



January 23, 2026

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## SENATE BILL No. 25

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DIGEST OF SB 25 (Updated January 22, 2026 4:35 pm - DI 140)

**Citations Affected:** IC 3-11.

**Synopsis:** School board candidates. Specifies that if there is more than one candidate for a school board office within certain designated groups of candidates, the candidates shall appear in a certain order and within the grouping and in alphabetical order according to surname.

**Effective:** Upon passage.

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## Byrne, Gaskill

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December 8, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedure.

January 22, 2026, amended; reassigned to Committee on Elections.

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SB 25—LS 6039/DI 13





January 23, 2026

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. 25

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

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

1        SECTION 1. IC 3-11-2-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.11-2023,  
2        SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3        UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 6. (a) The device named and list of nominees  
4        shall be placed on the ballots as follows:

5            (1) The major political party whose candidate received the highest  
6            number of votes in the county for secretary of state at the last  
7            election in the first column or row on the left side of all ballots.

8            (2) The major political party whose candidate received the second  
9            highest number of votes in the county for secretary of state at the  
10           last election in the second column or row.

11           (3) Any other political party in the same order.

12           (b) If a political party did not have a candidate for secretary of state  
13           in the last election or a nominee is an independent candidate (or an  
14           independent ticket for President and Vice President of the United  
15           States or for governor and lieutenant governor), the party or  
16           independent candidate or ticket shall be placed on the ballot after the  
17           parties described in subsection (a). If more than one (1) political party

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1 or independent candidate or ticket that has qualified to be on the ballot  
2 did not have a candidate for secretary of state in the last election, those  
3 parties, candidates, or tickets shall be listed on the ballot in the order  
4 in which the party filed its petition of nomination under IC 3-8-6-12.

5 (c) Subject to subsection (e), a column or row for write-in voting  
6 shall be placed to the right of all party and independent columns on the  
7 ballot.

8 (d) This subsection applies to a county having a population of more  
9 than four hundred thousand (400,000) and less than seven hundred  
10 thousand (700,000). If there is insufficient room on a row to list each  
11 candidate of a political party, a second or subsequent row may be  
12 utilized. However, a second or subsequent row may not be utilized  
13 unless the first row, and all preceding rows, have been filled.

14 (e) A column or row for write-in voting for an office is not required  
15 if there are no declared write-in candidates for that office. However,  
16 procedures must be implemented to permit write-in voting for  
17 candidates for federal offices.

18 (f) **This subsection applies to candidates who appear on the  
19 ballot for a school board office. The names of the candidates for  
20 each office must be grouped together in the following order:**

21 (1) **The major political party whose candidate received the  
22 highest number of votes in the county for secretary of state at  
23 the last election is listed first.**

24 (2) **The major political party whose candidate received the  
25 second highest number of votes in the county for secretary of  
26 state is listed second.**

27 (3) **All other political parties listed in the order that the  
28 parties' candidates for secretary of state finished in the last  
29 election are listed after the party listed in subdivision (2).**

30 (4) **If a political party did not have a candidate for secretary  
31 of state in the last election or a nominee is an independent  
32 candidate, the party or candidate is listed after the parties  
33 described in subdivisions (1), (2), and (3).**

34 (5) **If more than one (1) political party or independent  
35 candidate qualifies to be on the ballot, the parties, candidates,  
36 or tickets are listed in the order in which the party filed its  
37 petition of nomination under IC 3-8-6-12.**

38 (6) **The name of a candidate described in  
39 IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(C) is placed after the candidates listed in  
40 subdivisions (1) through (5), if applicable.**

41 (7) **A space for write-in voting is placed after the candidates  
42 listed in subdivisions (1) through (6), if required by law.**



**(8) The name of a write-in candidate may not be listed on the ballot.**

If there is more than one (1) candidate for a grouping described in subdivisions (1) through (8) for a school board office, the candidates shall appear in the order established by this subsection and within the grouping, in alphabetical order according to surname.

