

Qualifications for County Board Membership

When recruiting and nominating Board of Elections candidates, there are several criteria to keep in mind.

(1) **Compliance for State Law.** State law prohibits certain people from serving on their County Board of Elections. County Board members must be a registered voter in the county. They may never be a candidate for office, the close relative of a candidate for office, a manager or treasurer of a candidate or campaign committee, or elected to any position within the Democratic Party (from DNC Chair, all the way down to Precinct Secretary!).

(2) **Representative of the Party's Diversity.** County Parties should strive to put forward a slate of nominees who are reflective of the diversity of the Democratic Party and the communities in your county that they will represent. A board comprised of all members of one gender, race, or ethnicity cannot adequately represent a county's voters because it is not representative of the county's voters.

(3) Showing a Demonstrated Commitment to Voting and Voting Rights.

Nominees should be knowledgeable or willing to learn about voting law and procedures. They should also be committed to breaking down barriers to voting and providing every eligible voter with the tools they need to successfully cast a ballot.

(4) **An Independent, Sophisticated, Critical Thinker.** County Boards of Elections have to make difficult decisions routinely. From setting multi-year budgets, to establishing early voting plans, County Board members will be most successful if they are prepared to ask critical questions, advocate for good decisions, and work towards creative, pro-voter solutions.

(5) **Willingness to Remain Publicly Neutral about Candidates and Campaigns during their time on the County Board.** County Board Members must refrain from making public statements that would suggest support or opposition for candidates or campaigns. This includes everything from yard signs to social media posts. This policy is further outlined on NCSBE's County Board of Elections Member Application.

A Note on Current Board Members

In many counties, current board members may indicate their willingness to continue board service for another term. While past service is valuable for the expertise and institutional knowledge it provides, you are not obligated to reappoint current board members. Please do not hesitate to nominate new prospective board members over current members if you believe they are stronger candidates.