meetings

eFunds
Strategic Planning
Legislative Advocacy
Board Leadership Workshops
Education Leadership Search Service
Policy Service
Open Meetings Law Workshops

- Opportunities to network, share expertise, best practices and solutions to common problems through annual workshops and conferences;
- Access to an in-house legal counsel to answer members' questions about the complexities of the laws affecting public schools;
- Access to the latest, up-to-the-minute information and communications through print publications, e-mail, and the NASB website;
- Access to an innovative electronic meeting management tool;
- Programs and assistance to provide local boards with comprehensive policy development and update support; that places an increased emphasis on student achievement.
- A complete search process to assist boards in the selection of a new Superintendent, district administrator, building administrator, ESU Administrator, etc.