



GOWANDA CENTRAL SCHOOL

Preparing our students to be leaders and citizens who are ready to be successful and embrace a changing world

Dear Prospective Candidate:

Thank you for your interest in the education of the children of Gowanda Central School. Below are guidelines to follow regarding your candidacy.

1. In order to be a Board of Education member certain qualifications must be met:
 - a. Must be able to read and write §2102
 - b. Must be a qualified voter of the district, that is, a citizen of the United States or an Indian having been born in the United States to a member of an Indian Tribe or having been naturalized or otherwise acquired citizenship, at least 18 years of age or older, and not a convicted felon or adjudged as incompetent §2102,2012,2502(7); Elec. Law §5-106(6)
 - c. Must be and have been a resident of the district for at least one year prior to the election, but need not be a taxpayer §2502(9-a)(d)
 - d. May not reside with another member of the same school board as a member of the same family §2103(3)
 - e. May not be a current employee of the school board §2103(4)
 - f. May not simultaneously hold another incompatible public office §2553(1);2590-c,(4);2590-c(4)
2. Petitions must be signed by **25** qualified voters of the district and filed with the District Clerk at the High School not later than **Monday, April 20, 2026** between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
 - a. Signatures must be accompanied by residential address
 - b. Number of signatures must be **25 or 2** percent of annual election voter attendance in the 2024 election, whichever is higher. **(271 voters at last annual election vote, 2% of that count is 5)**
3. Poll positions for all candidates will be drawn **Tuesday, April 21, 2026** at 11:00 a.m. in the office of the District Clerk, High School. If you are unable to attend, you may designate another individual as your proxy. A proxy form is enclosed.
4. Voting for Board of Education candidates and the 2026-2027 budget vote and propositions will be held May 19, 2026.
5. All candidates will be informed of the election results via a letter or phone call on May 20, 2026.

All School Board candidates must file a sworn statement of all campaign expenditures on their behalf in excess of \$500 with both the District Clerk and the Commissioner of Education (§1528-1531). Candidates who spend less than \$500 instead may file a sworn statement indicating this is to be the case with the District Clerk (§1528).

The statement of expenditures in excess of \$500 must list the amounts of all money or other valuable things paid, given, expended or promised by the candidate, or incurred for or on the candidate's behalf with his or her approval, and be filed with the District Clerk and the Commissioner of Education (§1528). The name and address of the transferor or contributor or person from whom the money or contribution was received must be included. If the transferor, contributor or person is a political committee the name of the political unit, date of receipt and dollar amount of every expenditure must be provided.

A preliminary statement must be filed on or before the election, April 20, 2026, a second statement must be filed on or before the fifth (5th) day before the election, May 14, 2026 and a final statement must be filed within twenty (20) days after the election (§1529(1)), June 8, 2026.

The Board of Education holds regularly scheduled meetings every second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Meetings may be scheduled more frequently as needed. Your term would begin July 1, 2026 or immediately following the election. You will be sworn in at the next board meeting or at the annual school board meeting, Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

If you have any questions, please feel free to phone the office of the District Clerk, 716-532-3325 ext. 6300 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:15 p.m.

Sincerely,



Kathy Ferone
District Clerk

Enclosures
Petition Form
Campaign Expenditure Statement
Second Campaign Expenditure Statement
Final Campaign Expenditure Statement

Gowanda Central School District
PETITION TO NOMINATE A BOARD MEMBER

TO: District Clerk, Board of Education
Gowanda Central School District

We, the undersigned qualified voters of Gowanda Central School District do hereby nominate

_____ whose residential address is:

Address

Village or Town

Contact Number

Email

as a member of the Board of Education of Gowanda Central School District to serve commencing July 1, 2026. The Board Candidate will conform to Chapter 359 of the Laws of 1978 to file sworn statements of campaign expenses (forms enclosed in packet).

PETITIONS MUST BE SIGNED IN INK

Name of Qualified Voter (Printed)	Actual Residential Address of Qualified Voter (No PO Box) (Printed)	Signature
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		

This petition must be filed with the District Clerk not later than the thirtieth (30th) day preceding the district meeting or election at which the candidates so nominated are to be elected. Number of signatures required: **25 signatures will be needed.** The order of candidates' names shall be determined by lot. The candidate or designated proxy shall appear at the drawing which takes place April 21, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. If neither can appear, the District Clerk will act as proxy. The vote will be held May 19, 2026. The last date petitions may be filed is April 20, 2026 before 5:00 PM.

