

REFERENCE TITLE: governing board members; training requirements

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HB 4112

Introduced by
Representative Hernandez L

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-302, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; 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. Section 15-302, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-302. Powers and duties

5 A. The county school superintendent shall:

6 1. Distribute all laws, reports, circulars, instructions and forms
7 that the county school superintendent may receive for the use of school
8 officers.

9 2. Record all official acts.

10 3. Appoint governing board members of school districts to fill all
11 vacancies, but the term of the appointment shall be until the next regular
12 election for governing board members, at which time a successor shall be
13 elected to serve the unexpired portion of the term. ~~A person who is~~
14 ~~subject to registration as a sex offender in this state or in any other~~
15 ~~jurisdiction is ineligible for appointment under this paragraph.~~ Within
16 thirty days after notification of a vacancy, the school district governing
17 board may submit up to three names to the county school superintendent for
18 consideration of an appointment to fill the vacancy. The county school
19 superintendent is not required to appoint a governing board member from
20 the list of names submitted by the governing board. The county school
21 superintendent, if the county school superintendent deems it in the best
22 interest of the community, may call a special election to fill the
23 vacancies. If an election is called, the newly elected member shall serve
24 for the remainder of the unexpired portion of the term. A PERSON IS
25 INELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENT UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH IF EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING
26 APPLIES:

27 (a) THE PERSON IS SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION AS A SEX OFFENDER IN THIS
28 STATE OR IN ANY OTHER JURISDICTION.

29 (b) THE PERSON IS INELIGIBLE TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT TO
30 THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER PURSUANT TO SECTION
31 15-349, SUBSECTION E.

32 4. Make reports, when directed by the superintendent of public
33 instruction, showing matters relating to schools in the county as may be
34 required on the forms furnished by the superintendent of public
35 instruction.

36 5. Have such powers and perform such duties as otherwise prescribed
37 by law.

38 6. On or before October 1 of each year, report to the
39 superintendent of public instruction the amount of monies received from
40 state school funds, special school district taxes and other sources, the
41 total expenditures for school purposes and the balance on hand to the
42 credit of each school district at the close of the school year.

43 7. Contract with the board of supervisors for the board of
44 supervisors to conduct all regular school district elections.

1 8. Be responsible, in cooperation with the school district
2 governing boards and the board of supervisors, for all special school
3 district elections.

4 9. Maintain teacher and administrator certification records of
5 effective dates and expiration dates of teachers' and administrators'
6 certificates in compliance with guidelines prescribed in the uniform
7 system of financial records for those school districts for which the
8 county school superintendent is the fiscal agent. The county school
9 superintendent shall not draw a warrant in payment of a teacher's,
10 substitute teacher's or administrator's salary unless the teacher,
11 substitute teacher or administrator is legally certified during the fiscal
12 year in which the term for payment is demanded.

13 10. Notify a school district three years before the expiration of a
14 revenue control limit override that the school district's budget must be
15 adjusted in the final two years of the override pursuant to section
16 15-481, subsections P and Q, if the voters do not approve another
17 override.

18 11. In collaboration with the department of education and other
19 state agencies, assist school districts, charter schools, county free
20 library districts, municipal libraries, nonprofit and public libraries,
21 tribal libraries, private schools and tribal schools on using student
22 data, staff development, curriculum alignment and technology to improve
23 student performance.

24 12. Assist schools in meeting yearly adequate progress goals as
25 defined by criteria established by the state board of education and
26 implemented by the department of education.

27 B. At the request of school districts and charter schools, the
28 county school superintendent may provide discretionary programs in
29 addition to the programs prescribed in subsection A of this section.

30 C. The county school superintendent may:

31 1. Provide the services prescribed in subsections A and B of this
32 section in the county or jointly with two or more counties pursuant to
33 title 11, chapter 7, article 3.

34 2. Review the operations and finances, including expenditures, of
35 any school district that is located in the county.

36 D. Each county school superintendent may establish an advisory
37 committee to the office of the county school superintendent.

