

Selection of Local School Boards¹

(Last updated June 2009²)

State/ jurisdiction (links are to additional resources)	How local school board members selected ³			How election date(s) determined				When elections held ⁴
	Elected ⁵	Some appointed	Details	By state	Locally	Both/ other	Details	
Alabama		X	All county boards elected. Majority of city boards appointed by city council or commission, although some cities authorized to elect board members.			X	State law and local legislation.	County elections Nov. each year. City elections Aug. (with some exceptions).
Alaska	X							1 st Tues. of Oct. each year.
Arizona	X			X				Nov. general election day.
Arkansas	X			X				3 rd Tues. of Sept. each year, with run-off elections three weeks later.
California		X	All elected except Los Angeles County Board of Education, appointed by Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.			X	By state law, with some details such as choice of odd- or even-numbered years determined by local county board of supervisors or governed by local municipal charters.	Usually Nov. of either odd- or even-numbered years, as determined by local county board of supervisors, with general elections. Others held with primaries for city council or mayor in June, or on their own in April.
Colorado	X			X				1 st Tues. after 1 st Monday in Nov. of odd-numbered years.

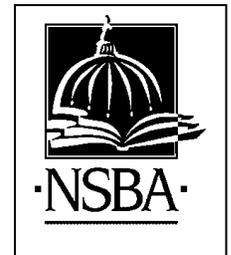
¹ Excludes members of regional education boards such as educational service districts or supervisory unions.

² Information compiled by the National School Boards Association's Office of General Counsel and Research/Training/Member Services department, with the assistance of the state school boards associations.

³ Excludes filling of vacancies.

⁴ Excludes special elections such as to fill vacancies.

⁵ Members in uncontested elections are counted here as elected.



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Connecticut		X	All elected except New Haven, appointed by mayor, and Hartford, half elected and half appointed by mayor.		X			Almost all on Nov. general election day, with some exceptions held in odd-numbered years and 12 held in May.
Delaware		X	Local boards elected. Three countywide vocational-technical district boards appointed by governor.	X				2 nd Tues. in May.
Florida	X			X				1 st Tues. after 1 st Mon. in Nov. of even-numbered years. Primary, if necessary, on Tues. 10 weeks prior to general election.
Georgia	X				X		Local acts determine the election process and term length.	During general elections and special elections.
Hawai'i		X	Hawai'i State Board of Education governs state's single statewide school district. Student member appointed by Hawai'i State Student Council.	X				Nominated in nonpartisan Sept. primary and elected in nonpartisan general election in even-numbered years.
Idaho	X			X				3 rd Tues. in May of odd-numbered years.
Illinois	X		All elected except Chicago Public School District, where members appointed by mayor.	X			By state law.	1 st Tues. in April in odd-numbered years.
Indiana		X				X	Board's self-determined election date can be changed through statutory process with ultimate approval by state department of education or by local referendum.	204 (70.3%) in May; 82 (28.3%) in Nov.; 4 (1.4%) on other dates.
Iowa	X			X				2 nd Tues. in Sept. of odd-numbered years.

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Kansas		X	Elected except Ft. Leavenworth USD 207, appointed by base commander.	X				1st Tues. in April of odd-numbered years
Kentucky	X			X				Nov. of even-numbered years. No more than three members up for election in any given year.
Louisiana	X			X				Oct. every four years. Next elections to be held 2010.
Maine	X				X			Throughout year, most commonly Mar., June, Nov.
Maryland		X	Elected except Wicomico, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, and Harford Counties, all appointed by governor, and Baltimore City, appointed jointly by mayor and governor.	X				1 st Tues. in Nov. of even-numbered years. Others appointed in July.
Massachusetts		X	Elected except Boston, appointed by mayor, and some regional boards, appointed by local elected officials from member towns.			X		Cities in Nov. of odd-numbered years. Towns vary by town meeting dates, usually Mar.-June.
Michigan		X				X	Local districts choose from among dates allowed by the state.	Mostly May, although more districts are shifting to Nov.
Minnesota		X				X	State law allows districts to choose odd- or even-numbered years.	Districts choose Nov. election day in either odd- or even-numbered years.
Mississippi		X	Non-municipal separate districts elected. Municipal separate districts appointed by city council, except where (1) 15-30% of students live outside	X				Nov.

