



Student Board of Education Election Packet



**THORNTON TOWNSHIP
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205**
2025 - 2026
STUDENT BOARD OF EDUCATION



- **Schedule**
- **Election Agreement**
- **Petition**
- **Student Board**
 - Eligibility Requirements
 - Election Rules
- **Constitutional Responsibilities**

Available Positions

- **3** Student Board Members from Thornridge High School
- **3** Student Board Members from Thornwood High School
- **3** Student Board Members from Thornton Township High School



MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Student Board of Education to use our elected positions to represent the District 205 students, improve our schools, and give back to the communities. We will do this by providing quality programs and acting as a sounding board to the Superintendent and Board of Education.

ELECTION SCHEDULE

Informational Meeting Dates:

Thornridge High School - March 25, 2026 @ 3:30pm

Thornwood High School - March 26, 2026 @ 3:30pm

Thornton Township High School - March 27, 2026 @ 3:30pm

Candidates Meeting Dates:

Thornridge High School - April 15, 2026 @ 3:30pm

Thornwood High School - April 16, 2026 @ 3:30pm

Thornton Township High School - April 17, 2026 @ 3:30pm

Petitions Due: April 17, 2026

(no later than 4:00pm to District Office)

Campaigning Begins - April 20, 2026

Election Day - April 24, 2026

Results Posted - April 27, 2026

Induction of New Members - May 12, 2026

ELECTIONS “AT-A-GLANCE”

1. Step up to the plate or persuade someone you would consider a good leader to run.

If you are a strong leader, you are qualified. Questions?
Contact your building faculty advisor, or a member of the Election Commission.

2. Attend the mandatory Candidates Meeting at your respective school.

3. Turn in petitions ON TIME. NO EXTENSIONS GRANTED.

4. Be accountable!



NOMINATION STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

As per the *District 205 Student Board of Education Election Code*, you may upload a statement of candidacy. You have the liberty to write what you wish. It is suggested that you focus on information that the voters will find useful and critical in deciding whom to vote for. Suggested topics include: why you are seeking this office, how your work can benefit students and the Student Board, past leadership experience, or specific issues you may want to address.

Please limit your comments to one typed, double-spaced page. **PLEASE EMAIL YOUR OPTIONAL STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY** as a Word Document to your building faculty sponsor by April 17, 2026 before 4:00 p.m. Bring a copy of your statement to the candidates meeting. You may include an appropriate picture of yourself in the body of the Word Document. You must also bring your signed nomination agreement, as well as the petition containing **at least 50 signatures** to the candidates meeting.

Balloting for elections will occur at each building. Ballots will be distributed to all students who wish to vote. It may be helpful to include information on balloting in one's campaign materials.

NOMINATION AGREEMENT

Name _____ Current Year _____

Local Address _____ City/State _____ Zip Code _____

Desired Position _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Shirt Size _____

I, _____, understand that this contract will bind me to all the rules and regulations as stated in the Student Board of Education Election Code. Violation of these rules will result in the appropriate actions, as indicated by the Election Code. Disqualification from the election may be a possibility. I have read the spring election portion of the Election Code, included in this packet, and agree to abide by these terms.

Signature _____ Date _____

PETITION OF CANDIDACY

We the undersigned, students of Thornton Township High School District 205, support _____ as a candidate for the office of Student Board Member in the Student Board Elections.

Name / Student ID #

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Name / Student ID #

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ELECTION COMMISSION

CHAIR - Aaron Velazquez
MEMBER - Aniyah Plowden
MEMBER - Jeyson Vazquez
MEMBER - Jimena Rodriguez
MEMBER - Kira Whitehead
MEMBER - Kolawale Dawodu
MEMBER - Kyariane Joseph
MEMBER - Madison Bryant
MEMBER - Melody Martin
MEMBER - Reanna Harris

THE ELECTION CODE

Section 1 Qualifications for Candidacy

The following qualifications must be met for anyone to consider running for the Student Board Education.

Clause 1 General Qualifications for Candidacy

- A.** Must be a member of the Thornton Township High School District 205 student body constituency as defined in the Election Code. *“All students in Thornton Township High School District 205, will comprise the constituency of the Student Board of Education.”*
- B.** Must be in good disciplinary standing as determined by the Election Board from the records of the Dean of Students and/or the Office of Registration and Records.
- C.** Must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 as determined by the Election Board from the records of the Dean of Students and/or the Office of Registration and Records at the time of submission.
- D.** Must run for only one position.

Clause 2 Specific Qualifications for Legislative Candidates

- C.** Only members of the candidates’ constituency are to vote and sign petitions for candidate. All legislative candidates must acquire 50 or more signatures on their petition.