38 Sec. 2. Title 15, chapter 3, article 3, Arizona Revised Statutes,
39 is amended by adding section 15-349, to read:

40 15-349. Governing board members; biennial training
41 requirements; ineligibility; definition

42 A. IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL, THE
43 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL
44 DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS THAT MAY BE DELIVERED THROUGH AN
45 IN-PERSON WORKSHOP, A VIRTUAL WORKSHOP OR SELF-PACED ONLINE TRAINING

1 MODULES OR ANY COMBINATION OF IN-PERSON WORKSHOP, VIRTUAL WORKSHOP AND
 2 SELF-PACED ONLINE TRAINING MODULES. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE
 3 TRAINING PROGRAM TO THE GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS OF EACH SCHOOL
 4 DISTRICT. THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL SHALL ESTABLISH THE
 5 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TRAINING PROGRAM DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS
 6 SUBSECTION AND SHALL REQUIRE THE TRAINING PROGRAM TO INCLUDE INSTRUCTION
 7 ON ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 8 1. PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE.
- 9 2. COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNIFORM SYSTEM OF FINANCIAL RECORDS
 10 PRESCRIBED BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-271.
- 11 3. HOW TO DEVELOP AND REVISE A SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET.
- 12 4. AUDIT REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES.
- 13 5. HOW TO PREPARE THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT REQUIRED BY SECTION
 14 15-904.
- 15 6. BEST PRACTICES RELATED TO INTERNAL CONTROLS.
- 16 7. REPORTS AND RESOURCES THAT ARE PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE OF THE
 17 AUDITOR GENERAL.

18 B. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER SHALL COMPLETE A
 19 TRAINING PROGRAM THAT IS PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OR
 20 AN ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION ON ALL OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- 21 1. SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE.
- 22 2. THE FIDUCIARY DUTIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS.
- 23 3. HOW TO DEVELOP, ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING
 24 BOARD POLICIES.
- 25 4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS.
- 26 5. STUDENT OUTCOME-FOCUSED SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE.
- 27 6. THE LEGAL AND ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT
 28 GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS.
- 29 7. ANY OTHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOPICS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO
 30 SERVICE AS A SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER.

31 C. AT LEAST ONCE IN EVERY TWO-YEAR PERIOD, EACH GOVERNING BOARD
 32 MEMBER OF EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THIS STATE SHALL:

- 33 1. COMPLETE BOTH THE TRAINING DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A OF
 34 THIS SECTION AND THE TRAINING REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION B OF THIS
 35 SECTION.
- 36 2. REPORT TO THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY IN
 37 WHICH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS LOCATED THE DATE ON WHICH THE GOVERNING BOARD
 38 MEMBER COMPLETED THE TRAINING.

39 D. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MAY CHARGE EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR
 40 THE COST OF PROVIDING THE TRAINING TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S GOVERNING
 41 BOARD MEMBERS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION. EACH SCHOOL
 42 DISTRICT SHALL PAY FOR ANY COSTS INCURRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 43 TO PROVIDE THE TRAINING TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS.

E. IF THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH A SCHOOL DISTRICT IS LOCATED DETERMINES THAT A GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER HAS FAILED TO COMPLETE THE TRAINING REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION, THE GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER IS INELIGIBLE TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATION, ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT TO THE OFFICE OF GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER IN ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THIS STATE.

F. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION" MEANS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT IS FORMED IN THIS STATE FOR THE PURPOSES OF PROMOTING THE ADVANCEMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THIS STATE AND IN THE UNITED STATES, COORDINATING EDUCATIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND PROMOTING THE UNIFORM APPLICATION OF LAWS RELATING TO SCHOOLS IN THIS STATE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

C. A person is eligible for election to the office of governing board member if all of the following apply:

1. The person is a registered voter of this state.

2. The person has been a resident of the school district for at least one year immediately preceding the day of election.

3. The person is not subject to registration as a sex offender in this state or in any other jurisdiction.

4. THE PERSON IS NOT INELIGIBLE TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATION OR ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-349, SUBSECTION E.

