



How to Become a School Board Candidate?

Australian Ballot Districts*

- Submit a petition with the lesser of 30 signatures or one percent of the legal voters of the district to the municipal clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the sixth Monday preceding the day of the election. For unified union, union elementary, and union high school districts using either the modified at-large or at-large representation model, candidates must submit a petition with the lesser of 60 signatures or one percent of the legal voters in the district. Please check with the municipal clerk to confirm the number of signatures required.
- A candidate may launch a write-in campaign if the date for submitting petitions has passed.

Town Meeting Districts

Nominated from the floor at the meeting

**School districts with charters may have different petition requirements.*

We Have Everything to Gain!

Everyone benefits when schools are strong and students are successful.

- ☑ Good schools are good for business. They attract employers, strengthen the local economy, and enhance property values.
- ☑ Good schools ensure our students will be prepared to keep our state competitive in a global economy.
- ☑ Effective school systems prepare students for their educational journey and beyond.



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Looking for more information as a potential board member?



<https://www.vtvsba.org/prospective>



Thinking About Serving on Your School Board?

- For students
- For taxpayers
- For the future of Vermont

The Power of Local Governance in Education

The voters in each local district elect a school board to serve as trustees on their behalf—both to assure high quality education and to assure that voters receive an excellent return on investment.

School boards create the vision for education, establish policy for the district, hire a superintendent, approve the budget for presentation to voters, and monitor student performance, district policies, and finances. Board members engage the community in their work. Put simply—the board sets the direction, hires competent administrators, and provides high level oversight to assure high performance and accountability.

These are exciting and challenging times for the almost 900 public school board members in Vermont. Schools are being required to provide solutions to increasingly complex problems, many of them driven by the difficult societal problems, and by trends in reduced student enrollment. At the same time, we have unprecedented opportunity for improvement of equitable educational outcomes. Communities deserve creative, focused, results-oriented board members.



The Right Person Makes a Difference

What qualities, skills, and experience should you look for in a school board candidate? Here are some questions to consider:

- Does the candidate understand that the school board's role is about the big picture - setting the direction for the district and providing oversight and accountability -- not day-to-day management?
- Is the candidate willing to consider a broad range of school district concerns and not be focused on just one issue?
- Will the candidate enhance the mix of skills and backgrounds on the board and help represent the diversity of the community?
- Does the candidate have the commitment to do what is right for citizens and taxpayers, even in the face of opposition?

Qualifications for School Board Membership

A person is **ineligible** to hold the office of school board member if the individual is:

- Under the age of 18.
- Not a resident in the school district in which the individual is seeking office.
- A resident of an unorganized town, grant or gore.
- Regularly employed by the supervisory union they serve or by a school district within the supervisory union.
- The holder of a simultaneous position as a first constable, collector of taxes, auditor,* town treasurer,* assistant town treasurer,* town agency or town manager (see 17 V.S.A. Section 2647 for more information about incompatible offices).
- A school board member's spouse may not be the town auditor.

*If a school district prepares and reports its budget independently from the budget of the town and the school district is audited by an independent public accountant, a school director is eligible to hold office as auditor, town treasurer or assistant town treasurer.