



## **OGP-7 Elections**

Policy Type: Operational Governance Policy

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Board elections shall be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years.

A person is legally qualified to become a Board member who is a United States citizen, and a qualified voter resident in the school District and appropriate director district.

A person may become a candidate for a place on the Board by filing a declaration of candidacy with the county auditor during the May filing period as prescribed by law. In the event that there are more than two candidates for any position on the Board, a primary election shall be held in the manner prescribed by law. The two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes will appear on the election ballot in November.

In the event a school director position becomes vacant or a void in candidacy for a school director position occurs before the regular filing period begins, the candidates will go through the May filing period as proscribed in law. If the vacancy occurs after the filing period starts but before the eleventh Tuesday prior to the primary election, the county auditor shall establish a special three day filing period.

In the event a school director position becomes vacant or a void in candidacy for a school director position occurs after the eleventh Tuesday before the primary election, but before the eleventh Tuesday before the general election, then the county auditor shall establish a special three day filing period. In such a case, regardless of the number of candidates, there will be no primary, and the winner of the position will be the candidate receiving a plurality of the votes cast.

In the event a school director position becomes vacant or a void in candidacy for a school director position occurs after the eleventh Tuesday before the general election, the scheduled election is lapsed, the election deemed stricken from the ballot, no write-in votes counted and no candidate certified as elected. If an incumbent school director is serving in this instance, the director's service on the Board will continue until the next school Board election or until the director resigns. If no director is currently serving, the position will be filled by the Board consistent with the Board's policy on filling vacancies.

### **Candidate Orientation**

Candidates for appointment or election to the Board shall be urged to attend public meetings of the Board. All public information about the school system shall be made available to them.

Additionally, the Board directs the Superintendent to cooperate impartially with all candidates in providing them with information about school governance, Board operations and school programs. Information to Board candidates may include;

- A. Notifying the candidate of open meetings of the Board, accompanied with an agenda;
- B. Meeting with the candidate to provide background information on the school system and Board service and/or arranging such other candidate orientation sessions as the candidate may reasonably request;
- C. Providing each candidate with access to publications of the District including the ISD School Board Handbook, materials from the Washington State School Directors' Association, the official minutes of Board meetings and the District Regulations manual;
- D. Reviewing the District budget and related fiscal documents; and
- E. Providing each candidate with information regarding the Open Public Meetings Act and the Public Disclosure Commission.

**Legal References:**

RCW 28A.323.040 Joint school districts — Designation of county to which joint school district belongs

RCW 28A.343.300 Directors — Terms — Numbers

RCW 28A.343.320 Directors — Declarations of candidacy— Positions as separate offices

RCW 28A.343.330 Directors — Ballots — Form

RCW 28A.343.340 Directors — When elected — Eligibility

RCW 29A.04.151 Residence

RCW 29A.24.181 Regular filing period – Voids in candidacy

RCW 29A.24.191 Scheduled election lapses, when

RCW 29A.52.210 Local primaries

RCW 42.12.010 Causes of vacancy

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