Clause 3 Specific Qualifications for Write-In Candidates

- A.** A write-in candidate for a legislative position must receive at least fifty votes to be included in the final vote tally.

Section 2 Candidacy Application Procedures

To run for office, all candidate hopefuls must abide by the following procedures and provide the following documentation:

Clause 1 Procurement of an Election Packet

All candidate hopefuls must procure election packets in order to run for an office on the Student Board of Education. The Election Packet shall provide the following standardized documentation: petitions, time and places of candidate meetings, the election contract, and the codes and procedures of electoral conduct.

Clause 2 Candidates Meeting

There will be a mandatory meeting between the candidates and the Election Board at least one day before campaigning begins. Each candidate must present or be represented at the meeting or face disqualification from the race. It is required that the candidate or representative remain throughout the entire meeting. Any representative(s) of a candidate at the meeting must have a letter signed by the candidate stating the representative's authority to proxy for him/her. At the meeting, all election rules will be reviewed. The following is proper documentation needed at the candidates' meeting.

Part 1 Petitions

The Election Board must accept all petitions in order to have the candidate officially recognized on the ballot. All nominating signatures must be from different individuals of the candidate's nominating constituency. Petitions will be due on the date specified by the Election Board, before the Mandatory Candidate's meeting.

Part 2 Election Contract

After the rules have been reviewed and all questions answered, the candidates and the Election Board will sign a contract. The contract will bind the Election Board and the candidate to all election rules as stated in the Election Code. Violation of the terms of the contract will result in penalties mentioned elsewhere in this code.

Part 3 Optional Statement of Candidacy

Each candidate has the option to submit a statement of candidacy not to exceed one typed written page at the mandatory candidate's meeting. The Election Board will make all efforts to publish the whole or part of such statements in various media (i.e. school paper) and make them publicly available.

Part 4 Optional Letter of Recommendation

Each candidate may submit a letter of recommendation from a leader in the community, teacher or staff.

Part 5 Voting Process

- A.** In order to become an immediate member of the Student Board of Education, you must finish in the top three of the election at your respective school.
- B.** The remaining candidates will be reviewed district-wide for the six (6) remaining seats. (REP AT-LARGE)
- C.** The six (6) candidates are appointed as Representatives At-Large.
- D.** In order to be selected for the six (6) Student Representative At-Large seats, you must turn in your optional letter of recommendation from a District 205 faculty/staff member or community leader and an optional statement of candidacy.

Section 3 Campaigning Bylaws

All candidates must abide by the following rules and regulations in order to remain on the ballot.

Clause 1 The Provision of Factual Information

Campaigning by candidates or their agents and information on campaign materials will be limited to factual and substantiated information. Candidates may include in their flyers, information regarding their opponents as long as the information pertains to their opponents' attendance and voting records and general involvement in the Student Board. Candidates are not allowed to maliciously slander their opponents. As per usual, all campaign materials must be approved by the School Activities Director.

Clause 2 Campaigning Time Limitation

Campaigning for any Student Board office will only be allowed on days specified by the Election Board. On any other day, there will be no campaigning or public announcement of candidacy, other than the signing of petitions.

Clause 3 Campaigning Materials

Content of the election materials and campaign materials are under the direct supervision of the Election Board. Placement of campaign materials under the direct regulation of the statutes of Thornton Township High School District 205, and/or Federal and State civil and criminal statutes. The use of copyrighted or trademarked materials on campaign materials by candidates or their agents from any legal or illegal source is prohibited.

Clause 4 Mutilation of Campaign Materials

Any candidate or his/her agent who knowingly destroys, mutilates, defaces, falsifies, forges, conceals, or removes any campaign materials shall be guilty of mutilation of campaign materials. A candidate charged with such offense shall be brought before the Election Board, who will determine the appropriate action such as, but not limited to, sanctions or removal from the election ballot.

Clause 5 Campaigning and Polling on Election Days

Candidates may campaign anywhere on or off campus during specified campaign days.

Campaign Materials

All campaign materials must be approved by the designated agent in each high school and conform to all school and district policies before they can be distributed and publicly displayed.

Outdoors

There shall be no sidewalk chalk used to campaign outdoors, on buildings, or cement.

Clause 6 Filing of Election Materials

Prior to the distribution of any and all campaign literature or material, a sample of such material shall be submitted to the Director of Student Activities for approval. Any tangible evidence of unapproved material posted and/or distributed shall be deemed a violation of election code and will be subject for removal.

