

# 2025 CITY OF BUFFALO SCHOOL BOARD CALENDAR PETITION & CAMPAIGN FINANCE INFORMATION

## **ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BUFFALO BOARD OF EDUCATION**

April 15 <sup>th</sup>	.....	First day for signing nominating petitions <i>[Election Law §6-138(4)]</i>
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	.....	First day for filing nominating petitions <i>[Education Law §2553(10)(d)(2)]</i>
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Last day for filing nominating petitions <i>[Education Law §2553(10)(d)(2)]</i>
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Last day for filing acceptance or declination <i>[Education Law §2553(10)(d)(2)]</i>
October 25 <sup>th</sup> to November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	.....	Early Voting
November 4 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Election Day - Polls open 6am to 9 pm <i>[Education Law §2553(10)(p)]</i>

General Objections - within three (3) days of filing petition *[Election Law §6-154(2)]*  
Specific Objections - within six (6) days of filing general objections *[Election Law §6-154(2)]*

### **FINANCIAL FILING DATES** *[Education Law §1529(1)(a-c)]* October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 October 30<sup>st</sup>, 2025 November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Note: A statement of campaign receipts and expenditures is deemed properly filed when it is deposited and postmarked in any established post office within the time indicated above.

### **SUBDISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS** 3 year term in place of Central Subdistrict: Paulette Woods East Subdistrict: Dr. Kathy Evans-Brown Ferry Subdistrict: Sharon Belton-Cottman North Subdistrict: Cindi M. McEachon Park Subdistrict: Theresa Schuta West Subdistrict: Jennifer Mecozzi

### **NOMINATING PETITIONS** Number of Valid Signatures Required: 200 Signatures *[Education Law §2553(10)(d)(1)]* Form: In substantially the form specified in Education Law §2553(10)(g) Sample Form Included in Packet

### **VOTER REGISTRATION** *[Election Law §5-210(3); NYS Const Art 2 §5]* Registration deadline to vote in this election is October 25<sup>th</sup> Mailed registrations must be postmarked no later than October 20<sup>st</sup> and received by the Board of Elections by October 25<sup>th</sup>

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE INFORMATION

New York State Education Law §1529 (1)(a)(b)(c) requires all candidates for election to a Board of Education should file sworn statements of campaign expenses. The following questions and answers are intended to be of assistance to school districts in the implementation of the law:

**Q: Is filing required of all candidates?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Must a candidate who is appointed to a vacant board seat file?**

A: No, filing is necessary only when an election is involved.

**Q: With whom must the candidate file?**

A: The Clerk of the School District and the Commissioner of Education.

**Q: Is there a specific format for filing?**

A: No, the format is left to the discretion of the candidate.

**Q: What information must be included in the filing?**

A: The filing must set forth all monies or other valuable things which he or she has paid, received, given, expended or promised or which have been incurred for or on their behalf with candidate approval by any person, firm, association or corporation for the purpose of aiding in their nomination or election or to defeat any other candidate in the election.

**Q: Must a candidate file if such candidate incurs little or no personal expenditures and/or if expenditure incurred by others with candidate approval are minimal?**

A: Every candidate must file. An itemization is necessary if expenditures exceed \$500. When the candidate's only expenditures were for personal expenses which, when taken together with the total expenditures incurred by others on their behalf and with candidate approval are under \$500, a sworn statement must be filed indicating that their election expenditures did not exceed \$500. Refer to §1528 of the New York State Education Law for determining expenditures.

**Q: Must a candidate file if the aggregate amount of all contributions made to such candidate does not exceed \$500?**

A: Every candidate must file. A sworn statement to the effect that his or her election contributions received did not exceed \$500 must be filed. Refer to §1528 of the New York State Education Law for determining contributions

**Q: What are personal expenses for the purpose of this law?**

A: Expenses directly and personally incurred and paid by the candidate including traveling expense, and expenses incidental thereto, expenses for writing, printing and preparing for transmission letters, circulars, or other publications not issued at regular intervals, setting forth their position or views on public or other questions, and expenses for stationery, postage, telephone, telegraph and other public message services.

