

SCHOOL BOARD OFFICES

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

A. General Information

The procedures for selecting school board members are usually set forth in the “school corporation organization plan” adopted by the school corporation during the school consolidation process of the 1950s and 1960s, and as subsequently amended. (IC 20-23, IC 20-23-6 and IC 20-23-9)

In certain school corporations, all or some of the school board members are appointed rather than elected by the voters. (IC 20-23-4-28) As a result of P.L. 179-2011, in school corporations that elect school board members, all members will be elected at the same time as the general election (November 4, 2014, or in certain cases, in November 2016). Some school board members are elected “at large” for the entire school corporation, while others are elected to represent specific **districts** that are only part of the school corporation territory.

IN ALL CASES, CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL BOARD APPEAR ON THE BALLOT WITHOUT A PARTY DESIGNATION. (IC 20-23-4-29(e))

B. Qualifications for Candidates and for Assuming Office

A few school corporations have school boards organized by state legislation. Candidates for school board in the following jurisdictions should consult the appropriate state statute for detailed information concerning candidate qualifications and election procedures:

Gary	IC 20-23-12
Hammond	IC 20-23-13 and IC 20-23-8-13
Indianapolis Public Schools	IC 20-25-3
Lake Station	IC 20-23-14
South Bend	IC 20-23-15
Mishawaka	IC 20-23-17
East Chicago	IC 20-23-17.2

IC 3-8-1-34 provides that:

“(a) A candidate for a school board office must have resided in the school corporation for at least one (1) year before the election, unless a longer period is required under IC 20.

(b) This subsection applies to a candidate for school board office seeking to represent an election district that consists of less than the entire school corporation. The candidate must have resided in the election district for at least one (1) year before the election, unless a longer period is required under IC 20.”

IC 3-8-1-1 provides that:

“... (b) A person is not qualified to run for: . . .

(2) A school board office; . . .

unless the person is registered to vote in the election district the person seeks to represent not later than the deadline for filing the declaration or petition of candidacy or certificate of nomination.”

IC 3-8-1-5 provides that:

Sec. 5. (a) This section does not apply to a candidate for federal office.

(b) As used in this section, "felony" means a conviction in any jurisdiction for which the convicted person might have been imprisoned for more than one (1) year. However, the term does not include a conviction:

- (1) for which the person has been pardoned; or
- (2) that has been:
 - (A) reversed;
 - (B) vacated;
 - (C) set aside; or
 - (D) not entered because the trial court did not accept the person's guilty plea.

(c) A person is disqualified from assuming or being a candidate for an elected office if:

(1) the person gave or offered a bribe, threat, or reward to procure the person's election, as provided in Article 2, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana;

(2) the person does not comply with IC 5-8-3 because of a conviction for a violation of the federal laws listed in that statute;

(3) in a:

- (A) jury trial, a jury publicly announces a verdict against the person for a felony;
- (B) bench trial, the court publicly announces a verdict against the person for a felony; or
- (C) guilty plea hearing, the person pleads guilty or nolo contendere to a felony;

(4) the person has been removed from the office the candidate seeks under Article 7, Section 11 or Article 7, Section 13 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana;

(5) the person is a member of the United States armed forces on active duty and prohibited by the United States Department of Defense from being a candidate; or

(6) the person is subject to:

- (A) 5 U.S.C. 1502 (the Little Hatch Act); or
- (B) 5 U.S.C. 7321-7326 (the Hatch Act);

and would violate either federal statute by becoming or remaining the candidate of a political party for nomination or election to an elected office or a political party office.

(d) The subsequent reduction of a felony to a Class A misdemeanor under IC 35-50-2-7 or IC 35-38-1-1.5 after the:

- (1) jury has announced its verdict against the person for a felony;
- (2) court has announced its verdict against the person for a felony; or
- (3) person has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a felony;

does not affect the operation of subsection (c).

IC 3-8-1-33 provides that:

"Sec. 33. (a) A candidate for an office listed in subsection (b) must file a statement of economic interests.