PETITION TO NOMINATE A BOARD MEMBER

We, the undersigned qualified voters of Gowanda Central School District, do hereby nominate:

_____ whose residence is _____
Candidate's Name Address

(Village/Town).

Name of Qualified Voter (Printed)	Actual Residential Address of Qualified Voter (No PO Box) (Printed)	Signature
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		
21.		
22.		
23.		
24.		
25.		

PETITION TO NOMINATE A BOARD MEMBER

We, the undersigned qualified voters of Gowanda Central School District, do hereby nominate:

_____ whose residence is _____
Candidate's Name Address
(Village/Town).

Name of Qualified Voter (Printed)	Actual Residential Address of Qualified Voter (No PO Box) (Printed)	Signature
26.		
27.		
28.		
29.		
30.		
31.		
32.		
33.		
34.		
35.		
36.		
37.		
38.		
39.		
40.		
41.		

PETITION TO NOMINATE A BOARD MEMBER

We, the undersigned qualified voters of Gowanda Central School District, do hereby nominate:

_____ whose residence is _____
Candidate's Name Address

(Village/Town).

Name of Qualified Voter (Printed)	Actual Residential Address of Qualified Voter (No PO Box) (Printed)	Signature
42.		
43.		
44.		
45.		
46.		
47.		
48.		
49.		
50.		
51.		
52.		
53.		
54.		
55.		
56.		
57.		
58.		

PETITION TO NOMINATE A BOARD MEMBER

We, the undersigned qualified voters of Gowanda Central School District, do hereby nominate:

_____ whose residence is _____
Candidate's Name Address

(Village/Town).

Name of Qualified Voter (Printed)	Actual Residential Address of Qualified Voter (No PO Box) (Printed)	Signature
59.		
60.		
61.		
62.		
63.		
64.		
65.		
66.		
67.		
68.		
69.		
70.		

GOWANDA CENTRAL SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES REPORT OF EXPENDITURES

TO: District Clerk
Gowanda Central School District
10674 Prospect Street
Gowanda, New York 14070

The Commissioner of Education
The University of the State of New York
The State Education Department
Albany, New York 12234

BY: REGISTERED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED*

DATE: **Due April 20, 2026**

I, _____(candidate's name), being duly sworn, depose and say:

1. I reside at _____, _____, New York, _____
in the County of _____.

2. I am a candidate for member of the Board of Education of Gowanda Central School District in the election to be held on May 19, 2026.

3. To and including the date immediately preceding the date hereof, I received the following contributions in support of my campaign: **

SOURCE

AMOUNT

TOTAL

\$_____

4. I have personally expended the following in support of my campaign or to aid or influence the nomination or defeat of another candidate in the same election:

NATURE OF EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
TOTAL	\$_____

5. The following have, with my approval, made the indicated expenditures in support of my campaign or to aid or influence the nomination or defeat of another candidate in the same election:

PERSON, FIRM, ASSOCIATION OR CORPORATION	NATURE OF EXPEND.	AMOUNT
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
TOTAL		\$_____

6. The above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Candidate's Signature ***

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this _____ day of _____ 2026.

Seal

* Registered mail is required. Return receipt requested is not required, but is advisable.

** References to "contributions" are made in Article 32 of the Education Law, but it is not entirely clear that these must be reported.

*** Sign only in the presence of the notary after he/she has sworn you.

GOWANDA CENTRAL SCHOOL
SECOND PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES REPORT OF EXPENDITURES

TO: District Clerk
Gowanda Central School District
10674 Prospect Street
Gowanda, New York 14070

The Commissioner of Education
The University of the State of New York
The State Education Department
Albany, New York 12234

BY: REGISTERED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED*

DATE: **Due May 14, 2026**

I, _____ (candidate's name), being duly sworn, depose and say:

1. I reside at _____, _____, New York, _____
in the County of _____.
2. I am a candidate for member of the Board of Education of Gowanda Central School District in the election to be held on May 19, 2026.
3. To and including the date immediately preceding the date hereof, I received the following contributions in support of my campaign: **

SOURCE

AMOUNT

TOTAL \$ _____

4. I have personally expended the following in support of my campaign or to aid or influence the nomination or defeat of another candidate in the same election:

NATURE OF EXPENDITURE

AMOUNT

TOTAL

\$_____

5. The following have, with my approval, made the indicated expenditures in support of my campaign or to aid or influence the nomination or defeat of another candidate in the same election:

PERSON, FIRM, ASSOCIATION OR CORPORATION

NATURE OF EXPENDITURE

AMOUNT

TOTAL \$_____

6. The above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Candidate's Signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this _____ day of _____ 2026.

