

## Elections Overview

Updated December 2011

Of the 16 members of the State Board of Education (SBE), five members are elected by school district directors.<sup>1</sup> 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>
<b>July</b>	Call of Election
<b>July through August 25</b>	Filing Period
<b>October</b>	Withdrawal of Candidacy (by 5:00 pm on date set)
<b>October</b>	Ballots mailed
<b>November</b>	Return Ballots by 5:00 pm
<b>December</b>	Count and Publish Names
<b>December</b>	Run-Off Election
<b>December 15 (no later)</b>	Report and Certification of Election <sup>2</sup>

## Election to SBE

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

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<sup>1</sup> [RCW 28A.305.011](#)

<sup>2</sup> [WAC 392-109-115](#)

<sup>3</sup> [WAC 392-109-040](#)

<sup>4</sup> [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.

<sup>5</sup> [RCW 28A.305.021](#)

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.<sup>6</sup>

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.<sup>7</sup> Returned ballots deemed official,<sup>8</sup> will be counted by a three member election panel (designated by the Superintendent).<sup>9</sup>

A winning candidate must claim over 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.<sup>10</sup> The announcement of the winning candidate or the necessity for a runoff election must be made no later than December 15.<sup>11</sup>

### **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).<sup>12</sup> The nominated candidate must meet the specifications necessary for one who might be elected for 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.

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<sup>6</sup> [WAC 392-109-065](#)

<sup>7</sup> [WAC 392-109-085](#)

<sup>8</sup> [WAC 392-109-100](#)

<sup>9</sup> [WAC 392-109-095](#)

<sup>10</sup> [WAC 392-109-111](#)

<sup>11</sup> [WAC 392-109-115](#)

<sup>12</sup> [WAC 392-109-120](#)