
Board Member Qualifications/Eligibility

To qualify for membership on the Board of Education of the Ithaca City School District (the “ICSD” or the “District”), an individual:

- Must be able to read and write.
- Must be a “qualified voter.” To be a “qualified voter” a person:
 - Must be a citizen of the United States;
 - Must be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
 - Must have been a legal resident of the ICSD for a period of at least thirty (30) days immediately preceding the date of the applicable election or vote. (Please note that in addition to otherwise satisfying the legal definition of a “qualified voter,” a “one-year” residency requirement applies to Board candidates in small city school districts like the ICSD, as is set forth below);
 - Must otherwise be qualified to register¹ for or vote at an election in accordance with the provisions of Section 5-106 of the Election Law, meaning, generally, that the person:
 - Cannot currently be serving a term of incarceration for a felony conviction or currently be on parole for a felony conviction; and
 - Cannot have been adjudged “incompetent” by order of a court of competent judicial authority.
- Must be and have been a “legal resident” of the District (i.e., “domiciled” in the District) for a continuous, uninterrupted period of at least one year immediately prior to the election.
- May not have been removed from any school district office within the preceding one year.
- May not reside with another member of the same School Board as a member of the same family.
- May not be a current employee of the School Board/District.
- May not hold any “city office” other than that of police officer or firefighter.
- May not simultaneously hold another “incompatible” public office.

Nominating Petitions

- Nominating petitions must include the name and residence of the candidate.
- Board candidates run “at large,” i.e., compete for all available seats on the Board.

¹ A person need not actually be registered to vote in order to satisfy the legal definition of a “qualified voter.”

- Nominating petitions for prospective Board candidates who wish to secure a place on the ballot for the June 9, 2020 School Board election must be received in the office of the District Clerk at 400 Lake Street, Ithaca, New York, **by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2020**. Nominating petitions received after this deadline will not be accepted. (Note: This is the nominating deadline for 2020. This deadline changes from year-to-year, depending on the date of the annual School Board election.)

Board Candidate Campaign “Expenditure” & “Contribution” Statements

- If a School Board candidate’s campaign expenditures or contributions received by the candidate exceed \$500, then the candidate must file² a sworn statement with both the District Clerk and the Commissioner of Education, itemizing such expenditures and/or contributions (as applicable). However, a candidate who spends \$500 or less and who receives \$500 or less in campaign contributions (in the aggregate) is only required to file a sworn statement with the District Clerk, indicating that neither his or her expenditures nor contributions exceeded \$500. No other campaign expenditure or contribution statement is required.
- A candidate’s expenditure statement (where required) must list the amounts of “all moneys or other valuable things, paid, given, expended or promised by him or her, or incurred for or on his or her behalf with his or her approval...by any person, firm, association or corporation, to aid his or her own nomination or election, or to aid or influence the nomination or defeat of any candidate to be voted for at the election.
- A candidate’s contribution statement (where required) must include the dollar value or fair market value of the contribution, the name and address of the contributor, and if the contributor is a political committee as defined by Election Law section 14-100, the statement also must include the name of the committee and the political unit represented by the committee.
- A preliminary statement must be filed no later than 30 days before the election (i.e., in 2020 by Monday, May 11). A second statement must be filed no later than 5 days before the election (i.e., in 2020 by June 4, 2020). A third and final statement must be filed within 20 days after the election (i.e., in 2020 by June 29, 2020). Each statement must cover the period up to and including the day before the day specified for the filing of the statement.
- Any contribution or loan in excess of \$1,000 that is received after the closing date for the most recent required statement, but before the election, must be reported (in the same manner as other contributions) within 24 hours after its receipt.

² The statement is “deemed filed when deposited in an established post-office within the prescribed time, duly stamped, registered and directed to the clerk of the school district...and to the commissioner of education....”