Seal

* Registered mail is required. Return receipt requested is not required, but is advisable.

** References to "contributions" are made in Article 32 of the Education Law, but it is not entirely clear that these must be reported.

*** Sign only in the presence of the notary after he/she has sworn you.



GOWANDA CENTRAL SCHOOL

Preparing our students to be leaders and citizens who are ready to be
successful and embrace a changing world

PROXY AUTHORITY

Date: _____

_____ may act as proxy for _____
DESIGNATED PROXY BOE CANDIDATE

due to the absence of candidate for member of the Board of Education at the poll
position drawing at 11:00 a.m. on April 21, 2026. He/she will be absent for the drawing
by lot to determine his/her position on the voting machine at the annual voting.

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE

NOTE: Annual Voting Date is May 19, 2026
Gowanda Middle School Library

GOWANDA CENTRAL SCHOOL
FINAL STATEMENT

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES REPORT OF EXPENDITURES

TO: District Clerk
Gowanda Central School District
10674 Prospect Street
Gowanda, New York 14070

The Commissioner of Education
The University of the State of New York
The State Education Department
Albany, New York 12234

BY: REGISTERED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED*

DATE: **Due June 8, 2026**

I, _____(candidate's name), being duly sworn, depose and say:

1. I reside at _____, _____, New York, _____
in the County of _____.
2. I am a candidate for member of the Board of Education of Gowanda Central School District in the election to be held on May 19, 2026.
3. To and including the date immediately preceding the date hereof, I received the following contributions in support of my campaign: **

SOURCE

AMOUNT

TOTAL

\$_____

4. I have personally expended the following in support of my campaign or to aid or influence the nomination or defeat of another candidate in the same election:

NATURE OF EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
TOTAL	\$_____

5. The following have, with my approval, made the indicated expenditures in support of my campaign or to aid or influence the nomination or defeat of another candidate in the same election:

PERSON, FIRM, ASSOCIATION OR CORPORATION	NATURE OF EXPEND.	AMOUNT
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
TOTAL		\$_____

6. The following is a summary of expenditures and contributions reported in my first statement dated _____.

Total contributions previously reported: \$_____

Total expenditures made by me previously reported: \$_____

Total expenditures made by others with my approval previously reported: \$_____

7. The above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Candidate's Signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this _____ day of _____ 2026.

Seal

* Registered mail is required. Return receipt requested is not required, but is advisable.

** References to "contributions" are made in Article 32 of the Education Law, but it is not entirely clear that these must be reported.

*** Sign only in the presence of the notary after he/she has sworn you.



Qualifications & Questions

When Running for a School Board

Education Law governs school board elections in New York State. The following eligibility requirements must be met:

- *Be able to read and write.*
- *Be a citizen of the United States.*
- *Be 18 years of age or older.*
- *Be a resident of the school district for at least the past year on election day. (moving within the district is allowed).*
- *Not be a district employee (You may be an employee of BOCES or employed by another district).*
- *Not be a convicted felon (unless you have a certificate of relief).*
- *Not be in the family of a currently seated board member (ie...spouse, relative in the same home).*

Know your role as a School Board Member:

A board member has three main jobs. An individual board member cannot make decisions. Decisions are made when the board meets in public as a board. A board member's three primary responsibilities are to:

- *Approve of an annual budget.*
- *Hire the Superintendent.*
- *Establish Policy.*

** In addition, the board member needs to develop a clear vision and goals for the district. The vision and goals will help to define policies and procedures and establish the framework for the budget. School Board Members serve as leaders in the community and are advocates for students, the school district and public education.*

What Questions Should I Consider Before Deciding to Run for the School Board?:

- What skills do I bring to board service?***
- What goals do I have for the district?***
- How much time do I have to devote to board service?***
- Am I willing to attend workshops and information sessions to learn more about public education and information that will help me to do my job?***

Are there Limitations?

As a School Board Member, there are powers that are defined by statutes in sections 1709, 1804, 2503, and 2554 of New York State law. Additional powers are defined in the following areas:

- The Constitution***
- Federal and State Laws and Regulations***
- Board of Regents***
- Board of Education Policies***
- Contracts***

What is the time commitment necessary to do the job well?

