

# Consolidated Election

## April 7, 2015

### **Filing of Nomination Papers:**

**IMPORTANT:** School Board Candidates will no longer file nomination papers with the district school board secretary. Candidates must file with the Cook County Clerk's office. The Clerk will accept filings at its downtown office at 69 W. Washington Street, Chicago, IL 60602. The filing period is from December 15-22, 2014.

### **Signature Requirements:**

The petition you circulate must be signed by at least 50 registered voters residing within the district.

### **Important Dates:**

- September 23, 2014 – First day to circulate petitions for a school board office.
- December 15, 2014 – First day to file nominating paperwork with the Cook County Clerk's office.
- December 22, 2014 - Last day to file nominating paperwork with the Cook County Clerk's office.

### **What to File:**

Candidates must file the following paperwork:

- Statement of Candidacy (Form P-1A)
- Receipt for the filing of a Statement of Economic Interests (Statement of Economic Interest for is available on the Cook County Clerk's website). NOTE: The Statement of Economic Interests is filed separately with the Ethics Division of Clerk's office – the receipt is filed with the other nomination papers.
- Loyalty Oath (the filing of the Loyalty Oath is OPTIONAL) (Form P-1C)
- Petition for Nomination (Form P-7).

Detailed information for candidates who wish to run for a school board office for the April 7, 2015 Consolidated Election and an appendix of sample forms are in the 2015 Candidate's Guide (at page 59) available on the Cook County Clerk's website, [www.cookcountyclerk.com](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com), or the State Board of Elections' website, [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov).

If you have any questions, call the Cook County Clerk's office at 312.603.0900.

***Disclaimer:** This is not legal advice. The Cook County Clerk's office is providing this for general information purposes only. All Candidates should consult with legal counsel regarding election matters. The Cook County Clerk's office cannot recommend an attorney or give legal advice on these matters.*

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

NONPARTISAN

NAME	ADDRESS-ZIP CODE	OFFICE	CITY, VILLAGE OR SPECIAL DISTRICT

If required pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/10-5.1, complete the following (this information will appear on the ballot)

FORMERLY KNOWN AS \_\_\_\_\_ UNTIL NAME CHANGED ON \_\_\_\_\_  
(List all names during last 3 years) (List date of each name change)

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
 )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ ) SS.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ being first duly sworn (or affirmed), say that I reside at \_\_\_\_\_, in the City, Village, Unincorporated Area (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_ (if unincorporated, list municipality that provides postal service) Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_, in the County of \_\_\_\_\_, State of Illinois; that I am a qualified voter therein, that I am a candidate for Nomination/Election to the office of \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ Name of City, Village or Special District to be voted upon at the election to be held on \_\_\_\_\_ (date of election) and that I am legally qualified to hold such office and that I have filed (or I will file before the close of the petition filing period) a Statement of Economic Interests as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act and I hereby request that my name be printed upon the official ballot for Nomination/Election to such office.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Candidate)

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) by \_\_\_\_\_ before me, on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Name of Candidate) (insert month, day, year)

(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Public's Signature)



**STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS  
TO BE FILED WITH THE COOK COUNTY CLERK**



**FOR CANDIDATES ONLY**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL DIRECTIONS**

The interest (if constructively controlled by the person making the statement) of a spouse or any other party, shall be considered to be the same as the interest of the person making the statement. Campaign receipts shall not be included in this statement. If additional space is needed, please attach supplemental listing. Separate filings for multiple LOCAL offices or positions of employment are not required. You must list the name of each LOCAL unit of government you are required to file for on the top portion of the statement. (Use blue or black ink only.)

1. List the name and instrument of ownership in any entity doing business with a unit of local government in relation to which the person is required to file, in which the ownership interest held by the person at the date of filing is in excess of \$5,000 fair market value or from which dividends in excess of \$1,200 were received during the preceding calendar year. (In the case of real estate, location thereof shall be listed by street address, or if none, then by legal description.) No time or demand in a financial institution, nor any debt instrument shall be listed.