Section 4 Endorsements

Any student organization may publicly endorse one or more candidates for office. A letter signed by the executive board of the organization, or its equivalent group, stating that the organization endorses a certain candidate or candidates is requested by the Election Board. However, any public support (i.e., poster, flyer, or written statement) by a campus organization for a candidate will be considered an endorsement, regardless of whether or not the organization has submitted an endorsement letter to the Election Board. Upon receiving the said letter or showing any public support for the candidate, the organization then becomes an agent for the candidate and the candidate is responsible for ensuring that the endorsing group abides in the election rules. If an organization endorses two or more candidates, the candidates' names cannot appear together on any campaign materials distributed by the organization. Endorsements may begin to be given once campaigning officially begins, and no candidate may ask for endorsements prior to campaigning.

Section 5 Polling Violations

If any candidate or if any agent of that candidate is found guilty of committing any of the subsequent violations, then that candidate shall have his/her name taken off the ballot. This decision shall be the responsibility of the Election Board or by any appeal to the Judicial Board.

Clause 1 Vote Buying

Any candidate or his/her agent who knowingly gives/lends or promises to give/lend any money or other valuable consideration to any voting party to influence their vote shall be guilty of vote buying.

Clause 2 Promise for Vote

Any candidate or his/her agent who, in order to influence any party's vote, knowingly promises to (a) cause or support the appointment of any other person to any office or position or (b) perform or refrain from performing any official act, shall be guilty of promise for vote.

Clause 3 Selling of Vote

Any candidate or his/her agent who votes for or against any other candidate in consideration of any gift, loan of money, or for any other valuable consideration shall be guilty of selling of vote. In addition, any promise to cause or support the appointment of any person to any private or public office or position, shall be guilty of selling vote.

Clause 4 Prevention of Voting or Candidate Support

Any candidate or his/her agent who, by force, intimidation, threat, deception or forgery, knowingly prevents any other person from rightfully voting, supporting or opposing the nomination or election of any candidate to a office at any election shall be guilty of prevention of voting or candidate support.

Clause 5 Voting More Than Once

Any candidate or his/her agent or person delegated by the District to aid and assist during any election who, having voted once, knowingly on the same election day(s), where the ballot or machine lists any of the same candidates on the ballot or machine previously used for voting by that person, accepts a ballot or enters a voting machine, shall be guilty of voting more than once.

Clause 6 Mutilation of Election Material

Any candidate or his/her agent or person delegated by the District to aid and/or assist during any election who knowingly destroys, mutilates, defaces, falsifies, forges, conceals, or removes any record, register of voters, affidavit, return or statement of votes, certificate, tally sheet, ballot, or any other document or computer program which is used to be preserved for use in connection with registration and/or is used or to be preserved for use in connection with any election, shall be guilty of mutilation of election materials. Any person deemed to be in violation of this Code shall be charged with mutilation of election materials and have such charges filed as established by District conduct procedures and/or proper public authorities.

Clause 7 Tampering with Voting Machines

Any candidate or his/her agent or person delegated by the District to aid and assist during election who tampers with any machine or device used in connection with voting or the counting of votes, or who knowingly allows another to tamper with such machine or device, so as (a) to interfere with the proper operation of such machine or device, (b) to alter the results recorded on such machine or device or intended to be recorded thereon, or (c) place votes on a machine which are not legally cast, shall be guilty of tampering with voting machines.

Clause 8 Deprivation of Constitutional Rights-Liability

Any person who subjects or causes to be subjected, any student, faculty member, staff member, administrator, or other person affiliated with the District to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and/or laws of the United States or the State of Illinois, relating to the conduct of elections, voting, or the nomination or election of candidates for any and all Student Board offices shall be liable to the party injured or any person affected, in any action or proceeding for redress.

Clause 9 Conspiracy to Prevent Vote-Liability

If two or more persons conspire to prevent by force, intimidation, threat, deception, forgery, or bribery any person lawfully entitled to vote from voting, or preventing any person from supporting or opposing, in a legal manner, the nomination or election of any person for Student Board office, or to injure any person or person's property on account of such vote, support or advocacy, and if one or more persons so conspiring do attempt to cause to be done, any act in furtherance or the object of such conspiracy, whereby another is injured in his/her person or property or deprived of having or exercising any right, privilege, or immunity secured by the Constitution relating to the conduct of elections, voting, or the nomination or election of the candidates for office, all persons engaged in such conspiracy shall be liable to the person injured or affected, in any action or proceeding for redress.

Section 6 Rights of Candidates

Clause 2 Freedom of Information

All election results shall be made known to all candidates.

Clause 3 Right to Grievance

All candidates shall have the right to grievance during or before the Election. The Election Board will hear and act on all grievances with election procedure that are brought before the board. Any Election Board action may be appealed to the full Student Board. The Student Board may act on the grievance and overturn the Election Board decision with a two-thirds majority vote.

Clause 4 Right to Contestation and Student Board Approval

All candidates shall have the right to contest the results of the election. In accordance with this right, all candidates shall have a grace period after the election results are released to decide if they should contest. The contestations should be submitted no later than 24 hours after the results are posted. Furthermore, the Board shall vote to approve the election results in the following session after the election results are released if no contestations are pending.

