

# Consider Running for Your Governing Board (School Board)

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For many years a majority of voters in our country have ignored public school education (K-12). Have you ever found yourself saying that we need civics, history, or X, Y, or Z subjects taught in our schools? Or, why are we spending time on X, Y, or Z subjects when our kids can't read or write proficiently or figure out how to make change?

If you are concerned about what is or is not being taught in our public schools, please consider running for your district's governing board (school board). Half of the board's seats are up for election every 2 years, in most, if not all, districts in Arizona.

You should be familiar with Arizona State Constitution Article 11, which gives the Arizona State Legislature the authority to make laws concerning education in this state. There isn't much to read there, but it is where the legislature gets its authority to make laws concerning education.

<https://www.azleg.gov/constitution/>

The laws that govern public education within this state are found in Title 15 of the Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS). The "Powers and Duties of School District Governing Boards" are found in Chapter 3, Article 3 of Title 15.

<https://www.azleg.gov/arstitle/>

## **Not Interested in Running?**

You should be familiar with the statutes that govern the board even if you are not interested in running for the office. Too many times candidates are never asked specific questions about their duties and powers. Too many candidates are elected because they seem nice or have many degrees.

The candidates for your school board live within the district. Seek them out and question them about their views and the extent of their knowledge of their duties and powers according to the ARS.

Whether you have children in the school system or not, you pay property taxes. A major portion of your property taxes supports your school district. Funding from the state is separate. You have a say in how it is spent through your vote and your ability to influence board members.