**Q: What filing is required if expenditures are made by a person or persons on behalf of a candidate without their approval?**

A: The person or persons making such expenditures without the candidate's approval must file a sworn statement with the clerk and Commissioner stating that the candidate did not approve such expenditure. Such expenditures are limited to \$25 and shall not be included in determining the total expenditures of \$500 mentioned above.

**Q: When must statements be filed?**

A: A first statement shall be filed on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> day next preceding the election. A second statement shall be filed on or before the 5<sup>th</sup> day next preceding the election. A third statement shall be filed within 20 days next succeeding the election.

**Q: How long must statements be kept in the school districts files?**

A: Three years from the date of filing. These statements constitute public records and must be open to public inspection.

**Q: Do school districts have any enforcement responsibilities with regard to this law?**

A: No, we urge, however, that district officials inform candidates, in advance of each election, of their responsibilities under the law, and that they notify candidates whose statements have not been received when due.

**Q: Where should statements be mailed in order to meet the requirements for filing with the Commissioner of Education and the Clerk of the School District?**

Commissioner of Education	District Clerk
Room 876 EBA	801 City Hall
Albany, New York 12234	Buffalo, New York 14202

**Q: To whom may questions regarding be directed at the State Education Department?**

Gregg Diefenbach  
Office of Educational Management Services  
89 Washington Avenue  
Education Building Annex  
Room 876  
Albany, New York 12234  
Phone: (518) 474-6541

**Q: What action may be taken against a candidate who fails to file a statement or if a statement is incorrectly filed?**

A: The Supreme Court or a Justice thereof, in a proceeding instituted by any candidate voted for at the election or by any five qualified voters, may compel a candidate by order to file a statement or to file a new or supplemental statement which was incorrectly filed originally.

**The above information is intended to be a guideline and is not inclusive of all information pertaining to the responsibilities of the candidate.**

**For further information refer to the New York State Education and Election Laws and contacts at the New York State Department of Education and the City of Buffalo Board of Education.**

***New York Education Law § 1528. Expenditure and Contribution Statement.***  
**Current through 2024 NY Law Chapter 679**

1. (a) Any candidate for election to the board of education, except a candidate for member of the community district education council of a New York city community school district, shall file sworn statements with the clerk of the school district in which he or she is a candidate and the commissioner setting forth all moneys or other valuable things, paid, given, expended or promised by him or her, or incurred for or on his or her behalf with his or her approval to be filed with the aforesaid clerk and commissioner by any person, firm, association or corporation, to aid his or her own nomination or election, or to aid or influence the nomination or defeat of any candidate to be voted for at the election. Any candidate for election, if he or she expended nothing or his or her only expenditures were for personal expenses which when taken together with the total expenditures incurred by others on his or her behalf and with his or her approval do not exceed five hundred dollars, and if the aggregate amount of all contributions made to such candidate do not exceed five hundred dollars, shall not be required to file any statements with the commissioner; however such candidate shall file with the clerk of the school district a sworn statement to the effect that his or her election expenditures did not exceed five hundred dollars and contributions received did not exceed five hundred dollars.

(b) Any required contribution statements shall include the dollar amount of any receipt, contribution or transfer, or the fair market value of any receipt, contribution or transfer, which is other than of money, the name and address of the transferor, contributor or person from whom received, and if the transferor, contributor or person is a political committee as defined in subdivision one of section 14-100 of the election law; the name of and the political unit represented by the committee, the date of its receipt, the dollar amount of every expenditure, the name and address of the person to whom it was made or the name of and the political unit represented by the committee to which it was made and the date thereof.

(c) No person or persons shall make expenditures on behalf of a candidate without his or her approval unless such person or persons files a sworn statement with the clerk and commissioner stating that the candidate did not approve such expenditure. Such expenditure shall be limited to twenty-five dollars and shall not be included in determining the five hundred dollars as set forth in paragraph (a) of this subdivision.

2. For the purposes of this section, personal expenses shall include only payments for traveling expenses and expenses incidental thereto, for writing, printing and preparing for transmission any letter, circular, or other publication not issued at regular intervals, containing a statement of the position or views of the candidate or person upon public or other questions, for stationery and postage and for telegraph, telephone and other public messenger service; but all such expenses shall be limited to those which are directly and personally incurred and paid by the candidate.

