April 6, 2027
CONSOLIDATED ELECTION

IASB Illinois Association of School Boards
Lighting the Way to Excellence in School Governance

Key Dates for School Board Candidates

Tuesday, August 25, 2026	PETITION CIRCULATION: First day for school board candidates to circulate nominating petitions.
Monday, November 16, 2026	CONSOLIDATED ELECTION CANDIDATE FILING: Candidate filing period begins; first day for candidates to file their original nominating petitions, statement of candidacy, and receipt of filing of Statement of Economic Interests, to the office of county clerk or county board of election commissioners.
Monday, November 23, 2026	CONSOLIDATED ELECTION CANDIDATE FILING: Candidate filing period ends. Note: Names are placed on the ballot in the order in which the nominating papers are received; a lottery is held for the first and last spots if multiple candidates' papers are filed simultaneously in the first and last hours of the filing period. STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS: Last day to file a Statement of Economic Interests; the receipt from the filing must be included with nominating petitions. The county clerk or county board of election commissioners shall notify candidates of acceptance of their nominating petitions within seven days of filing, or the last day of filing.
Wednesday, December 2, 2026	OBJECTIONS: Last day to file objections to nominating petitions. Note: The objection period consists of five business days. The county officer's electoral board hears objections to the nominations of candidates for school district offices.
Wednesday, December 2, 2026	BALLOT PLACEMENT LOTTERY: Last day for ballot placement lottery, held by the county clerk for the first and last spots on the ballot if multiple candidates' papers are filed simultaneously in the first and last hours of the filing period.
Thursday, January 28, 2027	WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDACY: Last day candidate may file Withdrawal of Candidacy in the office of the local election official, election authority, or the State Board of Elections
Thursday, February 4, 2027	WRITE-IN CANDIDATES: Last day to file a Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate with the appropriate election authority or authorities.
Tuesday, April 6, 2027	**CONSOLIDATED ELECTION: Polls open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.**
Tuesday, April 27, 2027	CANVASSING: Last day for the county clerk or county board of election commissioners to canvass the election results, and transmit the results.

Saturday, May 1, 2027	STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS: Candidates who have been re-elected to the school board must re-file the Statement of Economic Interests by May 1. Although the law is unclear, new school board members – those first elected on April 1 – are encouraged to re-file as well.
Monday, May 17, 2027	ORGANIZATION OF BOARD: Within 40 days after the consolidated election, the school board shall organize by electing its officers and fixing a time and place for the regular meetings.
August 1, 2027 (approximate)	MANDATORY OMA TRAINING: Within 90 days of taking the oath of office, new school board members must receive state-mandated training covering Open Meetings Act general applicability, procedures, and legal requirements. A copy of the certificate of completion must be filed with the school board.
May 1, 2028 (approximate)	MANDATORY PDLT: Within one year of taking office, new school board members must receive state-mandated training in Professional Development Leadership Training (PDLT), including education and labor law, financial oversight and accountability, fiduciary responsibilities, and trauma-informed practices. Additionally, school board members must take a training program on Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) Evaluations before making a dismissal based upon an "optional alternative evaluative dismissal process for PERA evaluations."

Sources:

2027 Election and Campaign Finance Calendar

State of Illinois 2027 Candidate's Guide

IASB Mandatory Board Member Training

The vision of the Illinois Association of School Boards is excellence in local school board governance supporting quality public education.

www.iasb.com