



SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE



CANDIDATE NOMINATION PACKAGE

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Alberta School Boards Association

Guide for School Board Trustees





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1 Introduction

School board trustees are elected representatives who play a critical role in shaping the future of public education.

Locally-elected public, catholic and francophone school board trustees (“trustees”) oversee and provide important governance for school boards in our education system. School boards are crucial decision-making bodies that guide the educational experiences of thousands of students across Alberta.

This guide outlines the vital role of a school board trustee in Alberta’s education system and the path to becoming one.

It includes:

- An overview of trustees’ roles and responsibilities
- Skills trustees need to succeed
- Key considerations and details for trustee candidates

Whether you are a first-time candidate or seeking re-election, your decision to participate in this important democratic process highlights the crucial role of local governance and leadership in strengthening our education system and building a better society for everyone across the province.

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2 About School Board Trustees

Understanding the Roles

Trustees act as advocates for students, stewards of public funds and bridges between the community and the school division. Trustees work collaboratively as part of a school board to ensure students receive a high-quality education that reflects the values and needs of their community.

Their authority is rooted in the *Education Act*, which delegates governance powers to school boards, and the *Local Authorities Election Act* (“*LAEA*”), which regulates trustee elections. Trustees are elected every four years and are accountable to their communities, parents and Alberta Education for their decisions.

Trustees in Alberta’s Education System

In Alberta, school boards are considered statutory corporations empowered by the provincial government to govern local education. This structure reflects the principle that decisions made at the community-level are more effective and responsive to local needs.

School boards have significant responsibilities, including:

- Planning for the division and setting long-term priorities.
- Evaluating the performance of the superintendent and the overall system.
- Communicating achievements and results to the public and advocating for funding and resources.
- Promoting public education as a cornerstone of a democratic society.

By fulfilling these responsibilities as part of school boards, trustees ensure Alberta’s education system remains inclusive, equitable and high performing. Their role is a crucial one, emphasizing the importance of local governance and leadership in creating a better society for everyone across the province.

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Understanding the Responsibilities

Trustees are entrusted to govern their division by balancing the diverse needs of students, families and communities. Their work encompasses several key areas:

- **Setting Direction:** Trustees establish the strategic vision and priorities for their division, ensuring that all students can succeed. This includes approving goals that reflect community input and comply with provincial guidelines.
- **Developing Policy:** By creating policies, trustees set the framework for how their division operates. These policies guide everything from fiscal oversight and student wellbeing to annual school calendars.
- **Budget Approval and Oversight:** Trustees approve the division's annual budget, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively and responsibly.
- **Superintendent Oversight:** Working together as the board, they hire and evaluate the superintendent, who is responsible for implementing board decisions and managing day-to-day operations.
- **Advocacy and Representation:** Trustees advocate for public education at the municipal and provincial levels, representing the interests of their communities.
- **Community Engagement:** Trustees actively communicate with parents, students and other stakeholders, ensuring everyone's voices are considered in board decisions.

The board is collectively responsible for governance and all trustees are bound by its decisions. Individual trustees hold no legal authority; decision-making power rests solely with the board. However, the role of a trustee carries leadership and accountability, both to their constituents and the broader community. In this capacity, trustees can serve as role models and set a positive example for others.

Skills and Attributes

Those with a passion for public education and community service can make a valuable contribution as a trustee. Essential skills and attributes for effective governance should be developed and strengthened to fulfill trustee duties to the highest standards.

These include:

1. **Leadership and Collaboration:** Trustees must work effectively as part of a team, contributing to strategic discussions and making decisions in the best interest of the students.
2. **Financial Acumen:** Overseeing large budgets requires the ability to understand financial statements and ask critical questions about spending and resource allocation.
3. **Knowledge of Legislation:** Familiarity with the *Education Act*, *LAEA* and related regulations and policies is vital for effective governance.
4. **Strong Communication:** Trustees require a repertoire of communication skills to engage effectively with a wide range of stakeholders, from students and parents, to elected officials and community.
5. **A Willingness to Learn:** Trustees are expected to participate in ongoing professional development to stay informed about developments in education policy and best practices.