SECTION 2. IC 3-11-13-11, AS AMENDED BY THE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 11. (a) The ballot information, whether placed on the ballot card or on the marking device, must be in the order of arrangement provided for ballots under this section.

(b) Each county election board shall have the names of all candidates for all elected offices, political party offices, and public questions printed on a ballot card as provided in this chapter. The county may:

- (1) print all offices and questions on a single ballot card; and
- (2) include a ballot variation code to ensure that the proper version of a ballot is used within a precinct.

(c) Each type of ballot card must be of uniform size and of the same quality and color of paper (except as permitted under IC 3-10-1-17).

(d) The nominees of a political party or an independent candidate or independent ticket (described in IC 3-11-2-6) nominated by petitioners shall be listed on the ballot with the name and device set forth on the certification or petition. The circle containing the device may be of any size that permits a voter to readily identify the device. IC 3-11-2-5 applies if the certification or petition does not include a name or device, or if the same device is selected by two (2) or more parties or petitioners. In the case of a candidate described in IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(C), a blank space **must be printed** after the candidate's name signifying that the candidate elects not to disclose any affiliation with a political party or that the candidate:

- (1) is not affiliated with a political party; and
- (2) does not identify as an independent candidate.

(e) The offices and public questions on the general election ballot must be placed on the ballot in the order listed in IC 3-11-2-12, IC 3-11-2-12.4, IC 3-11-2-12.5, IC 3-11-2-12.7(b), IC 3-11-2-12.9(a), IC 3-11-2-12.9(c), IC 3-11-2-13(a) through IC 3-11-2-13(c), IC 3-11-2-14(a), IC 3-11-2-14(d), and IC 3-11-2-14(e). The offices and public questions may be listed in a continuous column either vertically or horizontally and on a number of separate pages.



5 (1) "Vote for one (1) only.", if only one (1) candidate is to be  
6 elected to the office.

7 (2) "Vote for not more than (insert the number of candidates to be  
8 elected) candidate(s) for this office. To vote for any candidate for  
9 this office, you must make a voting mark for each candidate you  
10 wish to vote for. A straight party vote will not count as a vote for  
11 any candidate for this office.", if more than one (1) candidate is to  
12 be elected to the office.

16 (g) Below the name of the office and the statement required by  
17 subsection (f), the names of the candidates for each office must be  
18 grouped together in the following order:

19 (1) The major political party whose candidate received the highest  
20 number of votes in the county for secretary of state at the last  
21 election is listed first.

22 (2) The major political party whose candidate received the second  
23 highest number of votes in the county for secretary of state is  
24 listed second.

25 (3) All other political parties listed in the order that the parties'  
26 candidates for secretary of state finished in the last election are  
27 listed after the party listed in subdivision (2).

(4) If a political party did not have a candidate for secretary of state in the last election or a nominee is an independent candidate or independent ticket (described in IC 3-11-2-6), the party or candidate is listed after the parties described in subdivisions (1), (2), and (3).

33 (5) If more than one (1) political party or independent candidate  
34 or ticket described in subdivision (4) qualifies to be on the ballot,  
35 the parties, candidates, or tickets are listed in the order in which  
36 the party filed its petition of nomination under IC 3-8-6-12.

37 (6) The name of a candidate described in IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(C)  
38 is placed after the candidates listed in subdivisions (1) through  
39 (5), if applicable.

(7) A space for write-in voting is placed after the candidates listed in subdivisions (1) through (6), if required by law.

42 (8) The name of a write-in candidate may not be listed on the



1 ballot.

If there is more than one (1) candidate for a grouping described in subdivisions (1) through (8) for a school board office, the candidates shall appear in the order established by this subsection and within the grouping, in alphabetical order according to surname.

