

2018 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 9

MOVE SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE ELECTIONS TO NOVEMBER OF ODD YEARS

WHEREAS, school board trustee elections have historically been, and should remain, non-partisan;

WHEREAS, many school districts that hold school trustee elections in May are satisfied with the date for those elections and believe the results reflect the will of the people in their communities;

WHEREAS, there has been an ongoing effort in the Legislature to change the dates of school board elections with the stated purpose of increasing voter turn-out;

WHEREAS, including school board trustee elections in even numbered years, associated with a general election in November, significantly increases the chances of school board elections becoming associated with partisan politics in some communities;

WHEREAS, scheduling school board trustee elections in odd numbered years in November, associated with a general election, will result in these elections being at the same time as elections for city council, mayor, and other non-partisan elections; and

WHEREAS, having school board trustees take office on January 1 at the same time as other non-partisan elected officials would allow them the ability to be involved in the drafting of the new Continuous Improvement Plan and budget for the next fiscal year as well as participate in negotiations for the upcoming year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association work with the Idaho Legislature to craft legislation to change the dates of school board elections to odd numbered years in a November general election and will oppose any effort to include such elections in even numbered years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the date of school board elections is moved to November of odd numbered years, the newly elected trustee shall take office on January 1 to allow them to participate in teacher contract negotiations, budget meetings, and continuous improvement planning meetings.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

For the past several years, the Idaho Legislature has considered legislation that would move school board trustee elections to the general election date in November of even years. The stated purpose for moving those elections is to increase voter participation. School board trustees believe that trustee elections need to remain non-partisan. The Idaho School Boards Association would like to work with the Legislature to find a date that would increase voter turnout and still provide trustees with a non-partisan election.

In addition, should the election date move to November of odd years, school board trustees believe that the newly elected members should take office on January 1. This would allow new

board members to be involved with teacher contract negotiations, budget setting, and continuous improvement planning for the following school year.

Submitted by Caldwell School District No. 132

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ISBA EXECUTIVE BOARD: DO PASS

Starr Olsen of the ISBA Executive Board will address the Executive Board's recommendation to the membership at the Business Session of the Annual Convention.

PASSED
TABLED
FAILED

AYES
NAYES
TOTAL