Chapter 331

School District Elections and Meetings

GENERAL PROVISIONS	331.340 Election of additional directors in dis	
331.010 Notices of meetings, elections and budgets 331.020 Qualifications of school voters	tricts attaining 1,000 school populatio 331.350 Number of directors elected annually i first class districts; term of office	
331.030 List of voters 331 040 Challenging voters	331 360 Elections in second and third class districts; director's term of office	lis-
ELECTIONS IN DISTRICTS WITH OVER 100,000 POPULATION	RECALL ELECTIONS	
331.110 Manner of holding elections	331 410 Recall of school directors	
331.120 Election of directors, applicability of elec-	331 420 Recall petitions	
tion statutes	331 430 Reason for recall to be stated; verifica	
331 130 Initiative, referendum, recall and submissions to electorate	tion of petition; persons ineligible t sign or circulate petition	to
331 140 Special elections	331 440 Notice of election	
331 150 Questions submitted to electorate by reso- lution of school board	331 450 Candidates; term of successor; election procedure	ion
331 160 Ballots; canvass and return of votes		
331.170 Nomination of directors	SCHOOL MEETINGS	
331 180 Election costs	331 510 School meetings; fiscal school year	
ELECTIONS IN FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD	331.520 Call for meetings	
CLASS AND UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS	331.530 Chairman of meetings	
	331.540 Conduct of meetings	
331 310 Plurality elects; tie vote	331 550 Adjournment of school meetings; minute	tes
331 320 Election procedure generally in first class districts and union high school districts 331 330 Director nominations and ballots in first	PENALTIES	
class districts	331.990 Penalties	

CROSS REFERENCES

Bond elections, 328 210 to 328 220		
Consolidation elections, 330 110 to 330 140		
County high school district elections, 335 710,		
335 755		
Election on schoolhouse sites and removal, 332 150		
Validation of elections held prior to May 7, 1953.		
concerning school district proceedings, 1953 c 564		
Validity of school district elections, 33 710, 33 720		

Bond elections, notices of, 328 215 Contents of notices of meetings, 331 520 Newspapers in which school districts may publish notices, 193 030 Schoolhouse sites and removal, notice of election on, 332 150

Tax meetings, notices of, 328 515, 328 535

331.020

Qualifications of school electors, Const. Art VIII, § 6

331 130

School district referendum of particular legislation, 254 320

331.550

School meetings tax power, 328 535

GENERAL PROVISIONS

331.010 Notices of meetings, elections and budgets. The clerk of any school district in which a newspaper is published shall publish a notice of each annual and each special school meeting or election in one or more of the newspapers published in the district and having a general circulation in the district. The publication shall be once a week for two successive weeks immediately preceding such meeting If no such newspaper is published in the district, the clerk shall post said notice on the door of the schoolhouse and in two other public places in the district for at least 10 days immediately preceding such meeting. However, for any school meeting called for the purpose of a hearing on the school budget, or for levying any school tax, the notices of meeting and the publication of the budget shall be governed by the provisions of ORS 294 365, except that third class districts which do not operate a high school shall follow the provisions of ORS 328.515 and 328 535

331.020 Qualifications of school voters. Any person who is a registered voter in a precinct or part of a precinct within a school district 30 days prior to a school meeting or election and who has continuously resided in the school district six months immediately prior to the meeting or election and who is actually present at the meeting or election shall be entitled to vote on any matter before the meeting or election. A registered voter is defined as one who has registered under the general election laws with the county clerk 30 days before a school district meeting or election.

331.030 List of voters. On request of the district school clerk, the county clerk shall prepare a list or lists of names and addresses of the registered voters of the precinct or precincts that are within the boundaries of the school district or overlap the same, who were registered at least 30 days prior to such meeting or election. The county clerk may make a reasonable charge for preparing such lists, and the district school clerk is authorized to pay for the same from school district funds, but such payment shall not be in excess of the statutory fee.