BUSINESS ENTITY	INSTRUMENT OF OWNERSHIP	POSITION OF MANAGEMENT
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

2. List the name, address and type of practice of any professional organization in which the person making the statement was an officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor or served in any advisory capacity, from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding year.

NAME	ADDRESS	TYPE OF PRACTICE
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

3. List the nature of professional services rendered (other than to the unit or units of local government in relation to which the person is required file) and the nature of the entity to which they were rendered if fees exceeding \$5,000 were received during the preceding calendar year from the entity for professional services rendered by the person making the statement. ("Professional services" means services rendered in the practice of law, accounting, engineering, medicine, architecture, dentistry, or clinical psychology.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. List the identity (including the address or legal description of real estate) of any capital asset from which a gain of \$5,000 or more was realized during the preceding calendar year.

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5. List the name of any entity and the nature of the governmental action requested by any entity which has applied to a unit of local government in relation to which the person must file for any license, franchise or permit for annexation, zoning or rezoning of real estate during the preceding calendar year if the ownership interest of the person filing is in excess of \$5,000 fair market value at the time of filing or if income or dividends in excess of \$1,200 were received by the person filing from the entity during the preceding calendar year.

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6. List the name of any entity doing business with a unit of local government in relation to which the person is required to file from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year other than for professional services and the title or description of any position held in that entity. No time or demand deposit in a financial institution nor any debt instrument need be listed.

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7. List the name of any unit of government which employed the person making the statement during the preceding calendar year other than the unit or units of government in relation to which the person is required to file.

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8. List the names of any entity from which a gift or gifts, or honorarium or honoraria, valued singly or in the aggregate in excess of \$500, was received during the preceding calendar year.

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**VERIFICATION**

"I declare that this statement of economic interests (including any accompanying schedules and statements) has been examined by me and to the best of my knowledge and belief is a true, correct and complete statement of my economic interests as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act. I understand that the penalty for willfully filing a false or incomplete statement shall be a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment in a penal institution other than the penitentiary not to exceed one year, or both fine and imprisonment."

**Sign Here:**

(SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING THE STATEMENT BLUE OR BLACK INK ONLY) (DATE)

ATTACH TO PETITION

10 ILCS 5/7-10.1

Suggested  
Revised July, 2004  
SBE No. P-1C

**L O Y A L T Y   O A T H**  
(OPTIONAL)

United States of America            )  
  )       SS.  
State of Illinois                        )

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do swear (or affirm) that I am a citizen of the United States and the State of Illinois, that I am not affiliated directly or indirectly with any communist organization or any communist front organization, or any foreign political agency, party, organization or government which advocates the overthrow of constitutional government by force or other means not permitted under the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of this State; that I do not directly or indirectly teach or advocate the overthrow of the government of the United States or of this State or any unlawful change in the form of the governments thereof by force or any unlawful means.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Candidate)

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) by \_\_\_\_\_ before me,  
(Name of Candidate)

on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(insert month, day, year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Public's Signature)

(SEAL)

**PETITION FOR NOMINATION**

**TO THE COUNTY CLERK OR COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS HAVING JURISDICTION OVER  
\_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ IN \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

We, the undersigned, being (\_\_\_\_\_ or more) (or 10% or more) (or 5% or more) of the voters residing within said district, hereby petition that \_\_\_\_\_ who resides at \_\_\_\_\_ in the City, Village, Unincorporated Area (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_ (If unincorporated, list municipality that provides postal service) in Township \_\_\_\_\_ in said district shall be a candidate for the office of \_\_\_\_\_ full term or \_\_\_\_ year vacancy (circle one) of the Board of Education (or Board of Directors) to be voted for at the Consolidated Election to be held on \_\_\_\_\_ (date of election).

