

HOUSE BILL NO. 4588

June 10, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Woolford, Maddock and Schriver and referred to Committee on Election Integrity.

A bill to amend 1954 PA 116, entitled
"Michigan election law,"
by amending sections 303, 697, and 699 (MCL 168.303, 168.697, and
168.699), section 303 as amended by 2018 PA 650, section 697 as
amended by 2018 PA 226, and section 699 as amended by 2012 PA 523.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 303. (1) Subject to subsection (8), for an individual's
2 name to appear on the official ballot as a candidate for school
3 board member, the candidate shall file a nominating petition and
4 the affidavit required ~~by~~ **under** section 558 with the school

district filing official not later than 4 p.m. on the fifteenth Tuesday before the election date. The nominating petition must be signed by the following number of electors of the school district:

(a) If the population of the school district is less than 10,000, ~~according to the most recent federal census,~~ a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 20.

(b) If the population of the school district is 10,000 or more, ~~according to the most recent federal census,~~ a minimum of 40 and a maximum of 100.

(2) ~~The Subject to this subsection, the~~ nominating petition **for a candidate for school board member of a local school district** must be **partisan and be** substantially in the form prescribed in section 544c. ~~, except that the petition Subject to this subsection, the nominating petition for a candidate for school board member of a school district other than a local school district~~ must be nonpartisan and **otherwise be substantially in the form prescribed in section 544c. A nominating petition under this subsection** must include the following opening paragraph:

We, the undersigned, registered and qualified ~~voters~~**electors** of _____

(legal name of school district)

and residents of the _____, the

~~(legal name of school district)~~ **(city or township)**

county of _____, state of Michigan,

~~(city or township)~~

nominate _____

(name of candidate)

_____,

(street address) (city or township)

a registered and qualified elector of the district as a member of the board of education of the school district for a term of _____ years, expiring _____, to be voted for at the election to be held on the _____ day of _____, _____.

(month) (year)

(3) An individual shall not knowingly sign more nominating petitions for the same office than there are ~~persons~~**individuals** to be elected to the office. An individual who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(4) An individual shall not do any of the following:

(a) Sign a nominating petition with a name other than ~~his or her~~**the individual's** own **name**.

(b) Make a false statement in a certificate on a nominating petition.

(c) If not a circulator, sign a nominating petition as a circulator.

(d) Sign a name as circulator other than ~~his or her~~**the individual's** own **name**.

(5) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (6), an individual who violates subsection (4) is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00, ~~or~~ imprisonment for not more than 93 days, or both.

(6) An individual shall not sign a nominating petition with multiple names. An individual who violates this subsection is guilty of a felony.

(7) If an individual signs a nominating petition in violation of this section, any signature by that individual on the petition is invalid and must not be counted.

(8) Instead of filing nominating petitions, a candidate for

1 school board member may pay a nonrefundable filing fee of \$100.00
2 to the school district filing official. If this **filing** fee is paid
3 by the due date for a nominating petition, the payment has the same
4 effect under this section as the filing of a nominating petition.

5 (9) A nominating petition filed under this chapter is subject
6 to the examination and investigation process prescribed in section
7 552 as to ~~its~~ **the nominating petition's** sufficiency and the
8 validity and genuineness of the signatures on the nominating
9 petition, and to the other procedures prescribed in that section
10 relevant to a **nominating** petition filed under this chapter.

11 (10) After a nominating petition is filed or filing fee is
12 paid for a candidate for school board member, the candidate is not
13 permitted to withdraw unless a written withdrawal notice, signed by
14 the candidate, is filed with the school district filing official
15 not later than 4 p.m. of the third day after the last day for
16 filing the nominating petition. If the school district filing
17 official is not a county clerk, the school district filing official
18 shall notify the county clerk of the candidates' names and
19 addresses not later than 3 days after the last day for filing a
20 withdrawal notice.

21 (11) **As used in this section, "local school district" means**
22 **that term as defined in section 6 of the revised school code, 1976**
23 **PA 451, MCL 380.6.**

24 Sec. 697. At the general November election, the names of the
25 several offices to be voted for must be placed on the ballot
26 substantially in the following order in the years in which
27 elections for those offices are held: Electors of President and
28 Vice President of the United States; governor and lieutenant
29 governor; secretary of state; attorney general; United States

1 Senator; Representative in Congress; senator and representative in
 2 the state legislature; members of the state board of education;
 3 regents of the University of Michigan; trustees of Michigan State
 4 University; governors of Wayne State University; county executive;
 5 prosecuting attorney; sheriff; clerk; treasurer; register of deeds;
 6 mine inspector in counties electing a mine inspector; county road
 7 commissioners; drain commissioners; ~~coroners;~~ and surveyor. The
 8 following township officers must be placed on the same ballot as
 9 above described in substantially the following order in the year in
 10 which elections for those offices are held: supervisor, clerk,
 11 treasurer, trustees, and constables. **In addition, the office of**
 12 **local school district board member must be placed on the same**
 13 **ballot as above in the year in which an election for that office is**
 14 **held.**

15 Sec. 699. At any regular election, the names of the several
 16 nonpartisan offices to be voted for ~~shall~~**must** be placed on a
 17 separate portion of the ballot containing no party designation in
 18 the following order: justices of the supreme court, judges of the
 19 court of appeals, judges of the circuit court, judges of the
 20 probate court, judges of the district court, community college
 21 board of trustees member, intermediate school district board
 22 member, city officers, the following village officers in
 23 substantially the following order in the year in which elections
 24 for the offices are held: president, clerk, treasurer, and
 25 trustees, and in a year in which an election for the office is
 26 held, ~~local school district board member,~~ metropolitan district
 27 officer ~~,~~ and district library board member.