***New York Education Law § 2553. Board of education; eligibility; how chosen; term of office; vacancies.***  
**Current through 2025 NY Law Chapter 6**

1. No person shall be eligible to the office of member of a board of education who is not a citizen of the United States, who is not qualified to register for or vote at an election in accordance with the provisions of section 5-106 of the election law, and who, in the case of the city school district of the city of Yonkers, has not been a resident of the city school district for which he is chosen for a period of at least three years immediately preceding the date of his election or appointment and who, in the case of the city school district of the city of Buffalo, in the case of a member to be elected at large is not a qualified voter of such city school district and who has not been a resident of such district for a period of at least three years immediately preceding the date of his election and in the case of a member elected from a city school subdistrict is not a qualified voter of such city school subdistrict and has not been a resident of the city school district for three years and a resident of the city school subdistrict which he represents or seeks to represent for a period of one year immediately preceding the date of his election, and who, in the case of the city school district of the city of Rochester, is not a qualified voter under section 5-102 of the election law of such city school district; and who in the case of the city school district of the city of Syracuse has not been a qualified voter under section 5-102 of the election law of such city school district for at least ninety days immediately preceding the date of his election or appointment.

1-a. [effective July 1, 2025] The provisions of subdivision one of this section shall not apply to ex officio board members, as described in subdivision eleven of this section.

2. In the city school districts of the cities of Rochester and Syracuse the members of such board of education shall be chosen by the voters at large at either a general or municipal election, or at both. In the city school district of the city of Buffalo the members of such board of education shall be chosen pursuant to the provisions of subdivision ten of this section.

3. {section applicable only to city school district of the city of Yonkers}

4. {section applicable only to city school districts of cities of Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers}

5. The terms of one-fifth of all the members of a board of education, or of a fraction as close to one-fifth thereof as possible, shall expire annually on the first Tuesday in May, except in the city school districts of the cities of Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse.

6. If a vacancy occurs other than by expiration of term in the office of a member of a board of education in a district in which such members are elected at a general or municipal election, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the mayor until the next general or municipal election is held, and such vacancy shall then be filled at such election for the unexpired portion of such term, except that in the city school district of the city of Rochester any such vacancy shall be filled pursuant to the provisions of subdivision nine of this section and except further that any such vacancy on the board of education of the city school district of the city of Buffalo shall be filled pursuant to the provisions of subdivision ten of this section.

7. If such vacancy occurs in such office in a district in which the members of the board of education are appointed by the mayor, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the mayor of such city for the unexpired portion of such term, but in Buffalo such appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the council.

8. A member of a board of education who publicly declares that he will not accept or serve in the office of member of such board of education, or refuses or neglects to attend three successive meetings of such board, of which he is duly notified, without rendering a good and valid excuse therefor to the other members of such board of education, vacates his office by refusal to serve.

9. {section applicable only to members of the board of education of the city school district of the city of Rochester}

10. a. The members of the board of education of the city school district of the city of Buffalo shall be elected by the qualified voters of such city as provided herein.

b. The common council of the city of Buffalo shall within three months of the operative date of this paragraph of this section of this act define and publish by local law boundaries of each of six city school subdistricts which said subdistricts shall be contiguous and each of which shall contain as nearly as possible the same number of inhabitants. The boundaries of the said

city school subdistricts may thereafter be redefined by the board of education of the city school district of the city of Buffalo by resolution, after a public hearing thereon, at intervals of not less than five years and such resolution must be passed at least eight months prior to the next election for school board member or members.

c. The members of the board of education of the city school district of the city of Buffalo shall be elected as follows: one member from each of such six city school subdistricts within such city by the qualified voters therein and three members of such board of education shall be chosen by the qualified voters at large within such city.

d. (1) Such election for such office shall be governed by the provisions of the election law in the same manner as candidates for office generally to be elected by the voters of the city of Buffalo. Notwithstanding section 6-142 of the election law, each such candidate for election as a member of the board of education from a city school subdistrict shall be required to file a petition containing signatures of at least two hundred registered voters of such city school subdistrict in which he is a candidate and each candidate for election to the board of education by the voters at large shall be required to file a petition containing the signatures of at least four hundred registered voters of the city of Buffalo.

