

POSITIONS AND POLICIES ON EDUCATION

Elections/Appointment

FILE CODE

9112

Uniformity in School Elections

- A. **The NJSBA believes** that a uniform statewide system of school elections run by county election officials standardizes the election process, avoids confusion and encourages voter turnout. A collaborative relationship should exist between election officials and school officials. Interested groups at the statewide and county levels, including the New Jersey Association of Election Officials, should work collaboratively to promote procedures that foster the cost-efficiency of school elections and encourage voter turnout. *[Authority: DA 5/01 CR - Committee on School Elections, 11/98-SR, DA 5/13-SR]*
- B. **The NJSBA believes** that election costs should be billed to school districts according to a standardized format that is uniform throughout the state, itemized in a clear, detailed manner, and designed to permit any school district to compare itemized costs per voter with any other school district in the state, with the goal of developing a statewide model for permissible charges. *[Authority: DA 5/01 CR - Committee on School Elections, 11/98-SR, DA 5/03-SR, DA 5/08-SR, DA 5/13-SR]*

Voting Places

- A. **The NJSBA believes** that school district elections should be held in the same nonpublic voting places as are permissible for general and primary elections. *[Authority: DA 1/80-11, 11/98-SR]*
- B. **The NJSBA believes** that during school board elections, the polls should remain open, at a minimum, between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 pm and during any additional time that the school board may designate between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. and should remain open as long as necessary to permit those in line at the time set for closing the polls to cast their ballots. *[Authority: DA 5/62-5, DA 5/66-1, 11/98-SR, DA 5/03-SR, DA 5/08-SR, DA 5/13-SR]*

Ballots

- A. **The NJSBA believes** in the use of a single ballot when more than one school election is held on the same day in the same polling place, but believes that boards should be able to waive the single ballot requirement whenever both the regional and constituent districts agree that it is within their mutual best interests to use a separate ballot in each school district. *[Authority: BD 10/79, BD 4/93-SR, DA 11/96-3, 11/98-SR]*
- B. **The NJSBA believes** that one sample ballot should be mailed to each mailing address in the municipality or municipalities served by the school district. *[Authority: DA 5/96-4, 11/98-SR]*
- C. **The NJSBA believes** that each county clerk should be required to place a single absentee ballot notice, including the addresses of each school district in the county, in a county newspaper circulation in all districts in the county. If no one newspaper satisfies such requirements, then the county clerk should be required to place the notice in a sufficient number of newspapers to insure circulation of the notice in each school district. *[Authority: DA 6/77-15, 11/98-SR]*
- D. **The NJSBA believes** that a regional school district should be authorized to include additional information on the ballot showing the exact amount of taxes a constituent district will be required to raise to support the regional school budget. *[Authority: DA 11/98-2, 11/98-SR, DA 5/03-SR, DA 5/08-SR, DA 5/13-SR]*

Candidates

- A. **The NJSBA believes** standard nominating petitions should provide for: the printed identification of

signatories and their addresses, instructions for completion; personal delivery of the petition by the candidate; reasonable evening hours to accept delivery of the petition; and such standard nomination petitions should authorize the candidate to witness the signatories execution of the petition and certify the petition. *[Authority: DA 6/84-11, DA 11/98-1, 11/98-SR]*