If required pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/10-5.1, complete the following (this information will appear on the ballot)

FORMERLY KNOWN AS \_\_\_\_\_ UNTIL NAME CHANGED ON \_\_\_\_\_  
(List all names during last 3 years) (List date of each name change)

NAME (VOTER'S SIGNATURE)	STREET ADDRESS OR RR NUMBER	CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE	COUNTY
1			IL
2			IL
3			IL
4			IL
5			IL
6			IL
7			IL
8			IL
9			IL
10			IL
11			IL
12			IL

State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
County of \_\_\_\_\_ ) SS.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby certify that I reside at \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Circulator's Name) (Street Address)  
in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_,  
(City/Village/Unincorporated Area) (if unincorporated, list municipality that provides postal service) (Zip Code)  
County of \_\_\_\_\_, State of \_\_\_\_\_ that I am 18 years of age or older, that I am a citizen of the United States, and that the signatures on this sheet were signed in my presence, not more than 90 days preceding the last day for filing of the petitions and are genuine and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the persons so signing were at the time of signing the petition registered voters of the political division in which the candidate is seeking elective office, and that their respective residences are correctly stated, as above set forth.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Circulator's Signature)

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) by \_\_\_\_\_ before me, on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Name of Circulator) (insert month, day, year)

(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Public's Signature)

SHEET NO. \_\_\_\_\_



your  
School board  
+ you

## Insights for school board candidates and other interested citizens

**The vision of the Illinois Association of School Boards is excellence in local school board governance supporting quality public education.**

The mission of the Illinois Association of School Boards is to *Light the Way* for its members by developing their competence and confidence through a robust toolkit designed to build excellence in local school board governance, including:

Premiere training experiences;

Networking opportunities for mutual support;

Valuable benefits, pooled services, information, and expertise;

Advocacy on behalf of public education; and

A platform for a strong collective voice on common interests and concerns.



## **Table of contents**

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- 4 What a school board is
- 4 The school board and superintendent
- 4 What it means to be a school board member
- 5 The best school boards
- 5 The best board members
- 5 How to talk to your schools
- 6 Building good schools and good school boards
- 6 Preparation for service on a school board
- 6 Elections
- 7 Candidates
- 7 A Code of Conduct for School Board Members
- 8 Further reading

## What a school board is

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The local school board grew out of the town meeting, dating back more than 200 years to the original Thirteen Colonies. Times have changed, but the basic function of school boards today remains the same: to provide local citizen control over education at a point as close to the parent and child as possible. This means that the school board should represent the citizens of the school district — not just some of the citizens, but all of them. Because different citizens have different ideas about schools, this responsibility always presents a challenge.

The ultimate responsibility for education rests with the state of Illinois. The state has seen fit to delegate much of that responsibility to the local school board. School boards — although elected locally — are state agencies carrying out a state function. While school boards are granted wide latitude in governing their schools, they are subject to numerous state laws and regulations.

Perhaps the single most important job of a school board is to employ a superintendent and to hold him or her responsible for managing the schools in accordance with state law and the school board's policies. The board also should set educational goals for the schools — based on state laws and community values — and see that the superintendent and the total staff vigorously pursue those goals.

Because a school board is a governmental body, it can take action only by majority vote at a public meeting. The individual board member has no authority other than the right to cast a vote at such a meeting. A board member who attempts to speak for the total board, direct members of the staff or make other individual decisions is acting outside the law.

The school board is required to meet in public but that does not make it a public meeting. Except at time set aside for public input, citizens normally do not take part in discussions.

The purpose of a school board meeting is to transact the legal business of the school district through discussion and voting among the members. Because the school board needs to understand what the community thinks, most boards provide time at meetings for citizens to be heard. This is one way that boards can gauge the desires of the people they represent, even though persons who speak up at school board meetings often do not represent the entire community, or even the majority. Some boards also engage their communities through the use of surveys, citizens committees and public forums to determine the community's aspirations for its schools.

Effective community relations also is an important responsibility of the superintendent and staff.

## The school board and superintendent

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The school board hires a properly certificated and qualified individual to serve as superintendent of the district. Through its written policies, the school board directs and empowers the superintendent to function as chief executive officer in managing all aspects of district operations. The board regularly evaluates the superintendent's work in relation to clear district goals and board expectations regarding district performance and the protection of district assets.

## What it means to be a school board member

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On the surface, being a school board member may seem to be the most thankless job in the world — struggling for long hours with the most complex problems facing America and taking all the criticism when things don't go right.

But scratch the surface and you will find that school board members feel rewarded in the inner satisfaction that comes from ensuring a good education for the youth of their communities.

Yes, school boards attract a few axe carriers and crusaders who seem to ignore the educational mission of our schools. But the vast majority of board members are well aware of the awesome responsibilities they have accepted and conscientiously look out for the best interests of all pupils and all citizens.

There is no greater honor for a person of high purpose than to be selected by one's neighbors to help guide the education of their children. But it is an honor that must be earned through constant effort and a strong commitment to serving other people.

School board members in Illinois serve without pay and are prohibited by law from having a significant financial interest in any business transacted by the school district.

The term of office for most school board members is four years. Research shows that most board members are elected for two or more terms. This is good because it takes a year or more for a person to become a knowledgeable and productive board member.

Research also shows that the average board member spends 10 to 20 hours a month in board work. Some spend less; a few spend more. Regardless of time demands, 86 percent of Illinois board members describe their board experience as "satisfying."

## The best school boards

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School board practices vary widely from place to place. The degree of formality required in conducting meetings, for example, may depend on whether the board meets before a large audience, a small one, or no audience at all. There are some characteristics, however, that are common to good school boards everywhere.

Good school boards know the difference between governance (which is their job) and management (which is the administration's job) and place a high priority on respecting that difference.

Good school boards make every effort to operate openly by encouraging public attendance at their meetings and keeping constituents informed of the district's progress.

Good school boards enact major policies only after all sides of the matter have been studied and all persons or groups affected have been consulted. Many boards provide for public hearings before enacting new policies.

Good boards attempt to reach decisions that all members can support.

Good boards are efficient. This means that their procedures for conducting business are appropriate to their needs and that they do not waste time on trivia.

Good boards know they are in the business of education. They talk about education, study the needs of students and society, and base their decisions on those needs.

## The best board members

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The best school board member may be you. Board members come from all walks of life. The ability to function as one member of a seven-member governing board is not determined by sex, occupation, race, income or social standing. Effective school board members, however, are characterized by the following:

- 1) The ability to work as a member of a team, including an open mind and an ability to engage in give-and-take and to arrive at a group consensus.
- 2) The willingness to spend the time required to become informed and to do the homework needed to take part in effective school board meetings.
- 3) The desire to serve children and the community and a strong belief in the values of the public schools.
- 4) The respect for needs and feelings of other people and a well-developed sense of fair play.
- 5) The recognition that the school district is probably the largest business in town and that the board is responsi-

ble for seeing that the business is run by highly skilled professionals.

Effective board members often are those who have proved successful in their particular vocations or avocations and who have demonstrated a genuine concern for community improvement.

## How to talk to your schools

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Some people call a school board member with their concerns, suggestions and questions. Sometimes this works, particularly if a district-wide policy is involved. More often than not, however, the matter must be referred to the superintendent or other staff member for handling. Remember that the individual board member has no authority other than voting on official actions at meetings. Therefore, the individual board member is rarely the place to begin when you have a concern.

The best place to begin is with the person(s) directly involved. That would be the teacher where a student-related problem is involved, for example, or the principal where a school regulation or practice is what concerns you. Many larger school districts maintain community relations departments. A few employ an "ombudsman" whose job is to represent the best interests of individual citizens and students. In any event, these people will help you or direct you to other staff members who can.

When a situation cannot be resolved at the lowest possible level, then it should be taken to the next level in a kind of "chain of command." Once you have talked to the teacher and/or principal, you may still have to bring to the attention of the superintendent those matters that involve state laws or district-wide policies.

