

BOARD MEMBERS
VACANCIES AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

BBC
(LEGAL)

Resignation

To be effective, a board member's resignation must be in writing and signed by the board member and delivered to the presiding officer of the board. A board may not refuse to accept a resignation. *Election Code 201.001*

Effective Date

If a board member submits a resignation, whether to be effective immediately or at a future date, a vacancy occurs on the date the resignation is accepted by the board or on the eighth day after the date of its receipt by the board, whichever is earlier. *Election Code 201.023*

A board member, who during the period of the term of office resigns from office or experiences a change of status that disqualifies such member for appointment under the provisions of the Education Code, shall become ineligible to serve at the time of the change of status. *19 TAC 61.2(c)*

Holdover Doctrine

All public officers shall continue to perform the duties of their offices until their successors shall be duly qualified (i.e., sworn in). Until the vacancy created by a board member's resignation is filled by a successor, the board member continues to serve and have the duties and powers of office and continues to be subject to the nepotism provisions. A holdover board member may not vote on the appointment of his or her successor. *Tex. Const., Art. XVI, Sec. 17; Atty. Gen. Ops. JM-636 (1987), O-6259 (1945)* [See DBE for more information on nepotism]

Filling a Vacancy

A board vacancy resulting from a resignation or disqualification shall be filled in accordance with the procedures established under Education Code 11.352 and 19 Administrative Code 61.2. *19 TAC 61.2(c)* [See BBA and BBB]

Officer's Statement
and Oath

For requirements regarding the officer's statement and oath of office, see BBB(LEGAL).

**Former Board
Member Employment**

A trustee may not accept employment with the district until the first anniversary of the date the trustee's membership on a board ends. *Education Code 11.063*

**Involuntary Removal
from Office**

Quo Warranto

On his or her own motion or at the request of an individual, the attorney general or the county or district attorney may petition the district court for leave to file an information in the nature of quo warranto. An action in the nature of quo warranto is available if:

1. A person usurps, intrudes into, or unlawfully holds or executes an office; or
2. A public officer does an act or allows an act that by law causes forfeiture of office.

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If the person against whom the information is filed is found guilty as charged, the court:

1. Shall enter judgment removing the person from the office and for the costs of prosecution; and
2. May fine the person for usurping, intruding into, or unlawfully holding and executing the office.

Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code 66.001–.003

Removal by Petition
and Trial

A proceeding for the removal of a board member is begun by filing a written petition for removal in district court of the county in which the board member resides. A resident of the state who has lived for at least six months in the county in which the petition is to be filed and who is not currently under indictment in the county may file a petition. *Local Gov't Code 87.015*

*Reasons for
Removal*

A board member may be removed from office for:

1. "Incompetency," which means:
 - a. Gross ignorance of official duties;
 - b. Gross carelessness in the discharge of those duties; or
 - c. Unfitness or inability to promptly and properly discharge official duties because of a serious physical or mental defect that did not exist at the time of election.
2. "Official misconduct," which means intentional, unlawful behavior relating to official duties by a board member entrusted with the administration of justice or the execution of the law. The term includes an intentional or corrupt failure, refusal, or neglect of a board member to perform a duty imposed on the board member by law.
3. Intoxication on or off duty caused by drinking an alcoholic beverage, but not if it was caused by drinking an alcoholic beverage on the direction and prescription of a licensed physician.
4. Conviction of a board member by a jury for any felony or for misdemeanor official misconduct. The conviction of a public officer by a petit jury for any felony or for a misdemeanor involving official misconduct operates as an immediate removal from office of that officer.

Tex. Const., Art. V, Sec. 24; Local Gov't Code 87.011, .012(14), .013, .031; Hendricks v. State, 49 S.W. 705 (1899)

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*Removal for
Purchasing
Violations*

A trustee who is convicted of a purchasing offense [see CH(LEGAL), regarding impermissible practices] is considered to have committed official misconduct and is subject to removal under Local Government Code Chapter 87. *Education Code 44.032(e)*

**Temporary
Replacement of
Board Member on
Military Active Duty**

A board member who enters active duty in the armed forces of the United States as a result of being called to duty, drafted, or activated does not vacate the office held, but the State Board of Education (SBOE) may appoint a replacement to serve as a temporary board member if the elected or appointed board member will be on active duty for longer than 30 days.

The board member who is temporarily replaced may recommend to the SBOE the name of a person to temporarily fill the office. The SBOE shall appoint the temporary board member to begin service on the date specified in writing by the board member being temporarily replaced as the date the board member will enter active military service.

A temporary board member has all the powers, privileges, and duties of the office as the board member who is temporarily replaced. A temporary board member shall perform the duties of office for the shorter period of:

1. The term of the active military service of the board member who is temporarily replaced; or
2. The term of office of the board member who is temporarily replaced.

“Armed forces of the United States” means the United States Army, the United States Navy, the United States Air Force, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Coast Guard, any reserve or auxiliary component of any of those services, or the National Guard.

Tex. Const., Art. XVI, Sec. 72