

SO, YOU WANT TO BE A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER?

Serving on a school board is more than just a volunteer role; it's a chance to make a lasting impact on the education system. More than 4,000 dedicated individuals serve as school board members for Michigan's 600+ public schools. Every two years, board members are elected by voters of their local district to govern with integrity for a term of four or six years.

Eligibility: To run for your local school board, on the date of the election, you must be a U.S. citizen; at least 18 years of age; a resident of Michigan for at least 30 days; a resident of the school district on or before the 30th day prior to the date of the election; and a registered voter in the school district where you intend to run.



WHAT DO SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS DO?

- The board governs the district's work at the highest level by establishing policies and overseeing the superintendent's performance.
- The board adopts and enforces all necessary rules for the district's management and governance. However, it can delegate many of its powers and duties to the superintendent through board policies.
- The board approves the district's budget.

WHAT DON'T SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS DO?

- The board does not manage day-to-day operations.
- The board does not oversee district communications to parents and students.
- No single board member has any power outside of a legally called school board meeting. During such meetings, the school board sits in trust for the entire local community.

GOOD GOVERNANCE PRACTICES TO FULFILL THESE CORE RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Clarifying the district's purpose and acting intentionally to fund and monitor efforts that align with this purpose
- Creating, reviewing and amending school policy
- Connecting with the community
- Employing and evaluating the superintendent
- Controlling the expenditure and receipt of school funds
- Determining matters related to school employees and contractors
- Directing the acquisition and disposal of school property
- Delegating authority
- Monitoring district performance and goals

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN

Seek Information—Attend school board meetings. Be familiar with procedures for conducting meetings. Know the current issues, including funding, student achievement, hiring practices, contract negotiations and technology.

Study Board Policies—Most districts keep a manual of established policies. Your awareness of guidelines the board has developed will prevent you from making misleading statements publicly during your campaign.

Know Your Community's Concerns—Study those issues that particularly arouse community interest. Know what's already been done and considered. Don't make promises unless you are sure of what is involved in keeping them. Board members elected on promises often find themselves in the awkward position of having to back down when they learn all of the facts.

Keep Your Faith and Commitment—Win or lose, your school district needs people like you who care about children and who are willing to get involved in the democratic decisionmaking processes to improve public education.

MASB offers a wealth of free resources on our website, including the 2026 Candidate's Guide to School Board Elections. This comprehensive guide provides an overview of legal qualifications and election procedures.

Additionally, we will host several virtual town hall events in June and July. These sessions will cover school board responsibilities, as well as filing and campaigning procedures. Most importantly, these events will provide you with an opportunity to have your questions answered.



For more information, visit
masb.org/getonboard or scan this QR code.

Key 2026 Election Dates



Filing Deadline

JULY 21, 2026
BY 4 P.M.



Withdrawal of Nomination

JULY 24, 2026
BY 4 P.M.



Write-In Candidates

OCT. 23, 2026
BY 4 P.M.



General Election

NOV. 3, 2026



Term of Office Begins

JAN. 1, 2027

Join us at our next meeting to
gain a deeper understanding of
what board service entails!

MEETING DATE: