Election of School Board Trustees

The school board encourages citizens who are genuinely interested in and devoted to public education, who are willing to give time and effort to the district, who have a capacity to work cooperatively with others, and who have an understanding of community/school needs to actively seek election as board members.

Qualifications

Under law, any registered Idaho voter may seek election to the school board in the district in which the voter resides, provided requirements of the law are met. The board members of Joint School District No. 365 declare the qualifications for trustees as follows:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A registered elector of the school district.
- Eighteen (18) years of age, or older.
- A resident of the trustee zone which he/she shall represent for thirty (30) days.

Any employee of the school district elected to serve on the board of trustees will be deemed to have resigned from employment with the school district on the date the member assumes office.

Number of School Board Members

The school district is divided into five (5) electoral zones. The board of trustees will consist of five (5) trustees or school board members. A trustee will be elected from each zone to represent that zone in which he/she resides.

Elections

Elections conducted by the district are nonpartisan elections governed by the general election laws of the state. The board directs the clerk to publish the provisions of Idaho law as required by law whenever a trustee position is open for election. Candidates for election are nominated by petition, which must be signed by five (5) or more qualified electors of the trustee zone. Petition forms may be secured from the clerk of the board, and must be filed with the clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. of the fifth Friday proceeding the day of election of trustees. Write-in candidates must declare their candidacy to the clerk not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the election to be considered as a candidate.

Elections shall be held the third Tuesday of May each year. The person receiving the greatest number of votes cast within the zone election shall be declared by the school board elected from that zone with the votes being canvassed at the next regular meeting of the board. If two (2) or more persons receive an equal number of votes, the board of trustees will determine the winner by a coin toss.
In any election for trustees, if, after the expiration of the date for filing written nominations for the office of trustee, it appears that only one (1) qualified candidate has been nominated for a position to be filled or if only one (1) candidate has filed a write-in declaration of intent as provided by Idaho Code 33-502A, no election shall be held for that position, and the board of trustees or the school district clerk with the written permission of the board, shall within thirteen (13) days before the scheduled date of the election declare such candidate elected as a trustee, and the school district clerk shall immediately prepare and deliver to the person a certificate of election signed by him/her.

A qualified elector is:
- a citizen of the United States;
- eighteen (18) years of age or older;
- a resident of the district and trustee zone for thirty (30) days preceding the election in which the elector desires to vote;
- a registered elector of the school district.

The polling places are provided in each county.

**Oath of Office**

Each trustee elected in a regular election will qualify by taking the oath of office at the annual meeting of the board in July. Each person elected or selected to be a member of the board of trustees will take the following oath before taking office:

“I do affirm that I support the constitution of the United States, the constitution and laws of the State of Idaho, and that I will faithfully discharge all the duties of the office of trustee of Joint School District No. 365 in Elmore and Owyhee Counties, State of Idaho, according to the best of my ability.”

**Term of Office**

Each board member shall be elected for a term of three (3) years, or until the annual meeting of the district held during the year in which a school board member’s term expires. Election dates for each board member are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone 1</th>
<th>May 2006</th>
<th>May 2009</th>
<th>May 2012</th>
<th>May 2015</th>
<th>May 2018</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Zone 3</td>
<td>May 2008</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
<td>May 2014</td>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>May 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone 4</td>
<td>May 2007</td>
<td>May 2010</td>
<td>May 2013</td>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>May 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone 5</td>
<td>May 2008</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
<td>May 2014</td>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>May 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resignation
Resignation of a trustee, for whatever reason, must be submitted in writing to the Clerk. The Board shall accept the resignation at any duly convened regular or special meeting and proceed to fill the vacancy as provided by statute and board policy.

Trustees retiring from the board may be recognized for their service to the district by presentation of a service plaque or other appropriate activities.

Vacancies
The board of trustees, as provided by law, shall declare a trustee vacancy within thirty (30) days of when any of the following occurs:

- a trustee dies;
- a trustee resigns;
- a trustee removes him/herself from the trustee’s zone of residence;
- a trustee is no longer a resident or school district Elector of the district;
- a trustee refuses to serve as trustee;
- a trustee, without excuse acceptable to the board of trustees fails to attend four (4) consecutive regular meetings of the board;
- a trustee is recalled and discharged from office;
- an elected trustee fails to qualify; or
- there is no candidate for a trustee position.

A declaration of vacancy shall be made at any regular or special meeting of the board of trustees when any of the above-mentioned conditions are determined to exist.

In the case of a trustee vacancy, the remaining trustees shall fill such vacancy by appointment. The board will receive letters of application from any qualified persons seeking to fill the position after suitable public notice. The board will appoint one (1) candidate to serve until the annual meeting of school district trustees next following such appointment. Should the board fail to fill a vacancy within ninety (90) days of the declaration of vacancy, the Owyhee county commissioners shall appoint a qualified person to fill such vacancy. At the next annual election a trustee shall be elected to complete the unexpired term of the office which was declared vacant and filled by appointment.
Legal source:  
Idaho Code 33-313 “Trustee zones.”  
Idaho Code 330401 “Legislative intent.”  
Idaho Code 33-402 “Notice requirements.”  
Idaho Code 33-403 “Conduct of elections.”  
Idaho Code 33-404 “Places elections to be held.”  
Idaho Code 33-405 “Qualifications of school electors.”  
Idaho Code 33-407 “Return and canvass of elections.”  
Idaho Code 33-501 “Board of trustees.”  
Idaho Code 33-502 “Declarations of candidacy for trustees.”  
Idaho Code 33-502B “Board of trustees-one nomination-no election.”  
Idaho Code 33-503 “Election of trustees-uniform date.”  
Idaho Code 33-504 “Vacancies on board of trustees.”  
Idaho Code 59-902 “Resignations.”