



GET ON BOARD

BECOME A VOICE FOR OREGON STUDENTS

The Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) established the Get on Board campaign in 2017.

Why? The 2015 election saw the lowest number of school board candidates in a decade. We hope to encourage sitting board members to offer their expertise for another term, urge motivated community members to accept the challenge of board work, and persuade persons of color to run.

Where do you come in? To prepare prospective board members, OSBA Board Development staff and others are offering two webinars in February. 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 means to you, your family and your community.

Oregon’s school districts, education service districts (ESDs) and community college districts are governed by elected boards. Board actions affect the families of hundreds—even thousands—of students and employees.

Your duty will be representing all students, staff and community members as you work with other board members to craft policy.

It’s challenging volunteer service.

But, 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

- Board members are elected to four-year terms, or two-year terms to fill a vacancy.
- You must be a registered voter and you must have lived in the district for one year immediately preceding the election.
- School district, ESD and community college employees elected to serve on their board must give up district employment to sit on the board.
- Your county elections official, superintendent, college president or school board member can tell you how board members are elected in your district.

School Board ELECTIONS

FILING DEADLINE MARCH 16

TWO WAYS TO FILE (Choose one)
SUBMIT to your local county clerk.

1

SUBMIT a petition containing the signatures of 25 registered voters or 10 percent of the registered voters in the district, whichever is less

2

SUBMIT a declaration of candidacy with a \$10 filing fee

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
GETONBOARDOREGON.ORG

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I receive board member training? OSBA Board Development staff offered **two free webinars** for prospective candidates to answer questions about the process and help prepare them to become school board members if they are elected.

WATCH RECORDINGS OF THE WEBINARS

FEBRUARY

9

WEBINAR

WATCH <https://youtu.be/HWUKAzWilqE>

FEBRUARY

15

WEBINAR

WATCH <https://youtu.be/1rF2Fwwjtgw>

WHAT DOES A SCHOOL BOARD DO?

The board's major responsibility is setting policy. The board hires and evaluates a chief executive (superintendent or college president), who in turn hires staff.

BOARD MEMBERS MUST ALSO:

- Establish budget
- Choose curriculum
- Set goals, evaluate progress toward those goals
- Ask voters to approve bond measures and local option levies
- Guide collective bargaining

HOW MUCH TIME DOES BEING A GOOD BOARD MEMBER REQUIRE?

It varies. School board service involves a substantial time commitment as an unpaid volunteer. Boards typically meet one or two evenings a month. Before the monthly meetings, you'll need to study the materials. There are also committee meetings, work sessions and appearances.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW BEFORE I START CAMPAIGNING?

Board candidate campaigns range from simple to sophisticated. One common element, however, is the state requirement for reporting campaign finances. State law limits the sources and amounts of contributions and the purposes for which those contributions may be spent.

Contact the Secretary of State Elections Division online (oregonvotes.gov) or at 503-986-1518 for guidance.

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 volunteer position
- Team player

KEY DATES



If you are elected to a school, ESD or community college board, we encourage you to contact and become actively involved with the Oregon School Boards Association.

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