

Voting in School Board Elections

Determining which school board you are entitled to vote for:

-  Public or
-  Separate
-  Conseil scolaire fransaskois

(Eligibility to vote in and the conduction of school board elections in Saskatchewan are governed by *The Local Government Election Act, The Education Act, 1995 and The Education Regulations, 1986*).

YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD IF YOU:

1. Are a Canadian citizen;
2. Are at least 18 years of age on the day of the election;
3. Have resided in the school division, or on land that is now in the school division, for at least three months for the period of time immediately preceding the date of the election; and
4. Have resided in Saskatchewan for at least six months for the period of time immediately preceding the date of the election. *Local Government Election Act - 23*

YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE CONSEIL SCOLAIRE FRANSASKOIS IF YOU:

1. Are a minority language adult, which requires that you:
 - a) be a Canadian citizen;
 - b) be at least 18 years of age on the day of the election, and;
 - c) one of the following applies to you:
 - (i) your first language learned and still understood is French;
 - (ii) you received your primary school instruction in Canada in French, other than French immersion, or,

YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD IF YOU:

1. Are a Canadian citizen;
2. Are at least 18 years of age on the day of the election;
3. Have resided in the school division, or on land that is now in the school division, for at least three months for the period of time immediately preceding the election;
4. Have resided in Saskatchewan for at least six months for the period of time immediately preceding the election;
5. Are of the faith of the minority that established the separate school division; i.e., if the separate school division was established for people of the Roman Catholic faith, then you must be of the Roman Catholic faith. However, if the Pope in Rome is recognized as the leader of your church, for example, Ukrainian Catholic, you are considered a member of the minority Catholic faith thereby becoming an “elector” for the Roman Catholic separate school board.
6. If the school division was established for people of the Protestant faith, then you must be of the Protestant faith if you wish to register to vote for the Protestant separate school board. *Local Government Election Act - 23*





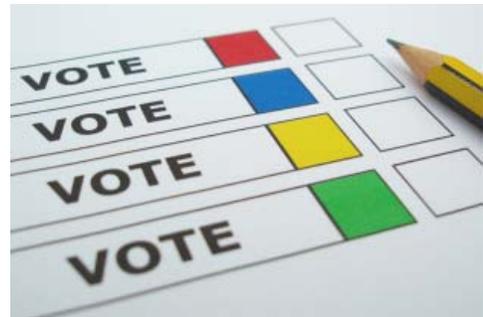
- (iii) you have a child who has received or is receiving primary or secondary school instruction in Canada in French, other than through a French immersion program
- 2. You are a resident of Saskatchewan and have been a resident of Saskatchewan for at least six consecutive months before the election, and
- 3. One of the following applies to you:
 - (i) You have a child enrolled in a francophone school in a francophone education area conducting an election
 - (ii) You have a child who is receiving a home based education program that is registered with the Conseil scolaire, or
 - (iii) You or your child is receiving a minority language instruction program which is registered pursuant to Section 181 of *The Education Act* and who is assigned to a francophone education area for voting purposes.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR VOTERS

Q-1 I am not a member of the minority faith that established the separate school division, but I send my children to the separate school. Can I vote for the separate school board?

No. You are not qualified to vote for the separate school board if you are not of the faith that established that separate school board. Where your children attend school does not affect your eligibility to vote.

Local Government Election Act - 23(2)



Q-2 I am not a member of the minority faith that established the separate school division, but I would like to direct the school portion of my property taxes to the separate school board. Is this possible? Can I then vote for the separate school board?

No. You are not qualified to vote for the separate school board if you are not of the faith that established that separate school board. *Local Government Election Act - 23(2)*

In the case of a Roman Catholic separate school division, your taxes can only be designated to that separate school division if you are of the Roman Catholic faith or if the recognized leader of your church is the Pope in Rome. In the case of a Protestant separate school division, your taxes can only be designated to that separate school division if you are of the Protestant faith. *Education Regulation Form M.1 and M.2*

Q-3 There is a Roman Catholic school division and a public school division where I reside. I am a member of the Roman Catholic faith. Can I register to vote for the public school board?