Part 1 Procedure for Contestation

To contest an election a candidate must first notify the Election Board Secretary and submit a list of the grievances and witnesses. The Election Board Chairperson then has three days to arrange a trial date for contestation. To overturn the election results, the contester must prove more likely than not that the election was unfair or biased against him or her and/or that the procedures and bylaws were not obeyed.

Part 2 Board Approvals

If the full Student Board does not approve the election results, then the decision is sent back to the Election Board to be decided on again. The Board can only send the Election Board's verdict back three times and then the Full Board must approve.

Section 7 Powers and Duties of Election Boards

No member of the Election Board shall be a candidate in the elections, nor endorse any candidate. Members of the Election Board will be duly chosen judges in any and all matters concerning elections. The Election Board members are the only authorized handlers and counters of election ballots. Individual Election Board members may unilaterally enforce existing election rules, but must refer all discrepancies and new situations to the entire Board. The Board shall maintain a journal of its proceedings, hearings, election law enforcement, and sanctions placed upon candidates, and all rulings. The Election Board shall maintain a file for each candidate, including, but not limited to, the following items:

- A. All campaign materials and when they were approved/disapproved.
- B. Violations of election law by candidate or his/her agents and sanction placed upon the campaign for such violations.
- C. Statement of Candidacy
- D. Petition and Contact
- E. Listing of endorsements by student organizations of the candidate.

Clause 1 Election Board

Part 1 Election Board

The Spring Election Board will consist of all sitting senior board members. These members may not include students outside of the Student Board of Education. The following duties:

- A. Chairperson - The Chairperson shall be responsible for conducting meetings and hearings of the Board.
- B. Recorder - The Recorder shall be responsible for maintaining, updating, and reviewing individual candidate's files.
- C. Secretary - The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the Board's journal.

Part 2 - Election Dates and Officers Elected - Spring General Election

Spring elections involve the simultaneous election of three student representatives at all three schools in District 205.

Section 8 Disregard of the Election Code

Any persons who knowingly performs any act prohibited by or declared unlawful by the code, fails to do any act required by the code, and/or fails to honor any punishment by this Code, shall unless a different punishment is prescribed by this Code, be guilty of disregard of election code. Such action is punishable by complete disqualification from candidacy, agency, or delegation of the election. Such charges can be filed as established by the District 205 conduct procedures and/or proper public authorities unless stated otherwise.

Section 9 Partial Invalidity

If any sentence, paragraph, part of section of this Title is for any reason held invalid or to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the remaining portion of this Title, or any section or part thereof; if this entire title is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other article of this Code.

Section 10 Referenda

In addition to balloting, the election board shall oversee the issuance of referenda covering any single issue revolving around either the student body or the policies and structure of the Student Board of Education. Referenda shall be placed on the ballot by either majority approval of the Student Board or by signed petition of at least 100 constituents of the student body community of Thornton Township High School District 205. All voting results for referenda shall be made public.

CONSTITUTIONAL/CODE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board

Part 1: The Student Board President

Clause 1: Board President

The President of the Board shall serve as the Board Chairperson. The Chairperson shall chair Board meetings; shall hold a firm understanding of Parliamentary Procedure and maintain order during meetings.

Clause 2: Ad-hoc Committee

The President of the Board shall have the power to form ad-hoc committees.

Vice President

The Vice President shall be next in line of succession to the President. In the event the President is unable to perform the duties of the office, the Vice President shall be granted the Office of the President. The Vice President shall also take the duties of the presidency in the event the President is unable to attend a meeting.

Secretary

The Secretary shall be tasked with recording the minutes of all Board sessions and supplying them to the president. The Secretary shall be the Chief Clerk. The Secretary is the officer concerned specifically with the internal affairs of the Student Board of Education. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the journal of the Board's executive proceedings; recording all the proceedings of the Board; for updating the Code, and for receiving and copying legislation submitted for debate and disseminating the agenda and legislation at all Board meetings. The Secretary shall have the duties and powers that may be prescribed by law.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be tasked with recording and keeping a steady track of all Student Board of Education spending. The Treasurer will manage the budget to ensure all funds are being properly distributed. The Treasurer is responsible for reporting financial events and concerns to the Student Board of Education.

Student Representative-At-Large

Six (6) students shall serve as Representatives on behalf of the entire student body. The Student Representatives At-Large shall specifically be concerned with issues arising from all three buildings.

Student Board of Education Member (TR-TW-TT)

Nine (9) members shall serve as Representatives on behalf of their respective school student body. The Student Board Member shall specifically be concerned with issues arising from their respective school.

