



**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**ECONOMY LEAGUE**  
Information, Insight, Integrity.

# School Board Transition For Millersburg Area and Upper Dauphin Area

**FEBRUARY 2020**

**Pennsylvania Economy League  
Thompson Associates Architects and Planners**

# Agenda

- 1. Purpose of Meeting**
- 2. Method of Election**
- 3. Election Cycle**
- 4. Transition to a Merged Board**

# Purpose of Meeting

## Provide Information on Board Membership Transition Following a Merger

- What is the method of election?
- Are there really 18 board members? For how long?
- How are elections held?
- What happens if a seat becomes vacant?
- When does the board transition begin?

# School Board Election Options

The school board election options:

- At-large – members must be residents of the district
- By region – members must be residents of both the district and the region
- A mix of by region and at-large:  
Some members are elected by the region that they serve, others are elected at-large by the residents of the district

# School Board Election Options

- UDASD recently implemented a by region option
- MASD uses at-large option
- Merged district option needs to be decided.
  - Without School Board action at-large is default
  - School Board can change at a later date
- Statewide trend has been a move to at-large due to lack of candidates for the regional seats

# Statewide School Board Composition

Categories (Change)	Method of Election 2017		Method of Election 2019	
	Districts	Percent	Districts	Percent
<b>At-Large (+16)</b>	289	58%	305	61%
<b>Combined At-Large/Regional (-20)</b>	35	7%	15	3%
<b>Nine-Region (-1)</b>	25	5%	24	5%
<b>Three-Region (+5)</b>	150	30%	155	31%
<b>Total</b>	499	100%	499	100%

Source: PSBA 2018 and 2020 Survey of Board Operations

# School Board Election Cycles

- The School Code Section 303 (24 PS 3-303) provides that:
  - Effective in 1979 terms were reduced from 6 to 4 years and for each municipal election in an odd numbered year thereafter
  - Beginning in 1983 and every four years thereafter election of 4 members for four year terms
  - Beginning in 1987 and every four years thereafter election of 5 members for four year terms

Number of Open Seats	
4	5
Election Year	Election Year
2001	
	2003
2005	
	2007
2009	
	2011
2013	
	2015
2017	
	2019
2021	
	2023
2025	

# School Board Election Cycle in a Merged District

- School Code Section 308 (24 PS 3-308) provides:
  - At-large representation is default position for the new board
  - Regional elections for board seats
    - The school directors of component districts of the new district before the date of establishment or the board of school directors after establishment, may, if they choose, divide the new school district into three or nine regions...
    - Same requirement as currently exists for creation of regions. Also must be completed before filing date for office.



# School Board Election Cycle in a Merged District

## School Code Section 224 (24 PS 2-224) provides:

- The State Board of Education shall review ... and approve such applications...
- When an application receives approval, The State Board of Education shall direct the Superintendent (Secretary of Education) to issue a certificate creating the new district , listing... classification and effective date of operation.

# School Board Election Cycle in a Merged District

		Total Board Members			
Merged District Effective Date		July 1, 2020	July 1, 2021		July 1, 2022
			State Approval		
Election Year	Open Seats		Prior to Feb 2021 Filing Date	After Feb 2021 Filing Date	
2019	5	18	18	18	18
2020	0	18	18	18	18
2021	4	14	14	18	18
2022	0	14	14	18	18
2023	5	9	9	13	13
2024	0	9	9	13	13
2025	4	9	9	9	9
2026	0	9	9	9	9
2027	5	9	9	9	9

# Election Cycle Merged District

- **School Code Section 308 (24 PS 3-308) provides:**
  - Vacancies occurring in such incumbent positions shall not be filled. Means no vacancies to be filled when there are more than 9 board members



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