

SENATE BILL No. 18

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-23-17.2.

Synopsis: East Chicago school board elections. Changes the election process for the governing body of the East Chicago school corporation, so that all members are elected at large by the voters of the school corporation. (Current law provides that three members are elected from certain districts, and two members are elected at large.) Makes conforming changes.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

Randolph Lonnie M

December 8, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Elections.



Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 18

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 20-23-17.2-3.1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2025,
2 SECTION 35, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3.1. (a) The governing body of the school
4 corporation consists of five (5) members, elected as provided in this
5 chapter.
6 (b) Three (3) members shall be elected as follows:
7 (1) ~~From districts established as provided in section 4.1 of this~~
8 ~~chapter.~~ **At large by all the voters of the school corporation.**
9 (2) At the general election held in the county in 2026, 2030, 2034,
10 2038, 2042, and every four (4) years thereafter.
11 (c) Two (2) members shall be elected as follows:
12 (1) At large by all the voters of the school corporation.
13 (2) At the general election held in the county in 2028, 2032, 2036,
14 2040, 2044, and every four (4) years thereafter.
15 (d) The term of office of a member of the governing body:
16 (1) is four (4) years; and
17 (2) begins January 1 after the election of members of the



governing body.

(e) Upon assuming office and in conducting the business of the governing body, a member shall represent the interests of the entire school corporation.

SECTION 2. IC 20-23-17.2-4.1 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 4.1: (a) As used in this section, "council district" refers to a district of the city legislative body:

(1) established under IC 36-4-6-3; and

(2) as in effect on January 1, 2015.

(b) The districts from which a member of the governing body is elected under section 3.1(b) of this chapter are as follows:

(1) School corporation district 1 consists of the territory formed by council district 1 and council district 2.

(2) School corporation district 2 consists of the territory formed by council district 3 and council district 4.

(3) School corporation district 3 consists of the territory formed by council district 5 and council district 6.

SECTION 3. IC 20-23-17.2-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2025, SECTION 36, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) The following apply to an election of members of the governing body of the school corporation under section 3.1(b) of this chapter:

(1) Each candidate must file a petition of nomination with the circuit court clerk not earlier than one hundred four (104) days and not later than seventy-four (74) days before the general election at which members are to be elected. The petition of nomination must include the following information:

(A) The name of the candidate.

(B) The candidate's residence address and the district in which the candidate resides.

(C) The signatures of at least twenty (20) registered voters residing within the school corporation district the candidate seeks to represent.

(D) A certification that the candidate meets the qualifications for candidacy imposed by this chapter.

(E) The school corporation district that the candidate seeks to represent.

(2) Only eligible voters residing in the school corporation district as provided in section 4.1 of this chapter may vote for a candidate to represent that school corporation district.

(3) One (1) candidate shall be elected for each school corporation district provided by section 4.1 of this chapter. The candidate



1 elected for a school corporation district must reside within the
 2 boundaries of the school corporation district. The candidate
 3 elected as the member for a particular school corporation district
 4 is the candidate who, among all the candidates who reside within
 5 that school corporation district, receives the greatest number of
 6 votes from voters residing in that school corporation district.

7 ~~(b)~~ (a) The following apply to an election of the members of the
 8 governing body of the school corporation under section 3.1(c) 3.1 of
 9 this chapter:

10 (1) Each candidate must file a petition of nomination with the
 11 circuit court clerk not earlier than one hundred four (104) days
 12 and not later than seventy-four (74) days before the general
 13 election at which members are to be elected. The petition of
 14 nomination must include the following information:

15 (A) The name of the candidate.

16 (B) The candidate's residence address.

17 (C) The signatures of at least one hundred (100) registered
 18 voters residing within the school corporation.

19 (D) A certification that the candidate meets the qualifications
 20 for candidacy imposed by this chapter.

21 (E) The fact that the candidate seeks to be elected from the
 22 school corporation at large.

23 (2) Only eligible voters residing in the school corporation may
 24 vote for a candidate.

25 (3) **At an election held under section 3.1(c) of this chapter**, two
 26 (2) candidates shall be elected at large. The two (2) candidates
 27 who receive the greatest number of votes among all candidates
 28 running for an at-large seat are elected as members of the
 29 governing body.

30 **(4) At an election held under section 3.1(b) of this chapter,**
 31 **three (3) candidates shall be elected at large. The three (3)**
 32 **candidates who receive the greatest number of votes among**
 33 **all candidates running for an at-large seat are elected as**
 34 **members of the governing body.**

35 ~~(c)~~ (b) The following apply to a petition of nomination required
 36 under ~~subsections~~ subsection (a)(1): ~~and (b)(1):~~

37 (1) The petition must:

38 (A) contain the information required under
 39 IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5); and

40 (B) be accompanied by the certification described in
 41 IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(b), if required under IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(c).

42 (2) Unless a candidate that states a political party affiliation under



1 IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(A) is challenged under IC 3-8-2.5-7, the
 2 candidate's statement under IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5) must be
 3 indicated on the ballot in the manner determined by the county
 4 election board.

5 (3) IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(c) and IC 3-8-2.5-7(e) through IC 3-8-2.5-7(g)
 6 apply to a candidate who files a petition of nomination.

7 SECTION 4. IC 20-23-17.2-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.222-2015,
 8 SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 9 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. **(a)** Voters who reside within the boundaries of
 10 the school corporation may vote for the candidates elected under
 11 section 3.1 of this chapter.

12 **(b) At an election held under section 3.1(b) of this chapter,** each
 13 voter may vote only for **three (3) at-large candidates.** ~~the following:~~

14 ~~(1) One (1) candidate to represent the district in which the voter~~
 15 ~~resides:~~

16 ~~(2) Two (2) at-large candidates.~~

17 **(c) At an election held under section 3.1(c) of this chapter,** each
 18 voter may vote only for **two (2) at-large candidates.**