This will vary slightly district by district based on the number of meetings, board practices and committee membership. Board service can require between 10-20 hours per week /month and will include:

- Reading of board packets, reading reference and educational materials and getting any questions clarified by the board president or superintendent prior to board meetings.***
- Attending board meetings, work sessions, committee meetings, workshops, and retreats.***
- Attending other venues ie...community groups, booster clubs, parent groups, community forums.***
- Attending student performances, art shows, athletic events and public hearings .***
- Attending staff and student celebrations and recognitions such as graduation, end of year banquets, retirement events.***
- Attending professional development programs through Erie County Association of School Boards, New York State School Boards Associations, and other***

organizations.

How Do I Get Started?

- Nominating Petitions will be obtained by the District Clerk. District clerks will provide you with guiding documents which will outline the number of signatures required as well as important dates.

- Petition must be filed on time. For 20__ the deadline is _____ (month) _____ (date) at _____ pm.

- Only district residents may sign your petition.

- Ballot petitions is based on a lottery the day after petitions are due.

- Keep track of all expenses and report them on the appropriate forms:

- 30 days before the vote.

- 5 days before the vote.

- 20 days after the vote (even if you don't win).

**Expenses in excess of \$500 must be reported to the Commissioner of Education at the State Education Department.*

Is Serving On a Board of Education Right For Me?

Serving on a board means working as part of a team. As a board member you will be responsible for conducting all the district's business, not just on one or two issues that you may have campaigned for. Additionally, you should ask yourself the following questions:

- Am I a life long learner?

- Am I willing to keep an open mind and listen to all viewpoints?

- Am I able to maintain confidentiality? Failure to do so could result in you being sued in a court of law as an individual.

- Can I support Board decisions even though I may be in the minority?

- Am I good listener and good communicator?

- Am I able to follow rules and policies.

- Can I support what is best for children at all times?

Resources Available to You As A Board Member:

The following resources are available to you as a board member, and may assist you in getting to know the District that you are hoping to serve:

- 
- *District Website*
 - *District Vision and Mission Statements*
 - *Board of Education Policy Manual*
 - *Board meeting agendas and minutes*
 - *District mailings, Budget Newsletter,*
 - *District Code of Conduct*
 - *New York State Education Law Book*
 - *Erie County Association of School Boards resources: (library, website, etc.)*
 - *New York State School Board Association resources*

Be Aware:

Once you are elected to serve on the School Board, you will have up to 1 year to complete your 6 hour mandated training course in Governance Training and 6 hour mandated training in Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training. Failure to complete the training will result in your inability to serve on the Board of Education .

Campaigning for The School Board:

- *Prepare a brief bio and have picture available for district newsletter and/or local newspaper as well as for any flyers you may produce.*
- *Establish a budget for both your time and money. Save all receipts.*
- *Be wary of social media.*
- *Be cautious about making campaign promises you may not be able to keep because you are not familiar with the policies, procedures, your role as a board member or the laws.*
- *Decide on whether you will see endorsements .*
- *Be aware of electioneering. You may not have signs or solicit votes within 100 feet of the polling locations. You may not use district communication channels (includes PTSA organizations to distribute campaign materials.*
- *Be available for “Meet the Candidate Nights”.*
- *Be respectful of returning calls in a timely fashion to your constituents, the media, and the clerk of the board.*

- *For additional resources and information, contact your district clerk or Erie County Association of School Boards.*
- *2/15/2021*

RUNNING FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD



What all prospective school board
members should know



Commitment to Public Education

A school board member takes on one of the most important citizen responsibilities: overseeing the education of the community's youth. In these challenging times for public education, school boards are seeking men and women who find excitement and satisfaction in confronting tough challenges and working collegially to rise above them and help students in their communities succeed.

The board of education is a uniquely American institution. It oversees and manages the community's public school system. It ensures the public schools are flexible and responsive to the needs of the community.

School boards are comprised of volunteers within the community who dedicate their time to better public education. Except for those in Yonkers and New York City, board members are elected.

The size of a school board depends on the type of school district but generally ranges between three and nine members. With limited exceptions, school board members serve three-, four- or five-year terms. Terms are staggered so all board positions are never open at the same time. Voters have the power to change the size of the board as set forth within the law.

RUNNING FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD



Responsibilities of a board member

With schoolchildren always their ultimate focus, school board members act officially at the board table, working with other board members to serve students and accomplish the following:

- Create a shared vision for the future of education
- Set the direction of the school district to achieve the highest student performance
- Provide rigorous accountability for student achievement results
- Develop a budget and present it to the community, aligning district resources to improve achievement
- Support a healthy school district culture for work and learning
- Create strategic partnerships with the community stakeholders
- Build the district's progress through continuous improvement
- Adopt and maintain current policies
- Hire and evaluate the superintendent
- Ratify collective bargaining agreements
- Maintain strong ethical standards

Characteristics of a board member

Below are attributes that all effective board members should possess.