When the superintendent cannot resolve your problem, you should ask to be placed on the agenda for the next board meeting. If the concern is important enough to be brought before a public meeting of the full board, you'll find this approach gets a much better response than talking to an individual board member.

Most boards set aside time at meetings for public input. Some set time limits so that all can be accommodated. Find out in advance about any such ground rules. Then set down your views in writing and distribute copies to the board at the meeting. Your views are strengthened when they can be read as well as heard.

However, if you take your concern first to the person(s) directly involved and work your way up the chain of command, you will almost never need to appeal to the school board.

## Building good schools and good school boards

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If you feel that you have less and less say about the education of your children — if you think that more and more decisions are being made by special interest groups, employee unions and government officials in far-away cities — recognize that only you can help reverse the trend. You can help if you will:

- Elect capable and well-motivated people to your school board and then support them and see that they represent all the people in your school district.
- Establish a constructive relationship with your child's teacher and school administration and keep informed of what is going on in the school and in the district.
- Seek ways to resolve school problems through discussion and consensus and to avoid the conflicts that disrupt the team effort essential for good education.
- Work for the widest possible participation in your school's parent organization and see that your school board and school administration know what parents think on major issues — not just some parental clique, but all the parents in your district or school area.
- Work with your school board in communicating your views to lawmakers and agency officials in Springfield and Washington, D.C.
- Run for a position on the school board if you feel you're the kind of person who could learn to do a good job as a school board member. But take some time to prepare yourself for the job.

## Preparation for service on a school board

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What do school board members need to know? A person who plans to run for the school board should acquire a basic understanding of the local district, including:

- Purpose (what are the schools trying to accomplish?)
- Organization (who does what?)
- Finance (income and expenses and the protection of assets)
- Government (state laws and regulations and local school board policies)
- Board procedures (how is business conducted?)

The board member also must understand the proper relationship of the school board to the state, the community and the superintendent — and the proper relationship

of the individual board member to the other members of the board. Because he or she casts only one vote, the board member who hopes to bring about change must do so within the existing legal and organizational framework. Many a good idea has died because it was not properly presented to the full school board or because some part of it presented avoidable legal difficulties.

School boards establish a wide variety of policies and standards describing what the schools are expected to accomplish in such areas as curriculum, transportation, building maintenance, staff development, student services, labor relations, human rights and community relations. Many of these policies and standards are routine and the board can reasonably rely on the judgment of the superintendent and staff. Some are not so routine, however, and produce disagreements in the community or even among the staff. School board members are not experts in all these areas of policy; they must rely on the superintendent to help them. However, the board member must learn enough in all of these subjects to ask questions, evaluate the answers and vote with conviction.

The place to start in preparing for school board candidacy is by attending meetings of the board. Learn how the board functions. To learn more about school problems, talk with members of the board and staff. The board candidate should make an appointment with the district superintendent to acquire factual information about the district and to discuss problems facing the board. The candidate also should read as much as possible about the nature of school board work and the laws affecting schools. Reading material is available in most school district offices. The Illinois Association of School Boards sponsors briefings for candidates prior to each election. Additional sources are listed at the end of this document.

## Elections

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Illinois contains different types of school districts (community unit, elementary, high school, consolidated, charter, etc.). With few exceptions, governing school boards consist of seven members elected to serve terms of four years. Elections are held on the first Tuesday in April of each odd-numbered year, unless that date conflicts with the celebration of Passover. Terms are staggered so there are three or four seats contested at each biennial election. Vacancies caused by death or resignation are filled by appointment (by the remaining board members) until the next election.

In most school districts, board candidates run *at-large*. This means members of the board can live anywhere within the district and a voter can cast his ballot for any candidate(s).

In some community unit and consolidated districts, proportional representation between congressional townships and between urban and rural areas is required. This may restrict the number of board members that may be elected from any given area.

The responsibility for conducting all elections rests with the county clerk (or election commission in some locales).

## Candidates

A candidate for an Illinois school board must be at least 18 years old, must have lived in the school district for at least one year, and must be a registered voter.