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

E. Notwithstanding subsection D of this section and title 38, chapter 3, article 8, a small school district may employ, including employment through a third-party contractor that provides services to the small school district, a substitute teacher who is related to a member of the governing board as immediate family and who has had the same household of residence within the preceding four years. If a small school district

1 employs a substitute teacher pursuant to this subsection, the member of
2 the governing board who is related to the substitute teacher shall be
3 recused from voting on any matter relating to substitute teachers.

4 F. A school district may employ, including employment through a
5 third-party contractor that provides services to the school district, a
6 person who served as a member of the school district's governing board
7 during the preceding two years only in a position in which the person will
8 provide services directly to students, including as a certificated
9 teacher, a substitute teacher and an employee or contractor who provides
10 transportation, instructional support or student support services. A
11 school district may increase the time period prescribed in this subsection
12 to be more than two years.

13 G. A member of one governing board is ineligible to be a candidate
14 for nomination or election to or serve simultaneously as a member of any
15 other governing board, except that a member of a governing board may be a
16 candidate for nomination or election for any other governing board if the
17 member is serving in the last year of a term of office. A member of a
18 governing board shall resign the member's seat on the governing board
19 before becoming a candidate for nomination or election to the governing
20 board of any other school district, unless the member of the governing
21 board is serving in the last year of a term of office.

22 H. Notwithstanding section 15-511, each county school
23 superintendent shall publish on the superintendent's website the statement
24 of each certified candidate for membership on a school district governing
25 board located in the county. The county school superintendent shall list
26 each school district on the superintendent's website from which a link
27 shall be established to the candidate's name, which shall link to the
28 candidate's statement and photograph. The candidate shall submit the
29 statement to the person at the county school superintendent's office
30 assigned to manage candidate statements, after notice of certification
31 from the county school superintendent's office but not later than
32 twenty-one days before the date that general election early ballots are
33 allowed to be mailed. The person shall post each candidate's statement on
34 the county school superintendent's website not later than fourteen days
35 before the date that general election early ballots are allowed to be
36 mailed. If a candidate does not submit a statement, the county school
37 superintendent's website shall state "no response submitted" for the
38 candidate. The candidate statements shall be posted on the website
39 alphabetically by each school district and by candidate. The candidate
40 statement shall be typewritten or electronically submitted. The county
41 school superintendent shall post the statements verbatim as they are
42 received unless a candidate requests in writing that typographical errors
43 be corrected. The candidate statement shall contain the following items
44 in the same size and format for each candidate:

- 45 1. A recent photograph of the candidate.

1 2. A statement not to exceed five hundred words.

2 3. A disclosure of any relationships by affinity, by consanguinity
3 or by law to the third degree that exist between the candidate and any
4 current governing board members or other candidates for election to the
5 same governing board.

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

17 J. A person related as immediate family who has the same household
18 of residence within four years prior to a member of the governing board of
19 the same school district is ineligible to be a candidate for nomination or
20 election to that governing board if the governing board is composed of
21 five members, except that a person related as immediate family who has the
22 same household of residence within four years prior to a member of a
23 governing board may be a candidate for nomination or election to the
24 governing board of the same school district if the member is serving in
25 the last year of a term of office. For a school district with a student
26 count of at least two hundred fifty that is located in a county with a
27 population of more than five hundred thousand persons, not more than two
28 persons related by affinity, by consanguinity or by law to the third
29 degree shall be eligible to be a candidate for nomination or election to a
30 governing board that is composed of five members. A qualified elector who
31 resides in the school district may bring an action in superior court to
32 enforce this subsection.

33 K. Persons related as immediate family who have the same household
34 of residence within four years prior are ineligible to be simultaneous
35 candidates for nomination or election to the governing board of the same
36 school district if the governing board is composed of five members. For a
37 school district with a student count of at least two hundred fifty that is
38 located in a county with a population of more than five hundred thousand
39 persons, not more than two persons related by affinity, by consanguinity
40 or by law to the third degree shall be simultaneous candidates for
41 nomination or election to a governing board that is composed of five
42 members. A qualified elector who resides in the school district may bring
43 an action in superior court to enforce this subsection.

1 L. For the purposes of this section:

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

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

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