- B. **The NJSBA believes** each candidate for election to a board should be authorized to appoint no more than three challengers in addition to himself for each polling place, and to permit the appointment of no more than five challengers on behalf of each choice on each question on the ballot. *[Authority: DA 12/65-8, 11/98-SR]*
- C. **The NJSBA believes** that the deadline for withdrawing from school board election candidacy should conform to the ballot printing schedule *[Authority: DA 6/84-11, 11/98-SR]*
- D. **The NJSBA believes** that in any election where no candidate has timely filed a nominating petition, a write-in candidate must receive at least ten (10) write-in votes in order to qualify to fill the seat. In the event no write-in candidate must receive at least ten (10) write-in votes, the local board of education should have sixty (60) days to fill the vacancy or vacancies; failing this, the County Superintendent should have the right to appoint. *[Authority: DA 12/84-15, 11/98-SR]*
- E. **The NJSBA believes** that, to ensure an informed electorate, those candidates that file petitions must disclose any past criminal convictions as defined by Title 2C of the NJ Criminal code on the date of filing their petition. *[Authority: DA 5/05-1, DA 5/03-SR, DA 5/08-SR]*
- F. **The NJSBA believes** that the deadline for the submission of the nominating petition for school board candidates in the November school board election should be in closer proximity to the school election than as presently set forth in statute. Timeframes for the November school election should be modeled after the calendar for the municipal non-partisan elections held at the general election, and the April school election calendar, to establish practical and workable deadlines. The NJSBA further believes that the law should be amended to address inconsistencies between the statute addressing the filling of vacancies, and the date for filing the nominating petition for the November school election. *[Authority: DA 5/12-3, DA 5/13-SR]*

Officials

- A. **The NJSBA believes** that County Boards of elections should provide training in election procedures for both school and general election workers and should issue certificates to demonstrate that the workers have received proper instruction in the use of voting machines. *[Authority: DA 12/81-9, 11/98-SR]*
- B. **The NJSBA believes** parity in compensation for school election officials with that of district (municipal election board workers). *[Authority: DA 6/81-10, 11/98-SR, DA 5/03-SR, DA 5/08 –SR, DA 5/13-SR]*

Permanent Voting Record

The NJSBA believes that a permanent record of the names of voters in each school election should be maintained. This record should be made available to candidates for board membership. *[Authority: DA 5/65-20, 11/98-SR, DA 5/03-SR, DA 5/08-SR, DA 5/13-SR]*

Increasing Election Turnout

The NJSBA believes in continuing efforts to increase voter turnout in school district elections. *[Authority: DA 12/82-17, 11/98-SR, DA 5/03-SR, DA 5/08-SR, DA 5/13-SR]*

Non-Binding Referenda

The NJSBA believes local boards should be able to conduct a non-binding referendum on a public question which directly pertains to the district. *[Authority: BD 6/95, 11/98-SR, DA 5/03-SR, DA 5/08-SR, DA 5/13-SR]*

Interim Regional Board Members

- A. **The NJSBA believes** the executive county superintendent should be obligated to select interim regional board members for newly created districts only from lists submitted by and after consultation with local boards of constituent districts.
- B. **The NJSBA believes** the executive county superintendent should be obligated to select members for enlarged regional districts only from lists submitted by and after consultation with each new constituent district. In the case of any local board's failure to act within 15 days after the passage of the referendum creating a new or an enlarged regional district, the county superintendent would select members from qualified citizens in those districts. *[Authority: DA 12/68-3, 11/98-SR, DA 5/03-SR, DA 5/08-SR, DA 5/13-SR]*

Disclosure of Criminal Convictions

The NJSBA believes that any school official, as defined by the School Ethics Act, shall disclose in the Annual Statement by School Officials any past criminal convictions as defined by Title 2C of the NJ Criminal Code. *[Authority: DA 5/05-1, DA 5/03-SR, DA 5/08-SR, DA 5/13-SR]*

Timing of Elections

The NJSBA believes that annual school elections, including the election of candidates, should not be conducted on or near the date of any partisan election. *[Authority: BD 5/05, BD 5/06, DA 5/03-SR, DA 5/08-SR, DA 5/13-SR]*

Notice of Election Date

The NJSBA believes that a board of education and the public should, in addition to the notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, receive additional notice and an opportunity to be heard whenever a municipal governing body determines to move the school board election. *[Authority: DA 5/13-3]*

Cross Reference: 9111 Qualifications

Key Words: elections, voting, ballots, referenda, disclosure