(2) No petition shall contain any political party or independent body name or label. Each petition shall contain the name of only one candidate and such petition shall be filed with the board of elections of the county of Erie not earlier than twenty-four weeks before, and not later than twenty-three weeks preceding the date on which an election shall be held. A certificate of acceptance or declination of any individual so nominated shall be filed not later than the third day after the twenty-third Tuesday preceding the election.

e. No person shall hold at the same time the office of member of the board of education of the city of Buffalo and any other elective office nor shall he be a candidate for any other elective office at the same time he is a candidate for the office of member of such board of education.

f. Petitions for the nomination of members of such school board shall be on white paper containing the required signatures of qualified voters of the city of Buffalo. The sheets of such petition shall be numbered consecutively, beginning with number one, at the foot of each sheet. Such a petition must set forth in every instance the correct date of signing, the full name of the signer and his or her residence. A signer need only place his or her signature upon the petition, and need not himself or herself fill in the other required information.

g. Each sheet of such a petition shall be signed in ink and shall be substantially in the following form:

I, the undersigned, do hereby state that I am a duly qualified voter of the city of Buffalo, that my place of residence is truly stated opposite my signature hereto, and I do hereby nominate the following named person as a candidate for nomination (for the public office of member of the board of education of the city of Buffalo at large ..... day of ....., 20.....) (for the city school subdistrict ..... day of ....., 20.....)

I do hereby appoint (here insert the names and addresses of at least three persons, all of whom shall be registered voters within the city of Buffalo), as a committee to fill vacancies in accordance with the provisions of the election law.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand the day and year placed opposite my signature.

Date	Name of Signer	Present Residence
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....

The petition shall be authenticated by witnesses. Such statement shall be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit, and if false shall subject the witness to the same penalties as if he or she had been duly sworn. The form of such statement shall be substantially as follows:

**STATEMENT OF WITNESS**

I, ....., (name of witness), state: I am a duly qualified voter of the state of New York, and now reside in the city, town or village of ....., in such state, at ..... (fill in street and house number and post office) therein. I know each of the voters whose names are subscribed to this petition sheet containing (fill in number) signatures and each of them subscribed the same in my

presence and upon so subscribing declared to me that the foregoing statement, made and subscribed by him, was true.

.....  
Date

.....  
Signature of Witness

h. The board of elections shall refuse to accept such petitions signed by an insufficient number of qualified voters, or petitions which are not timely or petitions bearing a political party or independent body, name or emblem or which contain the name of more than one candidate.

i. Except as it may be modified by the provisions of paragraph (d) and paragraph (n) of this subdivision, the provisions of the election law with respect to acceptances by candidates nominated by independent nominating petitions shall apply to candidates nominated by petitions for members of such board of education.

j. Objections to petitions for the nomination of members of such board of education, procedures and remedies applicable to such objections shall be made pursuant to section 6-154 of the election law.

k. The board of elections shall cause to be printed official ballots containing the names of all candidates as above provided, except that the board may refuse to have the names of ineligible candidates placed on such ballots. The names of the candidates shall be arranged according to lot, and shall not bear the designation of any political party or independent body, name or emblem. Blank spaces shall be provided so that voters may vote for candidates who have not been nominated for the offices to be filled at such elections. The form of such ballots shall conform substantially to the form of ballots used at general elections as prescribed in the election law.

l. Voting for the election of members of such board of education shall be by voting machine and shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the election law with respect to voting machines.

m. If a candidate, after a petition in his behalf shall have been duly filed with the board of elections, and prior to the date of the election, shall decline to accept the nomination, die, remove from the school district, accept another office, or become otherwise disqualified for such city school district office, such vacancy shall be filled by the committee on vacancies pursuant to the election law.

n. The term of office of each member of such board from a city school subdistrict shall be three years, and the term of office of each such member of the board elected at large shall be for five years. Of the candidates to be elected for membership on the board of education of the city school district of the city of Buffalo by the voters at large the three candidates receiving the largest number of votes cast in the city, shall be declared elected as at-large members of such board of education. In each city school subdistrict the candidates seeking the election as the member of such board of education for such city school subdistrict receiving a plurality of votes in such city school subdistrict shall be declared elected to that position.