Yes. However, you can only register to vote for one school board.

Local Government Election Act - 23(3)



Q-4 I am a member of the Roman Catholic faith and my children attend the Roman Catholic separate school. My spouse is not a member of the Roman Catholic faith. Can my spouse vote for the separate school board?

No. A person is eligible to vote for the Roman Catholic separate school board only if the person is of the Roman Catholic faith or if the Pope in Rome is recognized as the leader of the church of which a person is a member. *Local Government Election Act - 23(2)*

Q-5 I do not live within the boundaries of the school division but I do own property there. Can I vote in the school board election?

No. Only current residents who meet the eligibility criteria (see page 1) can vote in the school board elections. *Local Government Election Act -23(1)(c)(ii)*

Q-6 Can an elector vote for the conseil scolaire fransaskois (Conseil des écoles fransaskoises) as well as the public or separate school board?

Yes. A minority language adult who qualifies as a “voter” and who votes for the conseil scolaire can also qualify as an “elector” and vote for the public or separate board of education. To register as a “voter” for the conseil scolaire elections the individual must be a minority language adult, reside in Saskatchewan, and have a child enrolled in a fransaskois school, home based school registered with the conseil or whose child is receiving minority language instruction and who is assigned to a francophone education area. *The Education Act, 1995 - 2(Voter)*

Q-7 I am a member of the Ukrainian Catholic faith. Can I vote in the Roman Catholic separate school board election?

Yes. As a Ukrainian Catholic you recognize the Pope in Rome as the leader of your church and as such are considered to be a member of the minority Catholic faith thereby becoming an “elector” for the Roman Catholic separate school board.

Q-8 There is a Roman Catholic school division and a public school division where I reside. I am a member of the Ukrainian Catholic faith. Can I vote in the public school board elections?

Yes. However, you can only register to vote for one school board.
Local Government Election Act - 23(2)

Running for Election to a Public or Separate School Board

School Board elections will be held October 28, 2009 for all boards of education. This “Resource Package” is intended to help answer questions you may have about running for your board of education.

Required Qualifications

The first matter to consider is whether a candidate is qualified to run for a board of education.

The **required qualifications** for a candidate are as follows:

- ✔ The candidate must be a Canadian citizen on the day they are nominated, and maintain their Canadian citizenship thereafter;
- ✔ The candidate must be at least 18 years of age;
- ✔ The candidate must have lived on land in the school division for at least three months; and,
- ✔ The candidate must have lived in Saskatchewan for at least six months.

Local Government Election Act - 26

“Checklist” for Candidates

If you decide to run, on or before September 30 you must:

- ✔ Ensure you meet the required qualifications (listed on this page).
Local Government Election Act - 26
- ✔ Get a nomination form from your returning officer .
- ✔ Complete the nomination form, including signatures obtained from at least ten electors in the subdivision or at large area.
Local Government Election Act - 46
- ✔ Submit the nomination form to the returning officer before 4 p.m. on September 30.
Local Government Election Act - 50

Running for Election to the Conseil scolaire fransaskois

Required Qualifications



1. The candidate is a minority language adult, which requires that:
 - a) They are a Canadian citizen;
 - b) They are at least 18 years of age on the day of the election, and;
 - c) One of the following applies:
 - (i) The candidate’s first language learned and still understood is French;

- (ii) The candidate received their primary school instruction in Canada in French, other than French immersion, or,
 - (iii) The candidate has a child who has received or is receiving primary or secondary school instruction in Canada in French, other than through a French immersion program
2. The candidate is a resident of Saskatchewan and have been a resident of Saskatchewan for at least six consecutive months before the election, and
3. One of the following applies:
- (i) The candidate has a child enrolled in a francophone school in a francophone education area conducting an election
 - (ii) The candidate has a child who is receiving a home based education program that is registered with the Conseil scolaire, or
 - (iii) The candidate or their child is receiving a minority language instruction program which is registered pursuant to Section 181 of *The Education Act* and who is assigned to a francophone education area for voting purposes.

