

Elections Overview

Updated April 2012

Of the 16 members of the State Board of Education (SBE), five members are elected by school district directors.¹ This document describes the election process for those five members. A separate document covering the governor's appointment of SBE members is available [here](#).

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) conducts elections for SBE.

OSPI Schedule for the Election Process

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
July	Call of Election
July through August 25	Filing Period
October	Withdrawal of Candidacy (by 5:00 pm on date set)
October	Ballots mailed
November	Return Ballots by 5:00 pm
December	Count and Publish Names
December	Run-Off Election
December 15 (no later)	Report and Certification of Election ²

Election to SBE

Of the five elected SBE members, two must be from eastern Washington and three from western Washington.³ Eligible candidates for election to SBE must meet specified qualifications.⁴ The length of a candidate's term is four years, and no elected candidate other than the Superintendent of Public Instruction can serve more than two consecutive four-year terms.⁵ The terms are staggered so that no more than two of the positions are open for election in any year, unless a member has resigned.

OSPI makes all pertinent information relating to an election available in a press release.

The filing window is open for seven days and closes a minimum of sixty days before an election.⁶

¹ [RCW 28A.305.011](#)

² [WAC 392-109-115](#)

³ [WAC 392-109-040](#)

⁴ [WAC 392-109-065](#)

(1) Eligibility: A person is eligible to be a candidate for only one position on the state board of education at a time.

(a) A candidate for a vacancy among the five positions on the state board elected by members of public school boards of directors must be a resident of the region represented by the position and meet the other qualifications established by RCW 28A.305.102; and

(b) A candidate for a vacancy in the position on the state board elected by private schools must be a resident of the state of Washington and meet the other qualifications established by RCW 28A.305.021.

(2) Forms for filing: A person who desires to be a candidate shall complete:

(a) The declaration and affidavit of candidacy form provided for in WAC [392-109-070](#); and

(b) The biographical data form provided for in WAC [392-109-075](#): Provided, That a declarant may elect not to submit biographical data.

⁵ [RCW 28A.305.021](#)

⁶ [WAC 392-109-065](#)

On the election commencement, ballots will be mailed to eligible electorates. These electorates are responsible for voting for one candidate for each position and returning the ballot by the announced deadline.⁷ Returned ballots deemed official⁸ will be counted by a three-member election panel designated by the Superintendent.⁹

A winning candidate must receive more than 50 percent plus one of the votes cast. If no candidate reaches the 50 percent plus one required minimum, a run-off election process begins.¹⁰ The announcement of the winning candidate or the necessity for a runoff election must be made no later than December 15.¹¹

Elected SBE Member Vacancy

When there is a SBE elected member vacancy, the remaining elected SBE members will fill that vacancy by appointment, subject to full SBE approval.¹² The nominated candidate must meet the specifications necessary for one who might be elected to that position.

Appointed Member Vacancy

When there is a governor-appointed vacancy on SBE, the governor will select a replacement.

Private Schools Member Vacancy

When there is a private schools representative vacancy, the Private Schools Advisory Committee will select a replacement.

⁷ [WAC 392-109-085](#)

⁸ [WAC 392-109-100](#)

⁹ [WAC 392-109-095](#)

¹⁰ [WAC 392-109-111](#)

¹¹ [WAC 392-109-115](#)

¹² [WAC 392-109-120](#)