

REFERENCE TITLE: board members; qualifications; training requirements

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

HB 4114

Introduced by
Representative Hernandez L

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
9 GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER OF EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THIS STATE SHALL
10 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 is eligible for election to the office of governing
26 board member if all of the following apply:

- 27 1. The person is a registered voter of this state.
- 28 2. The person has been a resident of the school district for at
29 least one year immediately preceding the day of election.
- 30 3. The person is not subject to registration as a sex offender in
31 this state or in any other jurisdiction.

32 4. THE PERSON MEETS AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 33 (a) HAS COMPLETED AT LEAST TWO YEARS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.
- 34 (b) HAS AT LEAST TWO YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING EXPERIENCE AS A
35 PAID EMPLOYEE OR AS A VOLUNTEER OR INTERN, RELATING TO ANY OF THE
36 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) HAS A COMBINATION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE AS
2 DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION (b) OF THIS PARAGRAPH THAT, TAKEN TOGETHER,
3 EQUALS AT LEAST TWO YEARS.

4 (d) HAS COMPLETED THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING OR
5 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP REQUIRED BY SECTION 15-349.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 L. For the purposes of this section:

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

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

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

23 Sec. 3. Applicability; delayed repeal

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

28 B. This section is repealed from and after December 31, 2030.