- OR -

1. The candidate is a minority language adult, which requires that they:
- a) be a Canadian citizen;
 - b) be at least 18 years of age on the day of the election, and;
 - c) one of the following applies:
 - (i) their first language learned and still understood is French;
 - (ii) they received your primary school instruction in Canada in French, other than French immersion, or,
 - (iii) The candidate have a child who has received or is receiving primary or secondary school instruction in Canada in French, other than through a French immersion program.

- and -

2. The candidate is a resident in the particular francophone education area

“Checklist” for Candidates Running for Election to the Conseil scolaire francosaskois

If you decide to run, on or before September 30 you must:

- ✔ Ensure you meet the required qualifications (listed on this page).
- ✔ Get a nomination form from your returning officer .
- ✔ Complete the nomination form, including signatures obtained from at least five voters in the francophone area.
- ✔ Submit the nomination form to the returning officer before 4 p.m. on September 30.





Frequently Asked Questions for Candidates

Q-1 What is a Board of Education?

The province of Saskatchewan is divided into 29 geographical areas called school divisions; school divisions contain Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools. A board of education has the legislative authority to govern the education services provided to children resident within the school division. Boards must consider various issues in making a decision, but in the end decisions are based on the best interests of all children in the school division.

Boards of education have an obligation to provide educational services and operate schools. Boards involve their communities by informing, listening, and considering the communities' values when making decisions.

The Education Act, 1995 - 85 and 87

Q-2 What is a "Trustee"?

An individual member of a board of education is sometimes referred to as a "trustee." A trustee, acting individually, has no authority to make decisions. A trustee works as part of a team, the board of education. Only the board in public session has the power to make decisions that affect schools.

School Community Councils are a new form of local engagement, involving parents and the community in school improvement. The Councils are legislated by the Government to be in place for every school in Saskatchewan. For more information or to run for your school council, contact your school division office. *The*

Education Act, 1995 - 140.1



Q-3 How do I know if I'm eligible to run for a board of education?

The **required qualifications** for candidates for the public and separate board of education and the conseil scolaire fransaskois can be found on page 5 of this document.

Q-4 Can I live in one school division and run in another?

No, the candidate must live in the same school division in which he or she will stand for election. *Local Government Election Act - 27*

Q-5 Can I live in one sub-division and run in another?

Yes. However, while a candidate does not have to live in the sub-division in which they are running, all of their nominators must be from that sub-division.

Local Government Election Act - 26 , 27 and 46

Q-6 Can I be a candidate if I work for a school division or the Conseil des écoles fransaskoises?

Yes, but you must be placed on a leave of absence immediately upon your nomination. If elected, you will be deemed to have resigned from your employment on the day of your election. *Local Government Election Act - 26.1(3)*



Q-7 Can I be a candidate if I work for another school division?

Yes. There is no conflict of interest if your employer is a different Board of Education.

Q-8 Can I run for public school trustee if I am Roman Catholic?

It depends. You can run as a candidate for the public school board if you meet all of the qualifications (see page 3). However, if you reside in an area where there is also a Roman Catholic Separate School Division and you are going to vote in the election for the separate school board, you will then be an “elector” in the separate school division and can no longer qualify to run in the public school election. You can qualify as an elector in only one school division. *Local Government Election Act - 23 and 26*

Q-9 Can a non-Roman Catholic run for the Roman Catholic school board?

No. Only “electors” in the Roman Catholic Separate School Division can be candidates for election of the Roman Catholic Separate School Board. To qualify as an elector in that separate school division, the individual must declare that he or she is a member of the minority religious faith that established the Separate School Division.

Local Government Election Act - 23

Q-10 I am a Roman Catholic rate payer in my area. Can I run as a candidate in the public school board election?

Yes. The issue of which school division you pay your taxes to is not related to your eligibility to vote or run as a candidate. To qualify to run for the public school board, you must meet certain criteria (see page 3). *Local Government Election Act - 26 and 27*

Q-11 My children attend school in a different school division than the one in which I want to run. Can I run for election in a different school division?