Whenever a vacancy shall occur or exist in the office of member of the board of education except by reason of expiration of term or increase in the number of members of such board, such vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board of education within thirty days of the date when such vacancy shall have occurred. If the remaining members of the board of education shall fail to fill such vacancy within such thirty day period, then the mayor of the city of Buffalo shall within thirty days thereafter fill such vacancy subject to the confirmation of such appointment by the common council of the city of Buffalo. No one shall be appointed to fill a vacancy of a subdistrict member of the board of education unless he fulfills all of the qualifications in this subdivision to enable him to be a candidate for the office of a member of the board of education from the subdistrict involved.

o. The members so elected to the board of education shall convene on the first business day in July of each year, at the time of the commencement of their term of office and select from their members a president who shall serve for a term of one year or such other term, not exceeding the term of his office, as may be fixed by the rules and regulations of the board.

p. The election of members of the board of education of the school district of the city of Buffalo shall take place on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each year in which an incumbent's term expires. Such election shall be conducted by the board of elections of the county of Erie in the same manner as other elections are conducted by it. The results of such elections, after canvassing, shall be certified and reported by the board of elections to the board of education of such city. The clerk or other appropriate officer of the board of education shall within twenty-four hours after receipt of such certification

by the board of elections serve a written notice either personally or by mail upon each person declared to be elected as a member of the board of education informing him of his election and the length of his term.

11. [effective July 1, 2025] Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, each board of education shall establish a process for designating at least one student as an ex officio board member. Ex officio student members shall be entitled to sit with board members at all public meetings and hearings of the board and may participate in other board activities and responsibilities at the discretion of the board. Such ex officio student members shall not be allowed to vote, shall not be allowed to attend executive session or any other meetings or hearings not open to the public.



## Nominating Petition

I, the undersigned, do hereby state that I am a duly qualified voter of the City of Buffalo, that my place of residence is truly stated opposite my signature hereto, and I do hereby nominate the following named person as a candidate for nomination for the public office of Member of the Board of Education of the City of Buffalo, for the city school subdistrict to be voted on at the election to be held on November 4, 2025.

NAME OF CANDIDATE	PUBLIC OFFICE	CANDIDATE'S RESIDENCE
	<b>Member</b> _____ <b>Subdistrict</b> <b>Board of Education</b> <b>City of Buffalo</b> <b>County of Erie, State of New York</b> <b>Three Year Term</b>	

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, the day and year placed opposite my signature.

**(optional)** I do hereby appoint the following persons as a committee to fill vacancies in accordance with the provisions of the election law:

Date 2025	Name of Signer	Present Residence	City
1			Buffalo
2			Buffalo
3			Buffalo
4			Buffalo
5			Buffalo
6			Buffalo
7			Buffalo
8			Buffalo
9			Buffalo
10			Buffalo
11			Buffalo
12			Buffalo
13			Buffalo
14			Buffalo
15			Buffalo
16			Buffalo
17			Buffalo
18			Buffalo
19			Buffalo
20			Buffalo

SAMPLE

### STATEMENT OF WITNESS

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of witness) state: I am a duly qualified voter of the State of New York, and now reside in the city, town or village of \_\_\_\_\_, in such state, at \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in street and house number and post office) therein.

I know each of the voters whose names are subscribed to this petition sheet containing \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in number) signatures and each of them subscribed the same in my presence and upon so subscribing declared to me that the foregoing statement, made and subscribed by him or her was true.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness

Sheet #: \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate Of Acceptance By Candidates  
(Sections 6-146, Election Law)

Name of Candidate/Designee/Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Office: Member of Board of Education

Political Subdivision and District (if any): City of Buffalo, New York  
Subdistrict:

Address of Candidate/Designee/Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Election Type: General

Date of Election: November 4, 2025

I, the above named Candidate/Nominee for the office identified, do ACCEPT and CONSENT to the aforesaid nomination as a candidate for the office of School Board Member at the election stated above.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

State of New York:

County of: Erie ss:

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, before me personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, to me known and known to me to be the individual described therein, and who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he/she executed the same.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public