



# New Jersey School Boards Association

## NOVEMBER ELECTIONS: IMPORTANT DATES

### 2015 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 2015 Annual School Election in your community.**

#### CANDIDACY

##### May 18, 2015

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, 2015

4 p.m. is the deadline for candidates to file nominating petitions with the county clerk.

##### August 6, 2015

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.

##### September 4, 2015

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

##### November 3, 2015

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, 2016

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

##### January 31 – February 6, 2016

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.

#### 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.state.nj.us](http://www.elec.state.nj.us). 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 \$4,500, 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 \$8,500 for two candidates and \$12,300 for three or more candidates.

**October 5, 2015** – Last day to file the 29-Day Pre-Election Report

**October 23, 2015** – Last day to file the 11-Day Pre-Election Report

**November 23, 2015** – Last day to file the 20-Day Post-Election Report

**April 15, 2016** – 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, 2015 – November 3, 2015** – Any contribution in excess of \$1,400 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 \$1,400 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.