Yes. The school(s) your children attend is not related to your eligibility to run as a candidate. To qualify to run for the school board, you must meet certain criteria (see page 3). *Local Government Election Act - 26,27*

Q-12 Can I run for the board of education and for another office (for example, city council or the provincial Legislature)?

Yes, but you cannot be nominated for more than one sub-division within a school division. *Local Government Election Act - 48(1)*





Q-13 Can a candidate who is running for the board arrange a public forum of candidates? Or should it be set up by another person who is not a candidate?

Yes, candidates can arrange public forums but it is preferable that a public forum be established by an independent third party or body. Candidates are not required to attend public forums.

Q-14 How do I get nominated to run for the board?

Interested candidates must complete a nomination form. These forms can be obtained from the returning officer for your school division. Candidates have until September 30, 2009 at 4 p.m. to submit the form to the returning officer. If no candidates come forward, the returning officer will hold a call for further nominations.

You are required to include on your nomination form the signatures obtained from at least ten electors in the sub-division or at large area in which you plan to run. When you pick up your nomination form, discuss with the returning officer exactly what is needed for your nomination. *Local Government Election Act - 46*

Q-15 If I am successful, what will be the responsibilities of the board?

The key work of boards of education includes planning and developing policy to achieve positive results for students of the school division.

The Education Act, 1995, prescribes the authority of boards of education.
The Education Act, 1995 - 85 and 87

Q-16 What will be my term of office?

Boards of education serve a three-year term, so successful candidates elected on October 28, 2009, will serve until October of 2012. *The Local Government Election Act - 5*

Q-17 How much time will I have to devote to being a trustee?

People often suggest that being a school board member involves “one meeting per month.” Don’t believe it! Trustees spend an average of six to ten hours per week on school board-related business.

In addition to regular board meetings, trustees participate in committee meetings, planning meetings and Saskatchewan School Board Association events.

If a candidate is successful in the October election, there will be organizational meetings held by the new boards. The Saskatchewan School Boards Association annual Convention is November 30-December 2, 2009 in Saskatoon.

Q-18 Is there compensation for being a board member?

Yes. Rates are set by each individual board. *The Education Act, 1995 - 81, 82 and 84*

In order to continue Saskatchewan's tradition of education excellence, boards of education need the ideas, energy and commitment of women and men who want to do their best for children and their communities.

... SO CONSIDER RUNNING FOR YOUR SCHOOL BOARD

Congratulations!

Congratulations on your decision to consider running for election! Working as part of a board of education means you care about children, schools and communities. If you want to be part of leading the learning community and building a better community at large, you're taking the right first step.



A Successful School Board Member is . . .

Committed...

Successful school board members, or trustees, put the needs of children first all of the time. Trustees run for office because they are committed to making things better for Saskatchewan's children.

Saskatchewan has one of the most admired school systems in Canada and the world. School boards members, teachers, administrators and Ministry of Education personnel – the “stakeholders in education” – have worked collaboratively and cooperatively to ensure our children receive the best education possible. Education is important to our future and together we must address many challenges.

Not Necessarily an “Education Expert”...

In order to serve education expertly, one need not be an “education expert”. The ideal school board includes members who are representative of all cultures and walks of life in the community. The role of the trustee is not to serve as a professional educator, or to act as the spokesperson for a particular interest group. Instead, the trustee must, to the best

of his or her ability, represent the wishes of all parents, students and others in their communities. Diverse backgrounds, experiences and voices can lead to better decisions.

Willing to Work Cooperatively ...

It is important to realize that a school trustee, acting individually, has no authority to make decisions. A trustee works as part of a team; only the school board in public session has the power to make decisions that affect schools.

An interest in your particular school may have prompted you to seek office. However, as a school trustee you are responsible for all of the schools in the division and school board decisions must be made accordingly. There is no room for “turf wars” in effective school boards. Many groups share an interest in education, however, only school boards have the legal authority and mandate to govern the school system. No other group in society has this responsibility.