7 (h) The names of the candidates grouped in the order established by  
8 subsection (g) must be printed in type with uniform capital letters and  
9 have a uniform space between each name. The name of the candidate's  
10 political party, or the word "Independent" if the:

11 (1) candidate; or

12 (2) ticket of candidates for:

13 (A) President and Vice President of the United States; or

14 (B) governor and lieutenant governor;

15 is independent, must be placed immediately below or beside the name  
16 of the candidate and must be printed in a uniform size and type. In the  
17 case of a candidate described in IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(C), the name of  
18 the candidate must be printed with a blank space after the candidate's  
19 name signifying that the candidate elects not to disclose any affiliation  
20 with a political party or that the candidate is not affiliated with a  
21 political party and does not identify as an independent candidate.

22 (i) All the candidates of the same political party for election to  
23 at-large seats on the fiscal or legislative body of a political subdivision  
24 must be grouped together:

25 (1) under the name of the office that the candidates are seeking;  
26 (2) in the order established by subsection (g); and  
27 (3) within the political party, in alphabetical order according to  
28 surname.

29 A statement reading substantially as follows must be placed  
30 immediately below the name of the office and above the name of the  
31 first candidate: "Vote for not more than (insert the number of  
32 candidates to be elected) candidate(s) of ANY party for this office.".

33 (j) Candidates for election to at-large seats on the governing body  
34 of a school corporation must be grouped:

35 (1) under the name of the office that the candidates are seeking;  
36 and

37 (2) in alphabetical order according to surname.  
38 A statement reading substantially as follows must be placed  
39 immediately below the name of the office and above the name of the  
40 first candidate: "Vote for not more than (insert the number of  
41 candidates to be elected) candidate(s) for this office. A straight party  
42 vote will not count as a vote for any candidate for this office.".



3 (1) The cautionary statement described in IC 3-11-2-7.

6 (I) The ballot must include a single connectable arrow, circle, oval,  
7 or square, or a voting position for voting a straight party ticket by one  
8 (1) mark as required by section 14 of this chapter, and the single  
9 connectable arrow, circle, oval, or square, or the voting position for  
10 casting a straight party ticket ballot must be identified by:

11 (1) the name of the political party; and

12 (2) immediately below or beside the political party's name, the  
13 device of that party (described in IC 3-11-2-5).

14 The name and device of each political party must be of uniform size  
15 and type and arranged in the order established by subsection (g) for  
16 listing candidates under each office. The instructions described in  
17 IC 3-11-2-10(c) for voting a straight party ticket and the statement  
18 concerning presidential electors required under IC 3-10-4-3 must be  
19 placed on the ballot label. The instructions for voting a straight party  
20 ticket must include the statement: "If you do not wish to vote a straight  
21 party ticket, do not make a mark in this section and proceed to voting  
22 the ballot by office.".

23 (m) A public question must be in the form described in  
24 IC 3-11-2-15(a) and IC 3-11-2-15(b), except that a single connectable  
25 arrow, a circle, or an oval may be used instead of a square. Except as  
26 expressly authorized or required by statute, a county election board  
27 may not print a ballot card that contains language concerning the public  
28 question other than the language authorized by a statute.

29 (n) The requirements in this section:

30 (1) do not replace; and  
31 (2) are in addition to;

any other requirements in this title that apply to optical scan ballots.

37 (p) This subsection applies to an optical scan ballot that does not  
38 list:

39 (1) the names of political parties or candidates; or  
40 (2) the text of public questions;

41 on the face of the ballot. The ballot must be prepared in accordance  
42 with this section, except that the ballot must include a numbered circle



1 or oval to refer to each political party, candidate, or public question.

2 SECTION 3. IC 3-11-14-3.5, AS AMENDED BY THE  
3 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2026 GENERAL  
4 ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
5 UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 3.5. (a) Each county election board shall have  
6 the names of all candidates for all elected offices, political party  
7 offices, and public questions printed on ballot labels for use in an  
8 electronic voting system as provided in this chapter.

9 (b) The county may:

10 (1) print all offices and public questions on a single ballot label;  
11 and  
12 (2) include a ballot variation code to ensure that the proper  
13 version of a ballot label is used within a precinct.