Why Run for Trustee?

Seeking election provides an opportunity to make a lasting impact in your community and its future.

Serving as a trustee is a call to leadership and public service. Trustees contribute to the public good and help shape the educational landscape for generations to come.

Supporting Local Governance

Local governance in school boards is a cornerstone of democracy, with trustees providing citizens a direct way to influence public services. Trustees offer essential oversight of the education system, ensuring decisions align with community values while meeting provincial standards. This role enables trustees to make informed and balanced decisions.

Alberta's school boards operate with local autonomy, enabling them to address the unique challenges and opportunities in their communities. Trustees are instrumental in bringing local insights to educational policies and practices, ensuring that every student has access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

Answering a Call to Leadership

Leadership as a trustee requires vision, collaboration and a commitment to serving others. Trustees help guide the direction of education in their division, advocating for innovative solutions and equitable practices that benefit all students. They are champions of public education, working to ensure that every voice is heard and that schools remain places of opportunity and growth.

Trusteeship offers opportunities to develop leadership skills, deepen your understanding of governance and education and build relationships with fellow community leaders.

Committing to Public Service

Public education is deeply tied to the social and economic health of a community. Trustees contribute to collective well being and play a key role in addressing critical issues, such as equity, inclusion and student achievement.

Trustees also act as a bridge between the school system and the community, facilitating open dialogue and encouraging active participation in education and student learning.

Serving as a trustee is one of the most rewarding forms of public service. Trustees are part of a team working to solve complex problems, implement innovative strategies and uphold the values of public education.

Considerations

Time Commitment

Trusteeship requires a significant commitment of time and energy. On average, trustees dedicate 10–20 hours per week to their responsibilities. This includes preparing for and attending board and committee meetings, engaging with parents and community stakeholders, and representing the board at public events. Trustees should also consider participating in professional development sessions to stay informed about best practices and emerging trends in education governance.

Remuneration

Trustee remuneration varies between school divisions. The amount is determined locally and typically reflects the significant responsibilities and time commitments of the role. While the position is not usually sought for financial reasons, remuneration helps support trustees in fulfilling their duties.

Ethical Expectations and Conflicts of Interest

Trustees must adhere to high ethical standards, maintaining the trust and confidence of their communities. Transparency is key, trustees are required to disclose any financial or personal interests that could influence their decisions. Under the *Education Act*, trustees must abstain from votes or discussions where conflicts arise to ensure integrity in the governance process.

Steps to Run

Municipal elections in Alberta are a structured process that require careful preparation and adherence to provincial regulations. The election process ensures that candidates are eligible, nominations are properly filed and campaigns are conducted transparently.

Eligibility

There are five requirements to consider when confirming eligibility to run. Review these requirements before planning a campaign and submitting nomination papers.

These are outlined in the **LAEA** and the **Education Act**.

1. You must be eligible to vote in the election. You must be a Canadian citizen and must be at least 18 years of age.
2. You must be a resident in the school division. According to the *LAEA*, a candidate for trustee of a board of a school division that is wholly or partly within the boundaries of a city is not required to be a resident of the ward but must be a resident of the school division. Refer to the *LAEA* for more details.
3. Some faith-based and francophone school boards have specific requirements to run for their school board. Reach out to ASBA or to the school board you are considering running for to find out specific requirements for that election.
4. You must not be otherwise ineligible or disqualified. You would be considered ineligible if you are the auditor of the local jurisdiction. Secondly, you must not be an employee of the school board for which the election is to be held unless you take a leave of absence. Thirdly, you need to ensure that you do not owe the municipality for taxes in default exceeding \$50. In addition, you must confirm that you do not owe the local jurisdiction for any debt exceeding \$500 and are not in default for more than 90 days. Lastly, you cannot have been convicted of an offence under the *LAEA*, the *Election Act*, the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* or the *Canada Elections Act* within the last 10 years.



Trustees must adhere to high ethical standards, maintaining the trust and confidence of their communities.





