

\*Sponsorship has changed since the bill was introduced

REFERENCE TITLE: board members; qualifications; training requirements

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2024

## **HB 2700**

\*Introduced by  
Representatives Hernandez L: Hernandez A, Hernandez C, Seaman, Tsosie;  
Senator Miranda

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE 3, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY  
ADDING SECTION 15-349; 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. Title 15, chapter 3, article 3, Arizona Revised  
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-349, to read:

4 15-349. Governing board members; professional development  
5 training

6 IF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, ANY COUNTY SCHOOL  
7 SUPERINTENDENT OR ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OFFERS PROFESSIONAL  
8 DEVELOPMENT TRAINING RELATING TO SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE, EACH SCHOOL  
9 DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER OF EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THIS STATE  
10 SHALL COMPLETE EITHER:

- 11 1. EIGHT HOURS OR MORE OF THAT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING.
- 12 2. A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP.

13 Sec. 2. Section 15-421, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
14 read:

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

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

20 B. The governing body of a high school district shall be a  
21 governing board composed of:

- 22 1. In a single district, the governing board members of the common  
23 school district.
- 24 2. In a union high school district, five members.

25 C. A person ~~who is a registered voter of this state and who has~~  
26 ~~been a resident of the school district for at least one year immediately~~  
27 ~~preceding the day of election~~ is eligible for election to the office of  
28 governing board member IF THE PERSON MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING  
29 REQUIREMENTS:

30 1. IS A REGISTERED VOTER OF THIS STATE AND HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF  
31 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE  
32 OF THE ELECTION.

33 2. HAS AT LEAST FOUR YEARS OF:

- 34 (a) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.
- 35 (b) EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING EXPERIENCE AS A PAID EMPLOYEE, VOLUNTEER  
36 OR INTERN, RELATING TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:
  - 37 (i) PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE.
  - 38 (ii) PUBLIC SCHOOL BUDGETS.
  - 39 (iii) SCHOOL PROPERTY.
  - 40 (iv) STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY.
  - 41 (v) STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.
  - 42 (vi) THE OPEN MEETING LAW.
  - 43 (vii) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.
  - 44 (viii) FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES.
  - 45 (ix) ANY OTHER EXPERIENCE RELATING TO SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE.

1 (c) A COMBINATION OF EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE AS DESCRIBED IN  
2 SUBDIVISIONS (a) AND (b) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

3 D. An employee of a school district, including a person who  
4 directly provides certified or classified services to the school district  
5 as an employee of a third-party contractor, or the spouse of such an  
6 employee may not hold membership on the governing board of a school  
7 district by which the employee is employed.

8 E. Notwithstanding subsection D of this section and title 38,  
9 chapter 3, article 8, a small school district may employ, including  
10 employment through a third-party contractor that provides services to the  
11 small school district, a substitute teacher who is related to a member of  
12 the governing board as ~~the member's spouse or~~ immediate family and who has  
13 had the same household of residence within the preceding four years. If a  
14 small school district employs a substitute teacher pursuant to this  
15 subsection, the member of the governing board who is related to the  
16 substitute teacher shall be recused from voting on any matter relating to  
17 substitute teachers.

18 F. A school district may employ, including employment through a  
19 third-party contractor that provides services to the school district, a  
20 person who served as a member of the school district's governing board  
21 during the preceding two years only in a position in which the person will  
22 provide services directly to students, including as a certificated  
23 teacher, a substitute teacher and an employee or contractor who provides  
24 transportation, instructional support or student support services. A  
25 school district may increase the time period prescribed in this subsection  
26 to be more than two years.

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

36 H. Notwithstanding section 15-511, each county school  
37 superintendent shall publish on the superintendent's website the statement  
38 of each certified candidate for membership on a school district governing  
39 board located in the county. The county school superintendent shall list  
40 each school district on the superintendent's website from which a link  
41 shall be established to the candidate's name, which shall link to the  
42 candidate's statement and photograph. The candidate shall submit the  
43 statement to the person at the county school superintendent's office  
44 assigned to manage candidate statements, after notice of certification  
45 from the county school superintendent's office but not later than

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

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

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

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

1 resides in the school district may bring an action in superior court to  
2 enforce this subsection.

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

14 L. For the purposes of this section:

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

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

20 3. "Small school district" has the same meaning prescribed in  
21 section 15-901.

22 Sec. 3. Applicability; delayed repeal

23 A. Notwithstanding section 15-421, Arizona Revised Statutes, as  
24 amended by this act, all persons serving as members of a school district  
25 governing board on the effective date of this act may continue to serve  
26 until the expiration of their normal terms.

27 B. This section is repealed from and after December 31, 2028.