331.040 Challenging voters. The chairman of any school meeting, judge of an election or any qualified elector may challenge

any registered voter who offers to vote at such meeting or election. In case an elector has been challenged, the chairman or judge of the meeting or election shall administer to each person challenged an oath that he will answer truly all questions propounded to him touching on his qualifications as an elector at the meeting or election. Upon taking the oath, the chairman or judge shall interrogate him respecting his place of residence and length of residence in the district If the elector so challenged swears that he is and has been a resident in the school district continuously for six months immediately prior to the meeting or election and if he is a registered voter, as provided in ORS 331.020, he shall be allowed to vote

331.050 to 331.100 [Reserved for expansion]

ELECTIONS IN DISTRICTS WITH OVER 100,000 POPULATION

331.110 Manner of holding elections. In school districts having a population of more than 100,000 inhabitants according to the United States census, elections upon all matters which may be placed before the electorate of such districts shall be held as provided in ORS 331 120 to 331.180

331.120 Election of directors; applicability of election statutes. At each primary election, school directors shall be elected for a term of four years to succeed the directors whose terms of office expire on June 30 of that year. All elections of school directors shall be held subject to the provisions of ORS 251 310 to 251 410, 255.010 to 255.070, 255.990 and 260 010 to 260 530, so far as applicable

331.130 Initiative, referendum, recall and submissions to electorate. The powers of initiative, referendum and recall reserved to the people of such districts by sections 1 and 1a, Article IV of the Oregon Constitution, and section 18, Article II of said Constitution may be exercised at any primary election, any general election or any special election called as provided in ORS 331 140. There may be submitted at any such election to the electorate of such districts the matter of recall of school directors, questions as to the issuance of bonds, the levy of taxes for the support of public schools which may not be levied without the affirmative vote of the people, and any other

questions concerning the public schools which may be submitted to the electorate of such districts under the powers of initiative and referendum. The provisions of ORS 331.110 to 331.180 shall be liberally construed to the end that the power to submit the matters aforesaid to the electors of such districts at elections conducted in compliance with the provisions of ORS 331.110 to 331.180 shall be sustained.

331.140 Special elections. In any year during which no primary or general election is held, the district school board of such school districts may call a special election at any time upon questions as to the issuance of bonds, the levy of taxes which may not be levied without the affirmative vote of the people, the recall of directors, and any other school questions which may be submitted to the electorate of such districts. upon such notice as may be elsewhere provided by law upon such questions and, if no notice is specified elsewhere, upon 20 days notice duly published in a newspaper of general circulation in the district. The notice shall specify the election date and contain the text of the matters to be voted upon A special election may be called to be held in conjunction with any other special election held in the district in such year

331.150 Questions submitted to electorate by resolution of school board. Any of the questions mentioned in ORS 331.130 and 331.140 to be submitted to the electorate of any such district shall be submitted by resolution of its school board. The resolution shall specify the questions to be voted upon and the date for holding any special election A certified copy of such resolution shall be transmitted by the school clerk to the registrar of elections for the county wherein such district is located The district school board may adopt such resolution of its own volition and shall adopt such resolution when petitioned by the requisite number of legal voters of the district.

331.160 Ballots; canvass and return of votes. The registrar of elections of the county in which such district is located shall provide uniform printed ballots which shall contain the names of each candidate for the office of school director whose certificate of nomination has been duly made and filed as provided in ORS 331 170 and the ballot title and text of all measures submitted to the

electorate. The canvass and return of votes shall be conducted in the same manner and under the same penalties as prescribed by law relative to elections.

331.170 Nomination of directors. The name of any person qualified under ORS 332 450 shall be placed on the ballot as a candidate for the office of school director upon the filing with the registrar of elections of the county in which such school district is located, at least 70 days prior to the date of the primary election, a certificate of nomination signed by not less than two percent of the qualified electors within the territorial limits of such school district voting for the office of school director at the last election at which directors were elected, or, in lieu of such petition, the name of any person qualified to be a school director shall be placed on the ballot as a candidate for such office upon the payment to the registrar of elections of a \$10 fee and the filing with such registrar of a certificate of nomination signed by at least 300 qualified electors within the territorial limits of the district. However, unless such nominee files with the registrar of elections an acceptance of his nomination at least 70 days prior to the date of such election, such nomination shall be void.

