

## CANDIDATES AND CAMPAIGNING

### Nominations

Candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education (the Board) shall be nominated by petition. All nominating petitions shall be filed with the Bethlehem Central School District (the District) clerk between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., not later than thirty days preceding the Annual Meeting and Election.

Each nominating petition shall be directed to the District clerk and shall contain the signatures and addresses of at least twenty-five qualified voters of the District or 2 (two) percent of the voters who voted in the previous election, whichever is greater. Each petition shall clearly state the name and residence of the candidate. No person shall be nominated by petition for more than one separate office. Forms for petitions are available in the clerk's office.

The District clerk will supervise the procedure used to establish the order of names on the ballot, which shall be determined by a drawing by lot to be held for each vacancy. Candidates and/or their proxy shall appear in the Educational Services Center of the Bethlehem Central School District located at 700 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY, at 8:00 a.m. the next business day after the last possible date for candidates to file a petition for the drawing by lot.

Any candidate wishing to appear by proxy must provide the person so designated with a written proxy, which must be filed with the District clerk no later than the time stated above. In the event that a candidate fails to appear in person or by properly designated proxy, the District clerk shall act as such proxy.

Any objections to the actual drawing by lot shall be made at that time to the District clerk so that defects, if any, may be corrected while all the candidates or their representatives are present. Failure to so object shall constitute a waiver of any defect. Candidates who fail to appear either personally or by proxy shall be deemed to waive their right to object to such proceedings. The Board may reject nominations if the candidate is ineligible or has declared an unwillingness to serve.

### Reporting

### Expenditures

If a candidate's campaign expenditures exceed \$500, the candidate must file a sworn statement with both the District clerk and the commissioner of education itemizing their expenditures and contributions received. The statement must list the amounts of all money or other valuable items paid, given, expended, or promised by the candidate, or incurred for or on the candidate's behalf with his or her approval.

A candidate who spends \$500 or less is only required to file a sworn statement with the District clerk indicating this to be the case. No other campaign expenditure statement is required.

An initial statement must be filed at least thirty days before the election, a second statement must be filed on or before the fifth (5th) day preceding the election and a final statement must be filed within twenty days after the election.

**Electioneering**

Electioneering during the hours of any vote is prohibited within the polling place or within 100 feet of any such polling place. Electioneering includes the display or distribution of any banner, poster, placard, button, or flyer on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate or issue to be voted upon.

Cross-ref: 1050, Annual District Meeting and Election  
6120, Budget Hearing

Ref: Education Law §2018; 2031-a

*Adoption date:* June 19, 2002

*Revised date:* November 16, 2016

*Re-approved date:* November 28, 2018