

School board awareness campaign

Member Request

Job Opportunity

News from around the state and nation

## #Aboutschoolboards

The election is over... and it's on to the next one! Yes, we are headed into an odd numbered year and that means elections for school board, perhaps the elections that can affect our day to day work in schools the most. Unfortunately, off year elections tend to have the lowest turn-out, sometimes even less than ten percent of voters.

Many community members really don't understand how our school boards are elected or what they do. Perhaps we can use the next few months before the school board candidates begin their campaigns to increase understanding about school boards. We've created a school board awareness social media campaign. The text below can be tweeted or posted to Facebook, or used as "did you know" in newsletters. We have included the hashtag "aboutschooboards." By using the hashtag, twitter followers can easily search for all the tweets after the campaign has finished.

Here's all you ever wanted to know about school boards:

(Text for the school board awareness social media campaign)

Have you always wanted to know more about school boards? Today we are launching a school board awareness campaign! #aboutschooboards

A school board is a legislative body. School directors are elected locally. They serve four year terms without pay. #aboutschooboards

School boards have 9 members. Although elected locally they are state officials. By law they administer a school system. #aboutschooboards

To be elected or appointed to a school board, you must be a PA citizen, 18 years old, of good moral character, and... #aboutschooboards

... (2of2) you must be a resident of the school district for at least one year prior to election or appointment. #aboutschooboards

Other laws prohibit you from being a school director; You're ineligible if you've been convicted of an "infamous crime." #aboutschooboards

School code prohibits school directors from being employed by or doing business with the district where they serve. #aboutschooboards

Some federal, state & local government employees whose jobs involve federal funding may be ineligible for school board. #aboutschoolorboards

School board directors are elected to 4 yr terms or are appointed by the board to fill a vacated seat between elections. #aboutschoolorboards

An appointed board member will serve two years at most before they must be elected.  
#aboutschoolorboards

Five school directors are up for election in one election cycle and four directors are up in the next election cycle. #aboutschoolorboards

The 5-4 rotation over 2 election cycles prevents a school board from having 9 new members, which would be disruptive. #aboutschoolorboards

Board members may be elected at large, by region or by a combination of at large and by region.  
#aboutschoolorboards

When school boards elect by region, school directors must live in the region to be elected to the seat.  
#aboutschoolorboards

When school boards elect at large, school directors may live anywhere in the school district.  
#aboutschoolorboards

In (insert your district's name here), school directors are elected (choose appropriate answer for your district) by region, at large, at large and by region. #aboutschoolorboards

School board candidates circulate a petition & receive signatures from at least 10 registered voters to get on the ballot. #aboutschoolorboards

School board candidates file a statement of financial interest, like a tax return, with their school district.  
#aboutschoolorboards

School board candidates also file expense reports if they spend more than \$250 on their campaign.  
#aboutschoolorboards

School board primary elections are held the third Tuesday in May. For the 2015 cycle the date is May 19<sup>th</sup>. #aboutschoolorboards

School board general elections are held in November of odd-numbered years. For the 2015 cycle it is Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. #aboutschoolorboards

The board of elections publishes a calendar with all the needed dates for school board elections.  
#aboutschoolorboards

So, what do school boards do? Here are some of the required duties: Adopt textbooks, levy taxes, adopt a budget... #aboutschoolorboards

More board duties: Adopt courses of study, adopt the school year calendar, hire the superintendent & other employees...#aboutschoolorboards

Board duties part 3: Draft and pass collective bargaining agreements, adopt and enforce policy for school activities... #aboutschoolorboards

Board duties part 4: provide grounds and buildings, and provide education for children with special needs. #aboutschoolorboards

That was a very brief overview of what a school board handles. See for yourself by attending a board meeting! #aboutschoolorboards

General board meetings and board committee meetings are always open to the public, except during executive sessions. #aboutschoolorboards

Hope you learned a lot about your school board during this awareness campaign! Search the #aboutschoolorboards hashtag for a recap anytime.

#### Member Request

Member Judi Boren is looking for photo and/or video release forms. If anyone has one to share you can reach Judi at [judithboren248@hotmail.com](mailto:judithboren248@hotmail.com)

#### Job Opportunity

Hempfield School District is looking for a Communication Assistant. Details can be found at this link:

<https://www.applitrack.com/hempfieldsd/OnlineApp/JobPostings/View.asp?AppliTrackJobId=586>

#### News from around the state and nation

Education funding does matter to PA voters

<http://thedailyreview.com/news/analysis-education-a-deciding-factor-in-the-pa-governor-s-race-1.1783263>

Election results summary

<http://www.politicspa.com/politicspa-election-recap/61664/>

Common themes are starting to emerge for the Basic Education Funding Commission

<http://www.plsreporter.com/Home/TabId/56/ArtMID/472/ArticleID/387/Focus-narrowing-for-Basic-Education-Funding-Commission.aspx>

America's overall high school graduation rate continues to climb higher, as opposed to what you may hear in the news

<http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2014/11/high-school-graduation-rates-at-an-all-time-high/382494/>

Critics question timing of release of SPP scores

[http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/homepage-feature/item/74889-days-after-election-pa-releases-standardized-test-scores?linktype=hp\\_impact](http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/homepage-feature/item/74889-days-after-election-pa-releases-standardized-test-scores?linktype=hp_impact)

A case about the responsibility of parents when their children abuse social media

[http://www.realcleareducation.com/articles/2014/11/05/ed\\_law\\_briefly\\_georgia\\_appeals\\_court\\_social\\_networking\\_activities\\_1129.html](http://www.realcleareducation.com/articles/2014/11/05/ed_law_briefly_georgia_appeals_court_social_networking_activities_1129.html)

Testing frustration is spreading around the country and making national news

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/10/us/states-listen-as-parents-give-rampant-testing-an-f.html?hpw&rref=education&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&module=well-region&region=bottom-well&WT.nav=bottom-well&\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/10/us/states-listen-as-parents-give-rampant-testing-an-f.html?hpw&rref=education&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&module=well-region&region=bottom-well&WT.nav=bottom-well&_r=1)