Nomination Process

Nominations must be filed during the designated nomination period, which begins January 1 of the election year and closes at 12 p.m. on Nomination Day (four weeks before the election).

Candidates must:

1. Complete the required nomination forms, including *Form 4 (Nomination Paper and Candidate's Acceptance)* and *Form 5 (Candidate Financial Information)*. The forms can be found on the Government of Alberta website, in the [Municipal Elections](#) section.
2. Secure signatures from at least five eligible electors who reside within the school board's jurisdiction (or more, if the board has passed a bylaw requiring additional signatures).
3. Submit the forms in person to the returning officer at the school board office, along with any required nomination deposit (if applicable).
4. Submit a current criminal record check, if the board has passed a bylaw requiring one.

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Nominations must be filed during the designated nomination period, which begins January 1 of the election year and closes at 12 p.m. on Nomination Day.



3 Deciding to Run

What makes you want to serve?

While this may seem like a straightforward question – the answer is not always obvious. People need to trust you and your vision before they vote for you.

You need a rationale for running in your community. A good way to frame this is by tying your statement to an experience or narrative; consider how your campaign and policies address this.

Be accessible! Share your story, vision and background with your target audience. Highlight life and work experiences that are relevant to your platform and goals. Employ diverse types of media to your advantage, catering to the individuals who are most likely to vote for you. Use anecdotes, stories, photos, videos and testimonials that feed your campaign message. As well, you should address any vagueness or potential questions your target audience may have.

Most of all, it is important to be authentic. It is important to convey honesty and truth through your message, admit faults (such as a promise not kept or an unreturned phone call) and be as genuine as possible.

How to Prepare

The candidate has three tasks during the campaign:

1. Make a meaningful impression and convince constituents to vote for you.
2. Raise money (if required).
3. Recruit volunteers.

Given the limited resources a school trustee campaign may have, it may make sense for you to take on some campaign management roles as well. Candidates should be interacting with voters at every possible opportunity and speak directly with as many of them as possible.

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People need to trust you and trust your vision before they are comfortable voting for you.

Getting Started

The first step for any candidate is to complete the nomination package.

To complete the nomination process, each local school board or municipal elections authority will have their own set of forms and requirements for you to complete. Standard across the province, candidates will have to complete the required “Form 4 – Nomination Paper and Candidate’s Acceptance” as well as “Form 5 – Candidate Information.”

How to Access and Submit Nomination Forms

These forms can be accessed via your local returning officer, municipal elections authority or school board. You can also find them online on the Government of Alberta [website](#).

It is important to be exceptionally diligent when completing these forms and ensure they are submitted correctly. Please note that municipalities have varying requirements for these forms, including how many electors are required to have signed the form to validate your nomination.

It is recommended that nomination forms are submitted as early as possible before the nomination deadline. It is also suggested to have more electors sign your forms than needed for your nomination to guarantee you reach the minimum requirement. In most cases, signatures need to be collected in-person. You can inquire with your local returning officer or municipal elections authority about the types of signatures that will be accepted on the form, including signatures obtained via e-mail.

Once completed, you must submit the forms appropriately as per LAEA guidelines. According to the LAEA, individual school boards can adjust how they receive nomination papers from trustees.

All nomination packages must:

- Be signed by at least five electors or more (check with your school board/ local municipal elections authority for additional requirements);
- Have a valid deposit (check with your school board/ local municipal elections authority if this is required and your deposit total);
- Be signed and affirmed by the candidate (check with your school board/local municipal elections authority if there are any additional signing/affirmation requirements).

In addition to having the correct deposit value, some elections authorities require specific methods of payment. Make sure you check with your local returning officer or municipal elections authority which methods are valid in advance of you filing your nomination papers.





4 Local Authorities Election Act

Recent Changes

The *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act* came into force on October 31, 2024. While the involvement of local political parties and slates is **not applicable** to trustees, several of the amendments impact the rules for local elections.

