

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 HOUSE BILL 1275

By: Cockroft

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to elections; amending 26 O.S. 2011,
8 Section 13A-103, which relates to election dates;
9 changing election dates for members of the board of
10 education; amending 26 O.S. 2011, Section 13A-105,
11 which relates to the declarations of candidacy by
12 certain candidates; modifying dates of filing;
13 amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 5-107A, which relates
14 to membership of boards of education of school
15 districts; providing for the term of office of board
16 members elected after certain date; providing for
17 completion of the term of office for certain board
18 members; and providing an effective date.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

20 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 2011, Section 13A-103, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Section 13A-103. A. The election of members of the board of
23 education of every school district and technology center school
24 district shall be conducted on the ~~second~~ first Tuesday ~~in February~~
~~of each year, except in any year when a Presidential Preferential~~
~~Primary is held in February, then the election shall be held on the~~

1 ~~same day as the Presidential Preferential Primary~~ of April in odd-
2 numbered years.

3 If no candidate receives more than fifty percent (50%) of the
4 votes cast in the election provided for in this subsection, an
5 election between the two candidates with the highest number of votes
6 shall be conducted on the ~~first~~ second Tuesday in ~~April~~ June of that
7 year.

8 B. Elections on the question of making a levy or levies for
9 schools under Section 9, Section 9B or Section 10 of Article X of
10 the Oklahoma Constitution shall be held on the second Tuesday in
11 February of each year, except in any year when a Presidential
12 Preferential Primary is held in February, then the election shall be
13 held on the same day as the Presidential Preferential Primary.

14 C. The board of education of every school district or
15 technology center school district may call a special election for
16 the purpose of voting on any matter or question authorized by law.

17 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 2011, Section 13A-105, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Section 13A-105. Candidates for member of the board of
20 education of every school district or technology center school
21 district shall file declarations of candidacy in the same place and
22 with the same officials as candidates for county office. The
23 declaration of candidacy to be signed by the candidate shall have an
24 attachment to be signed by the candidate listing the requirements of

1 a candidate for election or reelection to a school board as set
2 forth in Sections 13A-106 and 5-105a of this title and Sections 5-
3 110, 5-110.1~~7~~ and 5-113 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and
4 the candidate shall swear or affirm that he or she is eligible to
5 run for the office or serve in the office if elected. Candidates
6 shall file on the first Monday in ~~December~~ February through the
7 following Wednesday. For school districts and technology center
8 school districts located in more than one county, filing may be
9 either in the county wherein supervision of the district is located
10 or in the county where the candidate resides.

11 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 5-107A, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 5-107A. The following provisions and the provisions of
14 Section 13A-101 et seq. of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall
15 govern the election of members of the board of education for a
16 school district:

17 A. For purposes of this section, temporary positions added to a
18 board of education pursuant to Section 7-101 or 7-105 of this title
19 and the chair of the board of education elected pursuant to Section
20 ~~±~~ 5-107B of this ~~act~~ title shall not be considered in determining
21 the size of the board. The number and term of each board of
22 education shall be as follows:

23	District	Members	Term (Years)
24	Elementary	3	3

1 Independent

2 1. districts having a five-member

3 board

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4 2. districts having a seven-

5 member board unless an

6 election is conducted pursuant

7 to subsection C of this

8 section

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9 B. In all school districts, the members of the board of
10 education shall be elected as follows:

11 1. a. Between August 1 and December 31 of the year following

12 the submission by the United States Department of

13 Commerce to the President of the United States of the

14 official Federal Decennial Census, the board of

15 education shall reapportion the territory of the

16 school district into board districts. Beginning with

17 the reapportionment following the 1990 Federal

18 Decennial Census, all boundaries of board districts

19 shall follow clearly visible, definable and observable

20 physical boundaries which are based upon criteria

21 established and recognized by the Bureau of the Census

22 of the United States Department of Commerce for

23 purposes of defining census blocks for its decennial

24 census and shall follow, as much as is possible,

1 precinct boundaries. Board districts shall be
2 compact, contiguous and shall be as equal in
3 population as practical with not more than a ten
4 percent (10%) variance between the most populous and
5 least populous board districts.

6 b. School districts having fewer than one thousand eight
7 hundred (1,800) students in average daily membership
8 during the preceding school year may choose not to
9 establish board districts and may nominate and elect
10 all board members at large.

11 c. Elementary school districts shall have board members
12 elected at large.

13 d. A city located in an independent school district
14 having four or more wards and an outlying area with
15 such outlying area comprising no more than twenty
16 percent (20%) of the population of such independent
17 school district, then such independent school district
18 may adopt such wards and outlying area in lieu of the
19 board districts provided for in subparagraph a of this
20 paragraph, and at least one member of the board of
21 education of such independent school district shall be
22 a member of each ward; and

23 2. One member of the board of education shall be elected by the
24 electors of the school district to represent each such board

1 district. Provided, however, that in any school district where the
2 electors of each board district, rather than the electors of the
3 entire school district, elect board members to represent that board
4 district, that district shall elect board members in that manner.

