



New Jersey School Boards Association

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS: IMPORTANT DATES

2020 School Board Candidacy & Election Dates

Legislation, (P.L. 2011, c.202), signed by Governor Christie on Jan. 17, 2012 gives communities the option to change the date of the annual school board member election to November. Please check with your local board of education office to confirm the date of the 2020 Annual School Election in your community.

CANDIDACY

May 16, 2020

Term begins for newly appointed board members in Type I districts (those with appointed boards) other than cities of the first class (those with a population of more than 150,000).

July 27, 2020

4 p.m. is the deadline for candidates to file nominating petitions with the county clerk. *Note that at the time of publication, there was a pending bill in the New Jersey legislature that would require an electronic process for the collection of petition signatures and their submission for elections during the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Therefore, school board candidates should check with their respective county clerk about current filing requirements.*

July 31, 2020

Deadline for filing objections to Nomination Petitions for School Election Candidates with the county clerk

August 6, 2020

Deadline for Determination of Petition Challenge for School Election Candidates by the county clerk

August 6, 2020

Last day to amend a defective petition. The candidate may amend the petition to remedy the defect at any time before the date, but generally may not add signatures. The candidate may add his or her own signature if necessary to provide verification of the signatures on the petition, but only if the petition already contains ten valid signatures.

August 10, 2020

Deadline for Filing in Superior Court to Protect School Election Candidate's Rights. *Note that the filing deadline provided by statute falls on Saturday, August 8, 2020, and generally speaking, filing deadlines falling on weekends are moved to the next business day. However, to avoid disputes regarding timely filing, petitions should be filed by Friday, August 7, 2020.*

August 10, 2020 – 3 p.m.

Drawing of Ballot Position for General Election Candidates by the County Clerks

August 25, 2020

Last day for a school board candidate to withdraw from the election. A signed, written notice must be filed with the county clerk.

November 3, 2020 - Annual School Election

NOTE: Board members must undergo criminal history record checks through the New Jersey Department of Education within 30 days of election or appointment.

January 1 – January 7, 2021

Newly elected board members are sworn in at annual board organizational meetings

February 1 – February 8, 2021

Last day to file Personal-Relative and Financial Disclosure forms with the Executive County Superintendent and Board Secretary.

For newly elected or newly appointed school board members, the deadline is 30 days after taking office. *Note that counting 30 days after January 1 and January 7 causes these deadlines to fall on Sunday, January 31 and Saturday, February 6, respectively. Though generally speaking, deadlines falling on weekends are moved to the next business day, to avoid disputes regarding timely filing, forms should be filed by Friday, January 29, and Friday, February 5, respectively.*

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES

The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission is the regulatory agency regarding campaign contributions. ELEC conducts Treasurer Training seminars.

Information about the seminars and all manuals and reporting forms can be found on the ELEC website at www.elec.nj.gov. Questions about campaign contributions should be directed to ELEC at (609)292-8700.

- School board candidates who receive any contribution (including their own funds), regardless of the amount, must appoint a treasurer and open a campaign bank account for the purpose of receiving contributions and making expenditures. This action must take place no later than the date on which that candidate first receives any contribution or makes or incurs any expenditure in connection with an election.
- No later than 10 days after appointing a treasurer and opening a campaign bank account, a candidate must file a Certificate of Organization and Designation of Campaign Treasurer and Depository form with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission. This form lists the candidate, chairperson (if one is appointed), treasurer and bank or depository information.

CAMPAIGN REPORTING SCHEDULE

WHO IS REQUIRED TO FILE?

Individual candidate: Those expecting to spend more than \$5,100, or who receive more than \$300 in contributions from any one source or any cash contributions.

Joint campaigns: The reporting thresholds for candidates conducting a joint campaign are \$9,700 for two candidates and \$14,000 for three or more candidates.

October 5, 2020 – Last day to file the 29-Day Pre-Election Report

October 23, 2020 – Last day to file the 11-Day Pre-Election Report
November 23, 2020 – Last day to file the 20-Day Post-Election Report

April 15, 2020 – Last day to file first quarterly report for a candidate planning to participate in a future election. If a

candidate does not plan to participate in a future election, the candidate must certify the 20-day post-election report as the final election fund report.

October 21, 2020 – November 3, 2020 – Any contribution in excess of \$1,600 from any one source received between these dates must be reported within 48 hours of receipt. A similar reporting obligation is applicable for certain expenditures of more than \$1,600 made in this timeframe.

NOTES: When an election deadline falls on a weekend, it is automatically moved to the following Monday.

The Commissioner of Education has the authority to make certain changes to the school board member election and budget development calendar. NJSBA will update the Candidate Kit as necessary.