Regarding employment, one must **not** be employed by a school division, charter school, private school or Office of the Ombudsman if seeking election as a trustee. If employed by one of the above, one must notify the employer on or after January 1, 2025 and before the last working day prior to nomination that leave of absence without pay will be taken.



Regarding employment,
one must not be employed by a
school division, charter school,
private school or Office of the
Ombudsman if seeking election
as a trustee.

Notable additional changes:

- Debt to the local jurisdiction for which the election is being held cannot equal or exceed \$500 for one to be nominated as a candidate.
- The campaign period begins on January 1 the year immediately following a general election and ending on December 31 immediately following the general election.
- Donations by an ordinary resident in Alberta cannot exceed \$5,000 in the aggregate to all trustee candidates of a public school or separate school division.
- Donations by a non-prohibited corporation in Alberta cannot exceed \$5,000 in the aggregate to all trustee candidates of a public school or separate school division.
- A candidate may spend up to \$10,000 of their own money during the campaign period. This amount does not need to be reimbursed to the candidate by the campaign funds at the end of the campaign.

5 Resources

Local Authorities Election Act

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/l21>

The election law currently governing school board trustee elections in Alberta.

Education Act

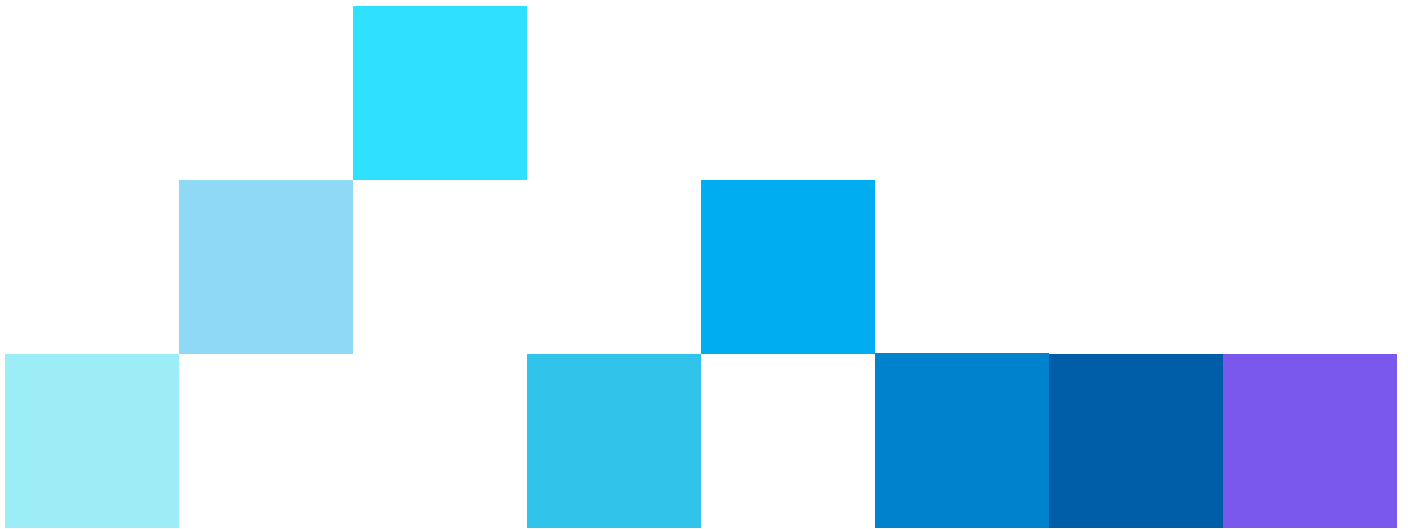
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/e00p3>

List eligibility requirements, trustee responsibilities amongst other legal requirements for trustees and candidates.

ASBA Resources

<https://www.asba.ab.ca>

Contact ASBA with any questions.



Suite 1200, 9925 109 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J8
P 780.482.7311 **W** asba.ab.ca

BYLAW NO. 1-2024

OF PEACE RIVER SCHOOL DIVISION

A bylaw of Peace River School Division, in the Province of Alberta, to establish the need of Nomination Forms to Include a Criminal Record Check.

