



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

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

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

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

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

**(f) This subsection applies to candidates who appear on the ballot for a school board office. 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, 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 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.**



(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.



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

(1) "Vote for one (1) only.", if only one (1) candidate is to be 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.

(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.**

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

(1) candidate; or

(2) ticket of candidates for:

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

(B) governor and lieutenant governor;

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

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

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

(2) in the order established by subsection (g); and

(3) within the political party, in alphabetical order according to surname.

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

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

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

(2) in alphabetical order according to surname.

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



(k) The following information must be placed at the top of the ballot before the first public question is listed:

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

(2) The instructions described in IC 3-11-2-8, IC 3-11-2-10(d), and IC 3-11-2-10(e).

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

(1) the name of the political party; and

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

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

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

(n) The requirements in this section:

(1) do not replace; and

(2) are in addition to;

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

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

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

(1) the names of political parties or candidates; or

(2) the text of public questions;

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





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

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

(b) The county may:

(1) print all offices and public questions on a single ballot label;

and

(2) include a ballot variation code to ensure that the proper version of a ballot label is used within a precinct.

(c) Each type of ballot label 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 must be listed on the ballot label 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 ballot labels must list the offices and public questions on the general election 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). Each office and public question may have a separate screen, or the offices and public questions may be listed in a continuous column either vertically or horizontally.

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

(1) "Vote for one (1) only.", if only one (1) candidate is to be 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 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**



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.

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

(1) candidate; or

(2) ticket of candidates for:

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

(B) governor and lieutenant governor;

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

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

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

(2) in the party order established by subsection (g); and

(3) within the political party, in alphabetical order according to surname.

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

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

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

(2) in alphabetical order according to surname.

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

(k) The cautionary statement described in IC 3-11-2-7 must be 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