An Effective Communicator...

The primary role of the school board member is to ensure the wishes of communities are reflected in the management and operation of schools. Trustees must be willing to listen to their communities about what they need and want from their schools. Trustees must also make the effort to ensure their communities are kept up to date on the plans and decisions of the board.

Ready To Make The Time...

Someone may have suggested that being a school board member involves “one meeting per month.” Don’t believe it! Trustees spend an average of six to ten hours per week on school board-related business. This includes board meetings but could also involve serving as a liaison to communities, representing the board at events, serving as the designated spokesperson, serving on committees, taking part in trustee professional development

activities, attending Saskatchewan School Boards Association events, etc. The financial compensation for this effort is minimal, but the rewards of serving children and community are great.

Supported by Your Provincial Association

By virtue of the fact that their board is a member of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, successful candidates also gain access to the services and supports provided by the provincial organization.

The Association website has a wealth of information related to education and our services (<http://www.sakschoolboards.ca>).



The School Board

In Saskatchewan there are different kinds of school divisions: large geographic divisions that combine an urban centre and expansive rural areas; large urban public divisions; the Conseil des écoles fransaskoises; northern school divisions; Roman Catholic separate school divisions; and, a Protestant separate school division. Every division however, is governed by a locally elected board of education.

Trustees, as members of boards of education, have many important responsibilities. Some of these include:

Establishing the vision, priorities and overall educational plans for the school division.

- ✔ Approving the educational program for the school division including special programming needs such as practical and applied arts, music and second language instruction.
- ✔ Overseeing and holding the division accountable for results.
- ✔ Determining financial priorities, adopting the annual budget, and ensuring accountability for school division expenditures.

Establishing the strategic policies of the school division.

- ✔ Maintaining school facilities as healthy and safe places to learn.
- ✔ Working with the school division administration and in consultation with parents, students, teachers and support staff.
- ✔ Supporting positive environments for students and staff.
- ✔ Communicating effectively by informing and listening to their communities.
- ✔ Advocating for education, ensuring that the educational needs of children are always considered first.



Designation of Taxes

The Education Act, 1995 - 53, 296 to 296.1 and 297

Q-1 My children attend school in the separate school division, but I am not a member of the minority religious faith that established the separate school division. May I designate the separate school division for education assessment purposes?

No. Only members of the minority religious faith that established the separate school division can designate that separate school division for education assessment purposes.

Q-2 I am a member of the minority religious faith that established the separate school division in my area. However, my children attend a school established by the public school division. May I designate the public school division for education assessment purposes?

No. If you are a member of the minority religious faith that established the separate school division, you must designate the separate school division for education assessment purposes.

Q-3 I am not a member of the minority religious faith that established the separate school division in my area. Do I have any options in respect of designation of education assessment purposes?

No. If you are not a member of the minority religious faith that established the separate school division in your area, you must designate to the public school division.

Q-4 I am a member of the minority religious faith that established the separate school division in my area. My spouse is not a member of the minority faith that established the separate school division. How do we provide for the school taxes which are payable on our property?

The Education Act, 1995 requires that “Property within a separate school division is to be assessed to the owner, and where property is held by two or more persons as joint tenants or tenants in common, each holder is to be assessed in proportion to his or her interest in the property in the separate or public school division of which he or she is a taxpayer for school purposes.”

For example, if you are a Roman Catholic and own 50% of the assessed value of your property and your spouse owns 50%, you must designate 50% of the total school taxes

**For information on corporate tax designation please contact the
Ministry of Education Finance and Facilities Branch at 306-787-4959.**

**Important Dates
School Board Elections
October 28, 2009**

Call for Nominations
September 18

Nomination Date
September 30

Withdrawal Date
October 1 by 4:00 p.m.
Posting of notices: Notice of polls
Notice of advance poll
Notice of abandonment of polls
(if candidates are acclaimed)