(b) Whenever a candidate for any of the following offices is also required to file a declaration of candidacy or is nominated by petition, the candidate shall file a statement of economic interests before filing the declaration of candidacy or declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, before the petition of nomination is filed, before the certificate of nomination is filed, or before being appointed to fill a candidate vacancy under IC 3-13-1 or IC 3-13-2:

...

(4) A candidate for a...school board office, in accordance with IC 3-8-9...,

IC 20-26-4-9 provides that:

"An individual who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age and is otherwise eligible to assume office as a member of a governing body may not be disqualified on the basis of age."

IC 20-26-4-11 provides that:

“(A)n individual who is employed as a teacher or as a noncertified employee (as defined in IC 20-29-2-11) of the school corporation may not be a member of the governing body of the school corporation.”

C. Filing Requirements

A candidate for a school board office must file a statement of economic interest and petition of nomination. (IC 3-8-2-2.2) The county is required to reject a declaration of candidacy that does not include a statement of economic interest. (IC 3-8-9-6) **The statement of economic interest (CAN-12) and petition form (CAN-34) are available from the Election Division, the Division’s website, and each circuit court clerk’s office. The CAN-12 and CAN-34 are included in this Guide under the *Candidate Forms* tab.**

In a metropolitan school corporation, the petition must be signed by ten (10) registered voters residing **in the same board member district** as the nominee. (IC 20-23-7-8)

In a community school corporation, the petition must be signed by ten (10) registered voters residing within the boundaries of the school corporation. (IC 20-23-4-29)

Additional petition requirements may apply in some school corporations. School board member candidates should consult a personal attorney if necessary.

1. General Election

Candidates for school board office on the general election ballot will be elected at the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014.

A candidate for the election of school board office at the general election must file the petition of nomination with the county election board located in the county seat of the county containing the greatest percentage of population of the school corporation. (IC 3-8-2-6)

The **first day** for a candidate for a school board office to file a petition of nomination with the county election board is **Wednesday, July 23, 2014**, and the **DEADLINE** is **12:00 noon, prevailing local time, on Friday, August 22, 2014**. (IC 3-8-2.5-4; IC 20-23-4-29; IC 20-23-7-8.1; IC 20-23-12-5; IC 20-23-14-5; IC 20-23-17-3; and IC 20-23-17.2-5)

D. Candidate Withdrawal

School board candidates may file a withdrawal of their candidacy not later than **noon, Tuesday, August 26, 2014**.

The general election candidate withdrawal form (CAN-24) is available from the Election Division’s office, the Division’s website, and each circuit court clerk’s office. A CAN-24 is included in this Guide under the *Candidate Forms* tab.

E. Write-in Candidates

Indiana law provides that only votes for declared write-in candidates are counted. (IC 3-12-1-1.7(a))

A person who desires to be a write-in candidate for a school board office at the general election on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 must file a statement of economic interest (CAN-12) and a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate (CAN-3 form) with the county election board located in the county seat of the county

containing the greatest percentage of population of the school corporation. (IC 3-8-2-2.5; IC 3-8-2-4; IC 20-4-1-26.4)) The county is required to reject a declaration of candidacy that does not include a statement of economic interest. (IC 3-8-9-6)

The CAN-12 and CAN-3 forms are available from the Election Division's office, on the Division's website, and each circuit court clerk's office. The CAN-12 and CAN-3 forms are included in this Guide under the *Candidate Forms* tab.

The **first day** a write-in candidate for a school board office may file the CAN-12 and CAN-3 forms with the county election board for the general election is **Wednesday, January 8, 2014** and the **DEADLINE** for filing is **12:00 noon, prevailing local time, Thursday, July 3, 2014**. (IC 3-8-2-2.5; IC 3-8-2.5-4; IC 20-4-1-26.4)

b. Candidate Withdrawal Requirements

Declared write-in candidates for school board may file a withdrawal of their candidacy not later than **noon, Monday, August 25, 2014**. (IC 3-8-2.5-4)

The general election candidate withdrawal form (CAN-24) is available from the Election Division's office, the Division's website, and each circuit court clerk's office. A CAN-24 is included in this Guide under the Candidate's Forms tab.