5 If during the term of office to which a person was elected, that
6 member ceases to be a resident of the board district for which the
7 person was elected, the office shall become vacant and such vacancy
8 shall be filled as provided in Section 13A-110 of Title 26 of the
9 Oklahoma Statutes; and

10 ~~3. In a school district having more than ten thousand (10,000)~~
11 ~~children in average daily membership, the following provision and~~
12 ~~the provisions of Section 13A-101 et seq. of Title 26 of the~~
13 ~~Oklahoma Statutes shall control as to election of the members of the~~
14 ~~school district's board of education:~~

15 a. ~~There shall be held an election in which the electors~~
16 ~~of each board district in which a term is expiring or~~
17 ~~in which a vacancy exists shall select two candidates~~
18 ~~from among the candidates for board member to~~
19 ~~represent the board district,~~

20 b. ~~If, in the election, one candidate has a majority of~~
21 ~~all votes cast, then a run-off election is not~~
22 ~~required. If no candidate receives a majority of all~~
23 ~~votes cast, then the two candidates receiving the~~

24

1 ~~greatest number of votes shall become the candidates~~
2 ~~for the board district in the general election, and~~
3 e. ~~At the run-off election, all of the electors of the~~
4 ~~board district shall select one of the two candidates~~
5 ~~as the member of the board of education representing~~
6 ~~the board district.~~

7 C. Any seven-member board shall have the option of reducing its
8 board to a five-member board either after approval of a board
9 resolution or a vote of the electors of the school district to take
10 such action pursuant to Section 13A-109 of Title 26 of the Oklahoma
11 Statutes. The election pursuant to a vote of the electors of the
12 school district shall be called upon the submission of a petition
13 requesting the election signed by ten percent (10%) of the school
14 district electors in the school district, the percentage being
15 applied to the highest number of voters voting in a regular school
16 district election in the district in the preceding five (5) years as
17 determined by the secretary of the county election board, who shall
18 certify the adequacy of the number of signatures on the petition.
19 If the question is put before the voters of the district, such
20 election shall be held along with and at the same time and place as
21 the next school election if all requirements of Section 13A-101 et
22 seq. of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes for such election are met.

23 After such resolution or election, the board shall reapportion
24 the district, determining by resolution or by lot which board member

1 offices shall be abolished at the end of the current board member's
2 term and which shall become one of the offices of the new board.

3 Election of the resulting board members shall be carried out
4 according to procedures stated in this section and Section 13A-101
5 et seq. of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

6 School board members currently serving in offices abolished
7 pursuant to this subsection shall continue serving until the end of
8 their current terms as at-large members.

9 D. Except for the chair of the board of education elected
10 pursuant to Section ~~4~~ 5-107B of this ~~act~~ title, offices of members
11 of the board of education shall be designated by consecutive numbers
12 and shall correspond with board districts when applicable.

13 ~~E. Except for those members elected prior to July 1, 1992, the~~
14 ~~terms of office of the members of a five-member board of education~~
15 ~~shall commence on the first regular, special or emergency school~~
16 ~~board meeting after the date of the annual school election and after~~
17 ~~the member has been certified as elected:~~

18	Office No. 1	1991
19	Office No. 2	1992
20	Office No. 3	1993
21	Office No. 4	1994
22	Office No. 5	1995

23 The terms of office of the members of a seven-member board of
24 education shall be staggered, with ~~one member being elected in 1991,~~

1 two members being elected in 1992, two members being elected in 1993
2 and two members being elected in 1994 and shall commence on the
3 first regular, special or emergency school board meeting after the
4 date of the annual school election and after the member has been
5 certified as elected; ~~provided, in districts needing to elect two~~
6 ~~members in 1991 to maintain a full complement of board members, two~~
7 ~~members shall be elected in 1991, one for a full term and one for a~~
8 ~~one-year term, as determined by the local board.~~ If a seven-member
9 board is formed upon consolidation pursuant to Section 7-105 of this
10 title, or upon annexation pursuant to Section 7-101 of this title,
11 the formation agreement shall specify initial short terms as
12 necessary to extend until the beginning of the regular terms for
13 seven-member boards established herein.

14 Upon reduction of a seven-member board pursuant to subsection C
15 of this section, the terms of the five-member board shall be
16 staggered pursuant to this subsection.

17 One member of a three-member board of education shall be elected
18 each year, and the terms of office shall commence on the first
19 regular, special or emergency school board meeting after the member
20 has been certified as elected.

21 F. The term of office of each board member elected after ~~July~~
22 ~~1, 1992~~ November 1, 2015, shall commence on the first regular,
23 special or emergency school board meeting after the date of the
24 annual school election and after the member has been certified as

1 | elected. Board members elected prior to ~~July 1, 1992~~ November 1,
2 | 2015, may remain in office until their successor is elected and
3 | seated pursuant to Sections 13A-101 through 13A-111 of Title 26 of
4 | the Oklahoma Statutes. The remaining term of any member who
5 | completes the term for which the member was elected but not wishing
6 | to serve until the successor of the member takes office on the first
7 | regular, special or emergency school board meeting after the
8 | successor has been certified as elected, shall be filled by
9 | appointment by the remaining members of the board of education.

10 | SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

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