



## ARE YOU CONSIDERING SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDACY?

*For members of the Midland Park community who are considering running for a seat on the Board of Education, the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) provides valuable resources to review as you begin the process. NJSBA's Candidate Kit provides vital resources in downloadable PDF formats, as well as links to important websites for anyone considering running for their local school board.*

*The following information is from the NJSBA website:*

### **Annual Election Dates**

A 2012 law gives communities the option to change the date of the school board member elections from the third Tuesday in April to the General Election in November. (*Midland Park's School Board Election is in November.*) If you are considering serving on your school board, take advantage of NJSBA's online briefings that provide details about the responsibilities of serving on a local board of education. NJSBA's online briefings include three videos that address leadership, legal issues, and the role of a board member. Candidates can also listen to a recorded online radio broadcast, "What Board Members Need to Know When They're Elected."

### **Nominating Petition**

Pursuant to S-868/A-2030 enacted on May 30, which allows board of education candidates to circulate a nominating petition jointly and to be bracketed together on the ballot, below are two sample petitions: one for an individual filing and one for joint filing. On July 20, 2018, Gov. Phil Murphy signed S-1974, which requires that a nominating petition for any state, county, school, or municipal elective public office include a functioning email address for the candidate. Board candidates are reminded that some county boards of elections require the use of a county-specific nominating petition and other forms. On March 31, 2014, the Honorable Mary Jacobson, A.J.S.C., Assignment Judge of Mercer County, issued an opinion and order in the case of Empower Our Neighborhood, et al. v. Guadagno, et al. The order states, in part, that a circulator for school board nomination petitions is not required to be a registered voter or resident of the jurisdiction of the candidate, but must otherwise be eligible to vote in New Jersey.

### **Campaign Reporting Requirements**

Contacting the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC): All candidates for school board office must comply with the provisions of the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act. For further information, and downloadable reporting forms, contact the ELEC.

### **Ten Things School Board Candidates—and Newly Elected Board Members—Should Know**

Please access the NJSBA website and view the video series for school board candidates, "Ten Things Every School Board Candidate Should Know before Taking Office," online. The series contains important information for candidates—and for newly elected board members. Topics include criminal history record checks for newly elected board members; the Sunshine Law; the Board Member Code of Ethics; mandated training; and professional development opportunities.

### **Online Candidate Briefings**

What Candidates Need to Know When Elected: to help potential candidates understand the roles and responsibilities of school board members, the New Jersey School Boards Association offers online Candidate Briefings. These programs address the structure and responsibilities of local school boards in New Jersey. The programs include:

- "What Board Candidates Need to Know If Elected"
- "Being an Effective Board Member"
- "Legal Aspects of Board Service"
- "Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members"

**For more information, contact NJSBA's Communications Department at (609) 278-5209, or access the NJSBA website:**

**<https://www.njsba.org/about/membership/membership-school-board-members/school-board-candidacy/>**