Second Call for Nominations (if needed)
October 1

**Nomination Date for Second Call
October 14 (if needed)**

October 16 : Posting of Notice (if needed)
October 16: Notice of polls,
Notice of advance polls and
Notice of abandonment of polls
(if candidates are acclaimed)

First Advance Poll
October 15 - (first possible date; determined by returning officer)

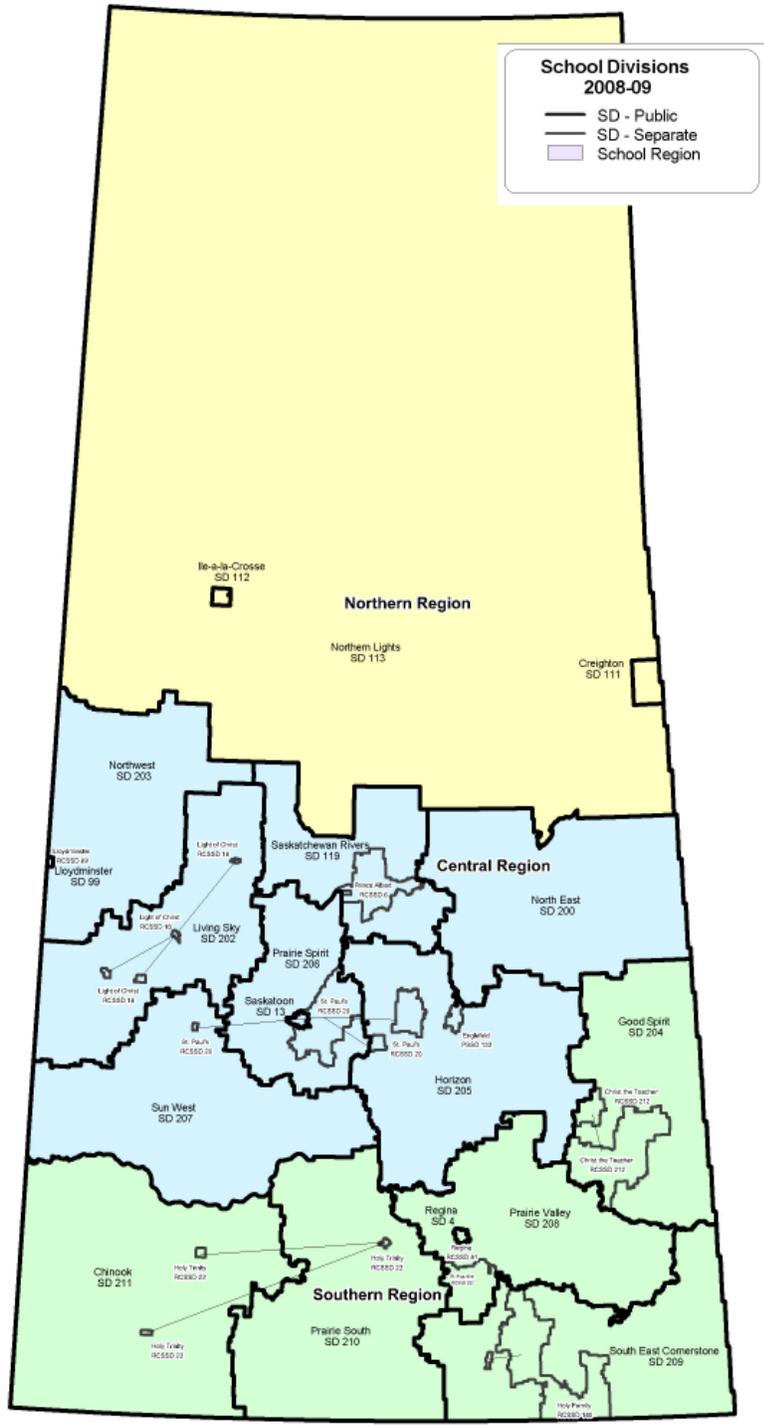
Closing of Advance Poll
October 24 - (last possible date)

Election Date
October 28





MAP



Map provided by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education



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