



The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) is launching the **Get on Board** campaign.

OSBA recognizes the value that diversity brings to boards of education. In an effort to support our members, OSBA established the Get on Board campaign to increase the number of qualified candidates who run for open seats and encourage effective and representative school boards that can meet the challenges of the diverse districts they serve.

Why? After recent elections, an increasing number of school districts have had to fill board member vacancies via appointments rather than through the electoral process. OSBA fully supports current board members' continued service to their districts and communities. And, by identifying resources, removing barriers and delivering information, OSBA hopes to encourage community members to consider engaging in the important service boards of education provide. Please take this opportunity to "get on board" and help make the decisions that will shape our children's future.

As you consider running, think about what being a board member would mean to you, your family and your community.

Ohio's school districts and educational service centers (ESCs) are governed by elected boards. Board actions affect the families of thousands of students and employees. Your service as a school board member will be to represent all students, staff and community members as you work with other board members to craft policy.

It's a rewarding service.

And you'll have the satisfaction of watching students receive their diplomas, knowing that you helped shape tomorrow's citizens and leaders.

How to become a school board candidate?

- You must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and both a resident of your school district and registered to vote in your school district for at least 30 days prior to the election.
- You can obtain an election packet from your county board of elections office that includes the necessary forms and petitions required to become a candidate.

School Board ELECTIONS

FILING DEADLINE 4 P.M. ON AUG. 4

You must file a form with the county board of elections that serves as both a declaration of candidacy and a nominating petition. This must be filed by 4 p.m. on Aug. 4; the filing fee is \$30. Before filing, you must obtain valid signatures from registered voters residing in your district. The number of required signatures depends on the type and size of your district.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT GETONBOARDOHIO.ORG

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does a school board do?

A school board acts as the governance team for the school district. School boards adopt policy and oversee the district's policy manual. The board's most important role is to employ the superintendent and treasurer and work closely with them to establish and set policy, vision and long-range goals and be accountable for the district's fiscal health and opportunities provided to students and families.

How much time is required?

It varies. At times the commitment is significant, and the work will be both personally and publicly difficult. School boards are required by law to meet publicly at least every other month; however, most boards meet publicly at least once a month. Board members should be prepared to read a great deal to stay abreast of the many changes in educational philosophy, legislative actions and legal requirements of public school operation.

What do I need to know before I start campaigning?

You will need to determine how to structure your campaign. If you intend to receive campaign contributions or make campaign expenditures, you will need to form a campaign committee, appoint a treasurer by filing a Designation of Treasurer form (form 30-D) with your county board of elections and set up a bank account for your campaign. Additional information about setting up and structuring your campaign is available in the free Candidate First Steps and Campaign Expenditures webinars available at www.getonboardohio.org/free-candidate-webinars.

It is a good idea to attend board meetings, meet with the superintendent and treasurer to introduce yourself and learn more about the district and its operations. Read about school board work and talk to current or former board members to decide if being a board member is truly for you. You may want to read the minutes for prior board meetings or familiarize yourself with your school district's policy manual. Contact the school district main office for information on how to access it.

How can I receive candidate training?

OSBA has free webinars that cover school board member responsibilities, candidate first steps and campaign contributions and expenditures reporting requirements at www.getonboardohio.org/free-candidate-webinars.

You also can prepare yourself by attending one of OSBA's Board Candidate Workshops. Veteran association staff will explain board members' roles and responsibilities, campaign issues, board member ethics, compatibility of public offices and positions and Ohio's Open Meeting Law. Visit www.getonboardohio.org/board-candidate-workshops for a list of workshops and to learn more.

What makes a good school board member?

- public education advocate
- skilled decision-maker
- courage to stand up for your convictions
- willing to devote time and energy to your elected position
- a good team player

KEY DATES

Aug.
4 nominating petition must be filed with county board of elections by 4 p.m.*

Nov.
2 Election Day

Jan.
1 Newly elected board members take office

*If your district is one of the few that has a primary election, your nominating petition will be due earlier. Check with your county board of elections.

LEARN MORE AT
GETONBOARDOHIO.ORG



If you are elected to a school board or ESC governing board seat, we encourage you to contact and become actively involved with the Ohio School Boards Association.

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