

# GEORGIA

## ARE YOU PREPARED TO ☒OTE FOR SCHOOL BOARD?



**Despite receiving little media attention, school boards wield a lot of power.** For example, school boards have the power to make budgeting, policy, and curricula decisions, which not only have a big impact on a classroom environment, but also help decide the values students receive alongside their formal education.

### WHAT DO SCHOOL BOARDS DO?

**They decide their district's policies and rules.**

**FOR EXAMPLE:** Should there be police in our schools?

**They make hiring decisions for their district.**

**FOR EXAMPLE:** Who will be the superintendent overseeing day-to-day operations?

**They set their district's educational goals.**

**FOR EXAMPLE:** This school district will develop a facilities plan that meets the long-range needs of students.

**They decide which courses are offered in their district.**

**FOR EXAMPLE:** Should teachers be banned from teaching the history of race in America?

**They can reorganize their district's schools.**

**FOR EXAMPLE:** When the population changes, a school board may have to decide which schools close and which ones stay open.

**They can buy and sell the district's school property.**

**FOR EXAMPLE:** If a school is closed, does the board sell the property? Where does that money go?

### WHAT MAKES FOR A GOOD SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER?

While there is no one way to be a good school board member, the Georgia School Boards Association recommends school board members be:

- Dedicated to providing every child in their community with a good basic education.
- Interested in working collaboratively with staff, parents, and other members of the community.
- Engaged with all the issues that affect a school district, rather than one overriding interest.
- Representative of the diversity of the community.
- Willing to be held accountable.

To research candidates for yourself, consult local nonpartisan organizations such as the League of Women Voters ([www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)) and a candidate's own website or social media accounts as you make this important decision.

# SCHOOL BOARDS IN GEORGIA

## DO YOU QUALIFY TO RUN FOR A SCHOOL BOARD SEAT?\*

Too often, school board seats are uncontested—or, even worse, left unfilled. The good news, however, is that Georgia’s qualifications are not especially restrictive. **To run for a school board seat, you must:**

- ✎ Be at least 21 years of age.\*\*
- ✎ Be a citizen of the State of Georgia.
- ✎ Be a registered voter.
- ✎ Be a resident of the school district in which you seek to be elected.
- ✎ File an affidavit with the elections superintendent confirming you have read and agreed to follow the local school board’s code of ethics and conflict of interest policies.

\*Local laws may require additional qualifications

\*\* Local laws may lower the minimum age to 18 years

The information here is a resource and not legal advice. Please consult with an attorney in your state if you have legal questions.

## WANT TO BE MORE INVOLVED BUT DON’T WANT TO RUN?

Join your local school council (LSC). LSCs are an advisory body to the principal, superintendent and local school board that make recommendations on any matter related to school improvement and student achievement.

## SHOULD YOU VOTE?

**Yes!** 

Although school board elections do not get a ton of attention, they are one of the most powerful and immediate ways you can help and influence your community. The values we impart to our children, the role models we show them, and the way we spend our tax dollars to support them—these are just some of the vital questions YOU can decide the answers to if you get engaged.

## ARE YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS COMING UP?

Here are just some of the school boards having elections on November 2, 2021: [Atlanta](#), [Gainesville](#), [Marietta](#), [Decatur](#), [Buford](#), [Calhoun](#), [Carrollton](#), [Social Circle](#), [Valdosta](#), and [Vidalia](#).

For more information about local school boards in Georgia, visit the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) website ([gsba.com](https://gsba.com)) and the Georgia Department of Education website ([gadoe.org](https://gadoe.org)).

## IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

October 4, 2021	Deadline to register to vote for November General and Runoff Elections.
October 12, 2021	Early voting begins.
October 22, 2021	Last day for registrar to receive an absentee ballot application for November General Election.
November 2, 2021	Election Day — Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.