

1 Great Falls School District

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3 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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5 Elections

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7 Elections conducted by the District are nonpartisan and are governed by applicable election laws
8 as found in Titles 13 & 20 of the Montana Code Annotated. The ballot at such elections may
9 include candidates for Trustee positions, various public policy propositions, and advisory
10 questions.

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12 Board elections take place on the first (1st) Tuesday after the first (1st) Monday in May of each
13 year. Any person who is a qualified voter of the District is legally qualified to become a Trustee.

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15 A Declaration of Intent to be a candidate must be submitted to the District Clerk no sooner than
16 one hundred forty-five (145) days and no later than eighty five (85) days before the regular
17 school Election Day. If different terms are to be filled, the term for the position for which each
18 candidate is filing must also be indicated. Any person seeking to become a write-in candidate for
19 a Trustee position must file a Declaration of Intent no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day before the
20 ballot certification deadline in §20-20-401, MCA. Candidates are responsible for meeting all of
21 the requirements of state law.

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23 If the number of candidates filing for vacant positions or filing a Declaration of Intent to be a
24 write-in candidate is equal to or less than the number of positions to be elected, the Trustees may
25 give notice no later than thirty (30) days before the election that a Trustee election will not take
26 place. If the Trustee election is not held, the Trustees shall declare the candidates elected by
27 acclamation and issue a "Certificate of Election" to each candidate.

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29 A candidate intending to withdraw from the election shall send a Statement of Withdrawal to the
30 District Clerk containing all information necessary to identify the candidate and the office for
31 which the candidate has filed. The Statement of Withdrawal must be acknowledged by the
32 District Clerk. A candidate may not withdraw after 5:00 p.m. the day before the ballot
33 certification deadline in §20-20-401, MCA.

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35 The ballot certification deadline in §20-20-401, MCA is not less than forty (40) days before an
36 election.

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38 In the event of an unforeseen emergency occurring on the date scheduled for the funding
39 election, the District will be allowed to reschedule the election for a different day of the calendar
40 year.

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42 In years when the Legislature meets in regular session or in a special session that affects school
43 funding, the Trustees may order the election on a date other than the regular school election day
44 in order for the electors to consider a proposition requesting additional funding under §20-9-353,
45 MCA.

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1 Cross References:

2 Policy 1105 Membership
 3 Policy 1110 Taking Office

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5 Legal References:

6 § 13-10-211, MCA Declaration of Intent for Write-In Candidates
 7 § 20-3-304, MCA Annual Election
 8 § 20-3-305, MCA Candidate Qualification, Filing Deadline and Withdrawal
 9 § 20-3-313, MCA Election by Acclamation – Notice
 10 § 20-3-322, MCA Meetings and Quorum
 11 § 20-3-322(5), MCA Meetings and Quorum (Unforeseen Emergency Definition)
 12 § 20-3-324(4), MCA Powers and Duties
 13 § 20-3-344, MCA Nomination of Candidates by Petition in First-Class Elementary Districts
 14 § 20-9-353, MCA Additional Financing for General Fund – Election for Authorization to
 15 Impose
 16 § 20-20-105, MCA Regular School Election Day and Special School Elections – Limitation –
 17 Exception
 18 § 20-20-108, MCA Rescheduling of School Election
 19 § 20-20-204, MCA Election Notice
 20 § 20-20-301, MCA Qualifications of Elector

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23 Policy History:

24 Adopted on: November 12, 2001
 25 Revised on: November 25, 2013
 26 Revised on: January 11, 2015
 27 Revised on: January 13, 2025
 28 Revised on: February 9, 2026

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