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			city limits, in which case one member elected and rest appointed by city council, or (2) 30%+ of students live outside the city limits, in which case two members elected and rest appointed by city council.					
Missouri	X			X				1 st Tues. in Apr.
Montana	X			X				1 st Tues. after the 1 st Mon. in May.
Nebraska	X					X	State sets date, except largest districts can hold with other local municipal elections.	Except for largest districts, 1 st Tues. after 1 st Mon. of Nov. of even-numbered years.
Nevada	X			X				1 st Tues. after 1 st Mon. of Nov. in even-numbered years.
New Hampshire	X					X	10 of 13 cities hold school board elections in Nov. with other city elections. By state law other districts' elections held at school district's annual meeting held sometime Mar. 1-25, unless district operates under official ballot referenda system splitting town meeting into a deliberative session and a voting session.	10 cities in Nov. with other city elections. Others between Mar. 1-25, unless district operates under official ballot referenda system splitting town meeting into a deliberative and a voting session, in which case voting session can be 2 nd Tues. in Mar., 2 nd Tues. in Apr., or 2 nd Tues. in May.
New Jersey	X			X				3 rd week in Apr.
New Mexico	X			X				1 st Tues. in Feb. of odd-numbered years.

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New York		X	All elected, except in some large cities, <i>e.g.</i> , Yonkers, appointed by mayor, New York City, mayoral control instead of school board.	X			State law set dates, but date may be changed at local school board's request and with certification by state commissioner of education that election would conflict with religious observances.	Default date is 3 rd Tues. in May, unless that date poses religious conflict, in which case 2 nd Tues. in May. By law, the Albany City School District in general election on 1 st Tues. in Nov. of even-numbered years, and Rochester, New York City, Yonkers, Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo at different specified dates and times.
North Carolina		X	112 boards elected; 3 appointed.			X	State law sets dates, but counties choose between odd- and even-numbered years.	With May primary or Nov. general elections.
North Dakota	X					X	State law sets range of dates within which local board may schedule elections held separately from city elections and sets one date for consolidated local elections.	Board can schedule election between Apr. 1 and June 30, unless election held with city elections on 2 nd Tues. in June in even-numbered years. Most are held 2 nd Tues. in June, some every year, some in even-numbered years only.
Ohio		X	All elected, except Cleveland City, appointed by mayor, and 49 career center boards, appointed by local boards of education.	X				Nov. of odd-numbered years.
Oklahoma	X			X				1 st Tues. in Feb.
Oregon	X			X				During statewide primary elections in May.
Pennsylvania		X	All elected, except Philadelphia, appointed by mayor.	X				Nov. of odd-numbered years

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Rhode Island								Primary election in May and general election in November of even-numbered years.
South Carolina		X			X		School board selects election date subject to approval of local legislative delegation.	Mostly Nov., but some in other months, including Feb. March, May, June, and Sept.
South Dakota	X					X	State law sets range of dates and requires elections in conjunction with other municipal elections.	Between April and June every year. Usually 3 rd Tues. in June; often in April in cities.
Tennessee		X				X	State law requires 95 county school systems to hold elections in conjunction with general elections, while elections for 41 city or special systems determined by local legislative bodies, usually in conjunction with other city government elections.	County school systems: 4 th Thurs. of Aug. in even-numbered years. City and special school systems: Varies by system.
Texas	X					X	State law requires elections jointly with city or county.	Elections held jointly with a city held on either May or Nov. date. Elections held jointly with a county must be held on Nov. date in even-numbered years.
Utah	X			X				June primary election and Nov. general election
Vermont	X			X				Town meeting day, 1st Tues. in March.
Virginia		X	26 boards appointed, 108 elected.	X			State law requires elections jointly with those held with those for local appropriating body, with dates set by statute.	May and Nov.

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Washington	X			X				1 st Tues. after 1 st Mon. in Nov. in odd-numbered years. Primary election, if necessary, 3 rd Tues. in Aug.
West Virginia	X			X		X	By state law.	2 nd Tues. in May of even-numbered years.
Wisconsin	X			X				1 st Tues. in April every year.
Wyoming	X			X				
American Samoa		All	Advisory board of regents appointed by governor with concurrence of territorial senate and house of representatives.	X			By territorial law.	2- and 3-year staggered terms, but members serve until successors appointed.
District of Columbia			Direct mayoral control instead of local school board.	X				
Guam	X			X			By territorial law.	1 st Tues. after 1 st Mon. in Nov. in even-numbered years.
Northern Mariana Islands	X			X				1 st Tues. after 1 st Monday in Nov. every other even-numbered year.
Puerto Rico	X			X			By territorial law, on day in Nov. determined by legislative assembly.	Nov.
U.S. Virgin Islands	X					X	By territorial law, with some details such as choice of odd or even years determined by local county board of supervisors or governed by local municipal charters.	County elections Nov. each year. City elections Aug. (with some exceptions).