331.180 Election costs. The school district shall pay to the county treasurer the actual cost of printing ballots and tally sheets for each election conducted under ORS 331.110 to 331.180 and the cost of checking signatures on certificates of nomination, together with such proportionate part of the general expenses of such election as may be agreed upon by the district school board and the board of county commissioners If the election is a special election not conducted in conjunction with any other election, then the school district shall pay the entire cost thereof.

331.190 to 331.300 [Reserved for expansion]

ELECTIONS IN FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD CLASS AND UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS

331.310 Plurality elects; tie vote. The candidate for the office of director of a school district who receives the plurality of the votes shall be elected A tie at an election of school officers shall be decided by lot.

331.320 Election procedure generally in first class districts and union high school districts. (1) Districts of the first class with a population of less than 100,000 persons shall elect directors for each district on the third Monday in June to serve as provided by law. In all first class districts with a population of less than 100,000 persons and all union high school districts such annual and all special elections, including bond elections, shall be held from 2 pm until 8 pm, and shall be by ballot The ballots shall be uniform, and shall be provided by the district school board. The judges and clerks of such elections shall be qualified electors appointed by the district school board to receive the vote and report the results to the board. The annual school election and all other regular or special school elections shall be held at a place or places determined by the district school board, but schoolhouses shall be used as polling places in all cases where it is convenient so to do.

(2) The district school board of any such district may subdivide the district into school election precincts for the holding of all elections within the district, and may change and alter such precincts as often as the occasion may require. The district school board shall appoint one election board for each school election precinct in the district Such election boards shall be comprised of one chairman and at least two clerks and shall be appointed not less than 20 days prior to the date of any school election. Their duties shall, so far as practicable, conform to the election board duties as fixed in the general laws of the State of Oregon If a vacancy occurs in any such election board subsequent to appointment and prior to the election, the district clerk hereby is empowered to fill such vacancy When the polls are closed each election board shall certify and report the results to the school board who shall in turn canvass the vote and report the results to the county superintendent and, in cases of tax or bond elections, also to the county treasurer

331.330 Director nominations and ballots in first class districts. (1) The name of any qualified elector shall be placed on the ballot as a candidate for the office of school director of a first class district upon filing with the district clerk, at least seven days prior to the date of the election, a certificate of nomination signed by not less than three percent of the number, and in no case

by less than 10 persons, of the qualified electors voting for the office of school director at the last annual school election in the district However, unless an acceptance of nomination by the nominee is filed with the district clerk at least five days prior to the date of such election, such nomination shall be void.

(2) The first class district school board shall provide uniform printed ballots containing the names of all candidates for the office of director whose certificates of nomination have been made and filed as provided in this section. At the end of the list of candidates nominated there shall be added a number of blank spaces equal to the number of directors to be elected, in which the elector may write the names of persons not printed on the ballot for whom he wishes to vote

331.340 Election of additional directors in districts attaining 1,000 school population. Whenever the school population of any district reaches 1,000 or more, as shown by the annual census of the district clerk, the district school board of such district shall give notice that at the next election two directors are to be elected, who shall serve three and four years, respectively, and after such election such district shall be a first class district

331.350 Number of directors elected annually in first class districts; term of office. In first class districts, one director shall be elected at each annual election for a five-year term

331.360 Elections in second and third class districts; director's term of office.
(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, one director shall be elected by ballot at the annual school meeting of each second and third class school district. The director shall hold office for three years. The ballots at the election in such district shall not be counted until an hour after the time set for such election. Until the ballots are counted, any legal voter of the district is entitled to vote upon any matter before the meeting.

(2) When authorized by a majority vote of the legal voters present at any legally called school meeting, second class districts may hold elections in the manner prescribed by ORS 331 320 for holding elections in first class districts.