14 (c) Each type of ballot label must be of uniform size and of the same  
15 quality and color of paper (except as permitted under IC 3-10-1-17).

16 (d) The nominees of a political party or an independent candidate  
17 or independent ticket (described in IC 3-11-2-6) nominated by  
18 petitioners must be listed on the ballot label with the name and device  
19 set forth on the certification or petition. The circle containing the  
20 device may be of any size that permits a voter to readily identify the  
21 device. IC 3-11-2-5 applies if the certification or petition does not  
22 include a name or device, or if the same device is selected by two (2)  
23 or more parties or petitioners. In the case of a candidate described in  
24 IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(C), a blank space **must be printed** after the  
25 candidate's name signifying that the candidate elects not to disclose any  
26 affiliation with a political party or that the candidate:

27 (1) is not affiliated with a political party; and  
28 (2) does not identify as an independent candidate.

29 (e) The ballot labels must list the offices and public questions on the  
30 general election ballot in the order listed in IC 3-11-2-12,  
31 IC 3-11-2-12.4, IC 3-11-2-12.5, IC 3-11-2-12.7(b), IC 3-11-2-12.9(a),  
32 IC 3-11-2-12.9(c), IC 3-11-2-13(a) through IC 3-11-2-13(c),  
33 IC 3-11-2-14(a), IC 3-11-2-14(d), and IC 3-11-2-14(e). Each office and  
34 public question may have a separate screen, or the offices and public  
35 questions may be listed in a continuous column either vertically or  
36 horizontally.

37 (f) The name of each office must be printed in a uniform size in bold  
38 type. A statement reading substantially as follows must be placed  
39 immediately below the name of the office and above the name of the  
40 first candidate:

41 (1) "Vote for one (1) only.", if only one (1) candidate is to be  
42 elected to the office.



(2) "Vote for not more than (insert the number of candidates to be elected) candidate(s) for this office. To vote for any candidate for this office, you must make a voting mark for each candidate you wish to vote for. A straight party vote will not count as a vote for any candidate for this office.", if more than one (1) candidate is to be elected to the office.

(3) "Vote for one (1) only. A straight party vote will not count as a vote for any candidate for this office.", if only one (1) candidate is to be elected to a school board office.

(g) Below the name of the office and the statement required by subsection (f), the names of the candidates for each office must be grouped together in the following order:

(1) The major political party whose candidate received the highest number of votes in the county for secretary of state at the last election is listed first.

(2) The major political party whose candidate received the second highest number of votes in the county for secretary of state is listed second.

(3) All other political parties listed in the order that the parties' candidates for secretary of state finished in the last election are listed after the party listed in subdivision (2).

(4) If a political party did not have a candidate for secretary of state in the last election or a nominee is an independent candidate or independent ticket (described in IC 3-11-2-6), the party or candidate is listed after the parties described in subdivisions (1), (2), and (3).

(5) If more than one (1) political party or independent candidate or ticket described in subdivision (4) qualifies to be on the ballot, the parties, candidates, or tickets are listed in the order in which the party filed its petition of nomination under IC 3-8-6-12.

(6) The name of a candidate described in IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(C) is placed after the candidates listed in subdivisions (1) through (5), if applicable.

(7) A space for write-in voting is placed after the candidates listed in subdivisions (1) through (6), if required by law. A space for write-in voting for an office is not required if there are no declared write-in candidates for that office. However, procedures may be adopted to permit write-in voting for candidates for

must be implemented to permit write-in voting for candidates for federal offices.

(8) The name of a write-in candidate may not be listed on the ballot.

If there is more than one (1) candidate for a grouping described in



1 subdivisions (1) through (8) for a school board office, the  
2 candidates shall appear in the order established by this subsection  
3 and within the grouping, in alphabetical order according to  
4 surname.