WHEREAS provisions under Section 21.1 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, allows a School Board the right to require an elected authority to provide a Criminal Record Check if seeking to be nominated and that a Board of Trustees may pass a bylaw prior to December 31 before a year in which a general election is to be held and that all nomination forms submitted will include a copy of their Criminal Record Check.

WHEREAS it is deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees of Peace River School Division that the Returning Officer can receive a nomination. Nominations must include (Form 4) and the candidates Criminal Record Check that is no older than 4 weeks from the Nomination Form date.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Peace River School Division authorizes the Returning Officer to receive Nomination Forms that include a Criminal Record Check.

This bylaw shall come into force and effect upon the date of the passing of the third and final reading.

READ a first time on 4th of December, 2024

READ a second time on 4th of December, 2024

READ a third and final time and passed on 19th of December, 2024.



Board Chair



Secretary-Treasurer

Local Authorities Election Act
(Sections 12, 21, 22, 23, 23.1, 27, 28,
47, 68.1, 151, 158.3, Part 5.1)
Education Act (Sections 4(4), 74)

The personal information collected through this form is for administering the election. This collection is authorized by section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. For questions about the collection of personal information, contact

Peace River School Division780-624-3601

Business Title/OrganizationBusiness Phone Number

P.O. Box 380 4702-51St.GrimshawABT0H 1W0

AddressCity or TownProvincePostal Code

LOCAL JURISDICTION: Peace River School Division, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

We, the undersigned electors ofPeace River School Division Ward,Name of Local Jurisdiction and Ward (if applicable)

nominateof

Candidate's Surname and Given Names

Complete Address and Postal Code

as a candidate at the election about to be held for the office ofSchool Board Trustee - Ward,Office Nominated for

ofPeace River School Division,Name of Local Jurisdiction

The candidate's local political party or slate is (if applicable).

Provide signatures of at least **5 ELECTORS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE** in this election in accordance with sections 27 and 47 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* and sections 4(4) and 74 of the *Education Act* (if applicable). If a city or a board of trustees under the *Education Act* passes a bylaw under section 27(2) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, then the signatures of up to 100 electors eligible to vote may be required.

Printed Name of Elector	Complete Address and Postal Code of Elector	Signature of Elector

CANDIDATE'S ACCEPTANCE

I, the above-named candidate, solemnly swear (affirm) that

I am eligible under sections 21 and 47 (and section 12, in the case of summer villages) of the *Local Authorities Election Act* and sections 4(4) and 74 of the *Education Act* (if applicable) to be elected to the office,

I am not otherwise disqualified under section 22, 23 or 23.1 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*,

I will accept the office if elected.

I have read sections 12, 21, 22, 23, 23.1, 27, 28, 47, 68.1 and 151 and Part 5.1 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* and sections 4(4) and 74 of the *Education Act* (if applicable) and understand their contents,

I am appointing _____

Name, Contact Information or Complete Address and Postal Code and Telephone Number of Official Agent

as my official agent (if applicable),

I have provided a criminal record check with my nomination package (if applicable),

I will read and abide by the municipality's code of conduct if elected (if applicable), and

The electors who have signed this nomination paper are eligible to vote in accordance with the *Local Authorities Election Act* and the *Education Act* and resident in the local jurisdiction on the date of signing the nomination.

That I have provided a Criminal Record Check dated within four (4) weeks from the Nomination Form submission date as per PRSD Bylaw 1-2024.

(Print name as it should appear on the ballot.)

Candidate's Surname

Candidate's Given Names
(may include nicknames, but not titles, i.e. Mr., Ms, Dr.)

SWORN (AFFIRMED) before me

at the _____ of _____,

in the Province of Alberta,

this _____ day of _____, 20 _____.



Signature of Candidate

Signature of Returning Officer or
Commissioner for Oaths

Commissioner for Oaths Stamp

**IT IS AN OFFENCE TO SIGN A FALSE AFFIDAVIT
OR A FORM THAT CONTAINS A FALSE STATEMENT**

RETURNING OFFICER'S ACCEPTANCE

Returning Officer signals acceptance by signing this form:

Signature of Returning Officer

The personal information collected through this form is for administering the election. This collection is authorized by section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. For questions about the collection of personal information, contact

Peace River School Division

780-624-3601

Business Title/Organization

Business Phone Number

P.O. Box 380 4702-51 St.