331.370 to 331.400 [Reserved for expansion]

RECALL ELECTIONS

331.410 Recall of school directors. Every school director is subject to recall by the legal voters of the school district for which he is elected or appointed

331.420 Recall petitions. After filing with the district clerk a petition signed by a number of legal voters of the district equal to 15 percent of the number of children of school age in the district as shown by the last preceding school census, the legal voters of the district may at the next annual school election recall not to exceed two directors The petition shall be filed with the clerk at least 20 days and not more than 60 days before the annual school meeting or election at which directors are required by law to be elected When the district clerk has filed petitions for recall of two directors, he shall file no further recall petitions before the annual school election next succeeding. The petition may or may not nominate a candidate to be voted upon at such election for the office of each director proposed to be recalled; and if it does, the petition shall specify the director whom the nominated candidate is to succeed.

331.430 Reason for recall to be stated; verification of petition; persons ineligible to sign or circulate petition. (1) Every petition for the recall of a school director shall set forth concisely the reason why a recall is demanded. The petition shall be verified by the oath of a legal voter of such school district, showing that each signer of the petition is a legal voter of the district and that the signatures on the petition are genuine

(2) No school superintendent, supervisor, director, clerk, other school district officer, person employed as a principal or teacher in any school in the district or any student of a school in such district shall sign or circulate any recall petition. If any such disqualified person signs, his name shall not be counted thereon, and if any such disqualified person circulates any such petition, any election held by reason of the filing of such petition may be declared void in a proper proceeding in a court of competent jurisdiction, but shall not be deemed invalid unless so declared

331.440 Notice of election. Within 10 days after the filing of any recall petition, the district clerk with whom such petition is filed shall post, in three public places of the district, notice of the filing of such petition, stating the date of the filing, the name of each director to be recalled, the name of any candidate proposed to succeed such director and the time and place of the election, shall be the time and place of the regular annual school election. If a newspaper is published in such school district, the clerk shall also cause such notice to be published in at least one issue of one such newspaper at least 10 days before the recall election The expense of publication shall be audited and paid by the district school board from the school district funds

331.450 Candidates; term of successor; election procedure. (1) At the recall election the director in office who is the subject of the recall petition shall be considered a candidate for re-election, unless he resigns If he offers his resignation prior to the election, it shall be accepted and take effect on the day of the election. The vacancy thereby created shall be filled by the legal voters at such election.

- (2) Candidates other than those named in the recall petition may be placed in nomination in the manner in which other candidates for director are nominated. Unless sooner recalled, the director elected to succeed the resigning or recalled director shall hold office for the unexpired term of the resigning or recalled director.
- (3) The recall election procedure and the method of determining the result shall be the same as is provided by law for the election of school directors in the district involved

331.460 to 331.500 [Reserved for expansion]

SCHOOL MEETINGS

331.510 School meetings; fiscal school year. (1) The legal school voters of each second and third class school district shall meet once every year, which meeting shall be known as the annual school meeting They may hold special meetings as the interests of such district require.

(2) The annual school meeting shall be held on the third Monday in June, or, if it is a legal holiday, the next day thereafter,

for the transaction of such business as shall properly come before it.

(3) The fiscal school year shall begin on July 1 and end on June 30 of the year following.

331.520 Call for meetings. All school meetings must be convened by a written call stating the objects of such meeting, signed by the chairman of the board and the district clerk or by a majority of the district school board.

331.530 Chairman of meetings. The director who has served the longest time as such shall act as chairman of district meetings, and in case of his absence, the other directors in the order of such seniority. In case neither of the directors is present at a district meeting, the qualified voters present shall elect a chairman.

331.540 Conduct of meetings. All district school meetings shall be conducted in a decent and orderly manner, and shall be governed by the rules of order commonly in use by such bodies; provided, that a division shall be granted if demanded by two or more voters of the meeting, except in cases of an election to fill vacancies of district officers.

331.550 Adjournment of school meetings; minutes. School meetings have power to adjourn from time to time. The minutes of all such meetings shall be signed by its chairman and secretary.

331.560 to 331.980 [Reserved for expansion]

PENALTIES

331.990 Penalties. Violation of any of the provisions of ORS 331.010 or 331.310 to 331.550 is a misdemeanor.