5 (h) The names of the candidates grouped in the order established by  
6 subsection (g) must be printed in type with uniform capital letters and  
7 have a uniform space between each name. The name of the candidate's  
8 political party, or the word "Independent", if the:

9 (1) candidate; or  
10 (2) ticket of candidates for:  
11 (A) President and Vice President of the United States; or  
12 (B) governor and lieutenant governor;

13 is independent, must be placed immediately below or beside the name  
14 of the candidate and must be printed in uniform size and type. In the  
15 case of a candidate described in IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(C), the name of  
16 the candidate must be printed with a blank space after the candidate's  
17 name signifying that the candidate elects not to disclose any affiliation  
18 with a political party or that the candidate is not affiliated with a  
19 political party and does not identify as an independent candidate.

20 (i) All the candidates of the same political party for election to  
21 at-large seats on the fiscal or legislative body of a political subdivision  
22 must be grouped together:

23 (1) under the name of the office that the candidates are seeking;  
24 (2) in the party order established by subsection (g); and  
25 (3) within the political party, in alphabetical order according to  
26 surname.

27 A statement reading substantially as follows must be placed  
28 immediately below the name of the office and above the name of the  
29 first candidate: "Vote for not more than (insert the number of  
30 candidates to be elected) candidate(s) of ANY party for this office.".

31 (j) Candidates for election to at-large seats on the governing body  
32 of a school corporation must be grouped:

33 (1) under the name of the office that the candidates are seeking;  
34 and  
35 (2) in alphabetical order according to surname.

36 A statement reading substantially as follows must be placed  
37 immediately below the name of the office and above the name of the  
38 first candidate: "Vote for not more than (insert the number of  
39 candidates to be elected) candidate(s) for this office. A straight party  
40 vote will not count as a vote for any candidate for this office.".

41 (k) The cautionary statement described in IC 3-11-2-7 must be  
42 placed at the top or beginning of the ballot label before the first public



1       question is listed.

2               (l) The instructions described in IC 3-11-2-8, IC 3-11-2-10(d), and  
3               IC 3-11-2-10(e) may be:

4                       (1) placed on the ballot label; or

5                       (2) posted in a location within the voting booth that permits the  
6                       voter to easily read the instructions.

7               (m) Except as provided in section 14.5 of this chapter, the ballot  
8               label must include a touch sensitive point or button for voting a straight  
9               political party ticket by one (1) touch, and the touch sensitive point or  
10               button must be identified by:

11                       (1) the name of the political party; and

12                       (2) immediately below or beside the political party's name, the  
13                       device of that party (described in IC 3-11-2-5).

14               The name and device of each party must be of uniform size and type,  
15               and arranged in the order established by subsection (g) for listing  
16               candidates under each office. The instructions described in  
17               IC 3-11-2-10(c) for voting a straight party ticket and the statement  
18               concerning presidential electors required under IC 3-10-4-3 must be  
19               placed on the ballot label. The instructions for voting a straight party  
20               ticket must include the statement: "If you do not wish to vote a straight  
21               party ticket, press "NEXT" (or replace "NEXT" with the term used by  
22               that voting system to permit a voter to skip a ballot screen) to continue  
23               voting.".

24               (n) A public question must be in the form described in  
25               IC 3-11-2-15(a) and IC 3-11-2-15(b), except that a touch sensitive  
26               point or button must be used instead of a square. Except as expressly  
27               authorized or required by statute, a county election board may not print  
28               a ballot label that contains language concerning the public question  
29               other than the language authorized by a statute.

30               (o) The requirements in this section:

31                       (1) do not replace; and

32                       (2) are in addition to;

33               any other requirements in this title that apply to ballots for electronic  
34               voting systems.

35               (p) The procedure described in IC 3-11-2-16 must be used when a  
36               ballot label does not comply with the requirements imposed by this title  
37               or contains another error or omission that might result in confusion or  
38               mistakes by voters.

39               **SECTION 4. An emergency is declared for this act.**



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedure, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 25, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert the following:

(SEE TEXT OF BILL)

and when so amended that said bill be reassigned to the Senate Committee on Elections.

(Reference is to SB 25 as introduced.)

BRAY, Chairperson