- **Effective Communicator:** Can describe what he or she wants and describe what others want; a good listener
- **Consensus Builder:** Capable of working toward decisions that all can support and willing to compromise to achieve goals
- **Community Participant:** Enjoys meeting a variety of people, can identify the community's key communicators and reaches out to the community
- **Decision Maker:** Is comfortable making decisions and can support group decision-making
- **Information Processor:** Can organize priorities and schedules to handle large amounts of verbal and written information
- **Leader:** Willing to take risks, be supportive of board colleagues, district staff and community
- **Team Player:** Helps promote the board's vision and goals

Running for Your Local School Board

Once you have made the commitment to run for your local school board, there are requirements, deadlines, and processes that must be adhered to.



*2026 Dates
to Remember*

April 20 – Petition must be filed for central, union free and common school districts

April 29 – Petition must be filed for all small city school districts

May 19 – Budget Vote & Election Day

Eligibility Requirements

Generally, school board candidates must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, qualified voters in the school district and able to read and write. They must be residents of their districts continuously for one year (as little as 30 days or as long as three years in some city school districts) before the election. They cannot be employed by the board on which they will serve or live in the same household with a family member who is also a member of the same school board.

Nominating Petitions

The requirements for filing nominating petitions for a school board vary depending upon the type of school district. Generally, candidates must submit a nominating petition to the school district clerk. The petition must be signed by at least 25 qualified district voters or two percent of the number of those who voted in the previous annual election, whichever number is greater. In small city school districts, nominating petitions must be signed by at least 100 qualified voters.

The petition must include the following:

- Candidate's name and residence
- Vacancy in question
- Incumbent's name (if any)
- Residences of the persons who signed the petition
- Length of the term of office for which the candidate is being nominated

Blank petitions are often available from the district clerk.

If a school district runs for seats "at large" such that each nominee is eligible for each vacancy, the nominating petition does not need to identify the specific incumbent's seat the nominee is seeking. This petition must be filed with the district clerk at least 30 days (20 days in small city districts) before the election, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. In 2026 nominating petitions in small city school districts must be filed by April 29th, in other districts nominating petitions must be filed by April 20th.

Campaigning

Once the petition is filed, the next step is to gather support. State law requires all candidates for election to a board of education to file a sworn statement with the district clerk disclosing both their campaign expenses and contributions received. Statements must be filed at three different times during the election period. If contributions received or expenditures made by the candidate or by the candidate plus others on the candidate's behalf exceed \$500, a statement also should be filed with the commissioner of education. Expenditures of not more than \$25 may be made without the candidate's permission if the donor or donors file a sworn statement with the clerk and the commissioner stating that the candidate did not approve the expenditure.

The expenditure and contribution statement prepared for the Commissioner of Education should be mailed to:
Commissioner of Education
c/o Educational Management Services
89 Washington Avenue, 1075 EBA
Albany, NY 12234



Election

By state law, school board and budget elections, in all districts except the Big 5 (Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers), must be held on the third Tuesday in May. In 2026, the budget vote and election occurs on May 19th.

New York State School Boards Association

If you are elected, you don't need to face this new challenge alone. The New York State School Boards Association is here to help you!

The New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) was founded in 1896 in Utica, New York. With over 100 years of commitment, NYSSBA serves as the statewide voice of more than 650 boards of education.

The Association provides current information and advice on matters affecting school boards and works with other educational and related organizations in promoting excellence in public education. Consistent with our dedication to children, learning and the community, the Association provides advocacy, information, leadership development and custom services to public school boards.



Training

Once elected, you will be required by New York State law to fulfill mandatory training within your first year of service. This includes fiscal oversight training and governance skills training. NYSSBA provides convenient online courses and regional academies to fulfill these requirements and to further your knowledge of public education and your responsibilities as a board member.

NYSSBA is ready to assist you in your effort to serve your community. Good luck in your pursuit of school board service and thank you for your dedication to providing quality education for New York State public school children.

For more information on school board service training and support, visit [The School Board Member Experience at www.nyssba.org/experience](http://www.nyssba.org/experience) or contact The New York State School Boards Association at (518) 783-0200 or via email at info@nyssba.org.