Grimshaw

AB

T0H 1W0

Address

City or Town

Province

Postal Code

Candidate's Full Name

Candidate's Address and Postal Code

Address(es) of Place(s) where Candidate Records are Maintained

Name(s) and Address(es) of Financial Institutions where Campaign Contributions will be Deposited (if applicable)

Name(s) of Signing Authorities for each Depository Listed Above (if applicable)

Where there is any change in the above mentioned information, the candidate shall notify the local jurisdiction in writing within 48 hours of such changes by submitting a completed information form.

Notice of Intent

Local Authorities Election Act (Section 147.22)

LOCAL JURISDICTION: _____, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Election Date: _____
date

I, _____, of

_____ complete address and postal code

intend to be nominated, or have been nominated, to run for election as a candidate in the

_____ name of local jurisdiction and ward, if applicable

I understand that by completing this form, I am declaring my intent to become a candidate as defined in the *Local Authorities Election Act*, which carries with it certain obligations and responsibilities, including when campaign contributions can be received and when campaign expenses can be incurred as per Section 147 of the *Local Authorities Act*.

Candidate Information

Title	Candidate Last Name	Candidate First Name
Telephone Number	Email Address	

Address of place(s) where candidate records are maintained:

Name(s) and address(es) of financial institutions where campaign contributions will be deposited (if applicable):

Name(s) of signing authorities for each depository listed above (if applicable):

SWORN (AFFIRMED) before me at the _____
of _____, in the Province of Alberta, this _____
day of _____, 20 ____

Signature of Returning Officer or Commissioner for Oaths or Notary Public in
and for Alberta

Signature of Candidate

Commissioner for Oaths Stamp

RETURNING OFFICER'S ACCEPTANCE

Returning office signals acceptance by signing this form

Signature of Returning Officer

IT IS AN OFFENCE TO SIGN A FALSE AFFIDAVIT OR A FORM THAT CONTAINS A FALSE STATEMENT

The personal information collected through this form is for administering the election. This collection is authorized by section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. For questions about the collection of personal information, contact your local school board.



Release of Candidate Information

I, _____, hereby consent to the release by Peace River School Division, the following personal information about me to an interested person or organization, including the news media, and to post on the Division's website, from the date of filing my nomination papers until the completion of my term, if elected.

Full Name: _____

Phone (h): _____ or Phone (c) _____

Email: _____

Biography (if yes, complete form on next page) Yes ☐ No ☐

Signature of Candidate _____ Date _____

The personal information provided on this form is collected under the authority of Section 4(a) and 4(c) of the *Protection of Privacy Act* (POPA) and Section 27(1.1) of the *Local Authorities Election Act* (LAEA) for the purpose of administering trustee election candidate communications. By signing above, you consent under Section 13(1)(c) of POPA, Section 2 of the *Protection of Privacy Regulation*, and Section 20(2)(a) of the *Access to Information Act* (ATIA) to the release and website posting of the specified information. Questions regarding this collection or disclosure may be directed to Rhonda Freeman, Privacy and Access Officer, Peace River School Division, Box 380, Grimshaw, AB T0H 1W0, atia-coordinator@prsd.ab

With your consent, as requested on the “Release of Candidate” form, Peace River School Division will publish candidate information on our website. Please answer the questions below and provide a photo. All candidates receive the same questions. Only responses to these questions will be published; no links to documents or websites may be included. The biography limit is 250 words total (excluding name and contact details). Submissions will be posted exactly as worded. If responses exceed 250 words, the final question will be cut to comply. If needed, use the back of this form or submit typed responses in person or by email. Email your responses and photo to dyckk@prsd.ab.ca by 12:00 pm on November 4, 2026.

- Release of Candidate Information By-Election 2026