

House Engrossed

schools; governing board members; employment

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

HOUSE BILL 2459

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-421, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARDS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-421, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-421. Governing boards; members; qualifications;
5 prohibitions; candidate statements; definitions

6 A. The governing body of a school district shall be a governing
7 board. There shall be three governing board members, except as otherwise
8 provided by this section and section 15-425, subsection A.

9 B. The governing body of a high school district shall be a
10 governing board composed of:

11 1. In a single district, the governing board members of the common
12 school district.

13 2. In a union high school district, five members.

14 C. A person who is a registered voter of this state and WHO has
15 been a resident of the school district for at least one year immediately
16 preceding the day of election is eligible for election to the office of
17 governing board member.

18 D. ~~NO~~ AN employee of a school district, including a person who
19 directly provides certified or classified services to the school district
20 as an employee of a third-party contractor, or the spouse of such an
21 employee may NOT hold membership on ~~a~~ THE governing board of a school
22 district by which the employee is employed.

23 E. A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY NOT EMPLOY, INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT THROUGH A
24 THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTOR THAT PROVIDES SERVICES TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, ANY
25 PERSON WHO SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S GOVERNING BOARD
26 DURING THE PRECEDING TWO YEARS. A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY INCREASE THE
27 PROHIBITION PERIOD PRESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION TO BE MORE THAN TWO
28 YEARS.

29 ~~E.~~ F. A member of one governing board is ineligible to be a
30 candidate for nomination or election to or serve simultaneously as a
31 member of any other governing board, except that a member of a governing
32 board may be a candidate for nomination or election for any other
33 governing board if the member is serving in the last year of a term of
34 office. A member of a governing board shall resign the member's seat on
35 the governing board before becoming a candidate for nomination or election
36 to the governing board of any other school district, unless the member of
37 the governing board is serving in the last year of a term of office.

38 ~~F.~~ G. Notwithstanding section 15-511, each county school
39 superintendent shall publish on the superintendent's website the statement
40 of each certified candidate for membership on a school district governing
41 board located in the county. The county school superintendent shall list
42 each school district on the superintendent's website from which a link
43 shall be established to the candidate's name, which shall link to the
44 candidate's statement and photograph. The candidate shall submit the
45 statement to the person at the county school superintendent's office

1 assigned to manage candidate statements, after notice of certification
2 from the county school superintendent's office but not later than
3 twenty-one days before the date that general election early ballots are
4 allowed to be mailed. The person shall post each candidate's statement on
5 the county school superintendent's website not later than fourteen days
6 before the date that general election early ballots are allowed to be
7 mailed. If a candidate does not submit a statement, the county school
8 superintendent's website shall state "no response submitted" for the
9 candidate. The candidate statements shall be posted on the website
10 alphabetically by each school district and by candidate. The candidate
11 statement shall be typewritten or electronically submitted. The county
12 school superintendent shall post the statements verbatim as they are
13 received unless a candidate requests in writing that typographical errors
14 be corrected. The candidate statement shall contain the following items
15 in the same size and format for each candidate:

- 16 1. A recent photograph of the candidate.
- 17 2. A statement not to exceed five hundred words.
- 18 3. A disclosure of any relationships by affinity, by consanguinity
19 or by law to the third degree that exist between the candidate and any
20 current governing board members or other candidates for election to the
21 same governing board.

22 ~~G.~~ H. Persons related as immediate family who have the same
23 household of residence within four years prior shall not serve
24 simultaneously on the governing board of the same school district if the
25 governing board is composed of five members. For a school district with a
26 student count of at least two hundred fifty ~~and~~ that is located in a
27 county with a population of more than five hundred thousand persons, not
28 more than two persons related by affinity, by consanguinity or by law to
29 the third degree shall serve simultaneously on the governing board of the
30 same school district if the governing board is composed of five
31 members. A qualified elector who resides in the school district may bring
32 an action in superior court to enforce this subsection.

33 ~~H.~~ I. A person related as immediate family who has the same
34 household of residence within four years prior to a member of the
35 governing board of the same school district is ineligible to be a
36 candidate for nomination or election to that governing board if the
37 governing board is composed of five members, except that a person related
38 as immediate family who has the same household of residence within four
39 years prior to a member of a governing board may be a candidate for
40 nomination or election to the governing board of the same school district
41 if the member is serving in the last year of a term of office. For a
42 school district with a student count of at least two hundred fifty ~~and~~
43 that is located in a county with a population of more than five hundred
44 thousand persons, not more than two persons related by affinity, by
45 consanguinity or by law to the third degree shall be eligible to be a

1 candidate for nomination or election to a governing board that is composed
2 of five members. A qualified elector who resides in the school district
3 may bring an action in superior court to enforce this subsection.

4 ~~i.~~ J. Persons related as immediate family who have the same
5 household of residence within four years prior are ineligible to be
6 simultaneous candidates for nomination or election to the governing board
7 of the same school district if the governing board is composed of five
8 members. For a school district with a student count of at least two
9 hundred fifty ~~and~~ that is located in a county with a population of more
10 than five hundred thousand persons, not more than two persons related by
11 affinity, by consanguinity or by law to the third degree shall be
12 simultaneous candidates for nomination or election to a governing board
13 that is composed of five members. A qualified elector who resides in the
14 school district may bring an action in superior court to enforce this
15 subsection.

16 ~~j.~~ K. For the purposes of this section:

17 1. "Household of residence" means the place of abode during
18 applicable time periods or the residence address used by an individual for
19 voter registration or property tax purposes.

20 2. "Immediate family" means individuals who are married to each
21 other and any children of those individuals.