To become a school board candidate one must do the following:

- 1) File a Statement of Economic Interests with the county clerk and obtain a receipt. (Statement forms are available from the county clerk.)
- 2) File the following with the county clerk: A nominating petition signed by at least 50 registered voters or 10 percent of the voters, whichever is less; a Statement of Candidacy; a county clerk's receipt for the Statement of Economic Interests. (Petitions and Statements of Candidacy are available from the board secretary.) These must be filed with the secretary no earlier than 113 days before the election and no later than 106 days before the election during normal office hours.
- 3) If a candidate receives or expends \$3,000 or more in an election campaign, reports must be filed with the county clerk in compliance with the Illinois Campaign Disclosure Act.

## A Code of Conduct for school board members

The Code of Conduct presented below was adopted in 1976 by the Board of Directors of the Illinois Association of School Boards and recommended to its member school boards. Today, specially printed copies of the Code hang on the walls of many school board offices where they serve as constant reminders of board responsibilities.

### Code of Conduct

As a member of my local board of education, I shall do my utmost to represent the public interest in education by adhering to the following standards and principles:

1. I will represent all school district constituents honestly and equally and refuse to surrender my responsibilities to special interest or partisan political groups.
2. I will avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety which could result from my position, and will not use my board membership for personal gain or publicity.
3. I will recognize that a board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a board meeting.
4. I will take no private action that might compromise the board or administration and will respect the confidentiality of privileged information.
5. I will abide by majority decisions of the board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.
6. I will encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow board members and will participate in board discussions in an open, honest and respectful manner, honoring differences of opinion or perspective.
7. I will prepare for, attend and actively participate in school board meetings.
8. I will be sufficiently informed about and prepared to act on the specific issues before the board, and remain reasonably knowledgeable about local, state, national, and global education issues.
9. I will respectfully listen to those who communicate with the board, seeking to understand their views, while recognizing my responsibility to represent the interests of the entire community.
10. I will strive for a positive working relationship with the superintendent, respecting the superintendent's authority to advise the board, implement board policy, and administer the district.
11. I will model continuous learning and work to ensure good governance by taking advantage of board member development opportunities, such as those sponsored by my state and national school board associations, and encourage my fellow board members to do the same.
12. I will strive to keep my board focused on its primary work of clarifying the district purpose, direction and goals, and monitoring district performance.

## Further reading

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Many of the following items may be available in your school district office. If not, obtain them from the sources indicated.

### School Elections

*State of Illinois Candidate's Guide*. Published each year by the Illinois State Board of Elections, 2329 S. MacArthur Blvd., Springfield, IL 62704, and available for downloading at [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov). Explains how to nominate candidates for public office, including school board candidates, and procedures for complying with the Illinois Campaign Disclosure Act.

### School Boards at Work

*The Effective School Board Member*, \$2 from IASB. An introduction to the work of boards of education in Illinois, including their duties and responsibilities.

*Understanding School Finance*, no charge from IASB. A brief look at where Illinois schools get their money and where they spend it.

*The Illinois School Board Journal*, \$18 for six issues a year from IASB. Covers the issues facing school boards in

Illinois and across the nation. Emphasis is on public policy and improving governance.

*Illinois School Law Survey, 13th Edition* (2014), \$60 from IASB. Answers in plain English to more than 1,300 legal questions in 27 chapters, includes CD ROM.

*Coming to Order — A Guide to Successful School Board Meetings*, \$20 from IASB. This 93-page book explains how to plan and conduct meetings that comply with the law and serve the interests of both school and community.

*Essentials of Illinois School Finance, Sixth Edition*, \$35 from IASB. This book is a training manual and desk-top reference for school business managers and budget makers as well as a reference for anyone who needs to understand the essentials of Illinois school finance.

Visit the IASB Online Bookstore at  
[www.iasb.com/shop/](http://www.iasb.com/shop/)



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1 East 22nd Street, Suite 20  
Lombard, Illinois 60148-6120  
630/629-3776  
Fax: 630/629-3940

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