

Edina School District Election

Background Information

In an effort to avoid any alignment with partisan politics, Minnesota historically held school board elections in the Springtime. In the 1980's the Minnesota legislature required that school board elections be held on election day in November, but allowed districts to hold board elections on off-years over the continued concerns of having partisan influences in school board races.

Since the 1980's, the City of Edina and Edina School District have had a division of labor resolution where the City of Edina will perform the election duties for the Edina School District so they may hold their elections on off-cycle election years. This system was developed in an effort to avoid partisanship in school board elections, capitalize upon the integrity of elections conducted by the city and to utilize the city's superior elections systems.

Below are some examples of these: security of students and staff in school buildings, election integrity, workload distribution, cost and a continued effort to respect the non-partisan nature of school board races and safety.

In April 2022, the City of Edina expressed a desire to discontinue managing school board elections due to the complexity, time and resources election management is causing the city. Since then, Edina School District has been analyzing current school board election processes, options and the impacts of varying process changes.

After consulting with the Minnesota School Board Association and district legal counsel, the board has three options:

1. Continue to hold board elections on odd years and transition board elections to be in the control of the school district.
2. Transition the board to even years by extending the terms of current board members by one year in order to get the board on an even election cycle. State law does not allow board members to vote to limit/shorten terms; boards can only vote to extend terms.
3. Transition the board to even years by electing holding two consecutive three-year term elections for a cycle of eight years in order to get the entire board on an even year cycle.

	Option 1: Continue to hold board elections on odd years and transition board elections to be in the control of the school district.	Option 2: Transition the board to even years by extending the terms of current board members by one year in order to get the board on an even election cycle.	Option 3: Transition the board to even years by electing holding two consecutive three-year term elections for a cycle of eight years in order to get the entire board on an even
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			year cycle.
Election Cycle Timing and Board Member Term	2025: 4 year term (4 members elected)	2025: <u>NO ELECTION</u> after term extension for existing board members	2025: <u>3 YEAR TERM</u> (4 members elected)
	2027: 4 year term (3 members elected)	2026: 4 year term (4 members elected)	2027: <u>3 YEAR TERM</u> (3 members elected)
	2029: 4 year term (4 members elected)	2027: <u>NO ELECTION</u> after term extension for existing board members	2028: 4 year term (4 members elected)
	2031: 4 year term (4 members elected)	2028: 4 year term (3 members elected)	2030: 4 year term (3 members elected)
	2033: 4 year term (3 members elected)	2030: 4 year term (4 members elected)	
		2032: 4 year term (3 members elected)	
Summary of Process Changes	Result is no change to the election cycle. Control is exchanged from the city clerk to district business operations.	Election cycle will change to even years starting in the 2026 general election. Control of the board election will stay with the city clerk.	Elections will continue to be on odd years for two more board elections in order to transition the entire board to even years. Will return to a normal 4 year cycle but change to even years starting in the 2028 general election. District business operations will have to run the 2027 election. Control of the even year elections will stay with the city clerk.
Financial Impact	Cost to the district of approximately \$90,000 per election cycle. Transition from city to	Would result in minimal on-going costs to the district.	Would result in approximately \$90,000 for each of the 2025 and 2027 elections. Minimal

	district provides cost savings, but does not account for utilization of district human resources.		cost thereafter.
Legal Obligations	Nothing required.	The board will have to pass a resolution by July 1, 2024 to extend the terms of sitting board members.	The board will have to pass a resolution by July 1, 2025 to amend the terms (shorten) for the 2025 board election.