

LINDA L. O'DELL, Ed.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT



NINA R. RUIZ  
CHIEF DEPUTY

OFFICE OF THE  
**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**  
GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA

TO: Potential Governing Board Candidate

FROM: Dr. Linda O'Dell  
Gila County Superintendent of Schools

RE: November 2014 Governing Board Elections

Thank you for requesting information regarding the process for the 2014 School District Governing Board Elections. School districts need effective community leadership to ensure high quality educational programs and effective use of available resources. Your request for election information is one measure of your interest and commitment to serve as a governing board member. We commend you for taking this first and most important step for running for an elected position and potentially serving on your district's governing board. The Gila County Schools Office is committed to providing you with the highest quality of service and technical assistance.

Our office works in collaboration with the Gila County Elections Department and the Gila County Board of Supervisors in conducting Governing Board Elections as a part of the General Election, which will be held on November 4, 2014.

**Statement of Organization or Threshold Exemption Statement**

A political Committee Statement of Organization or \$500 Threshold Exemption Statement must be filed with either the Gila County Superintendent of Schools or the Gila County Elections Department **BEFORE** making any expenditure, accepting any contributions, distributing campaign literature, or *circulating petitions*. It is unlawful for a candidate to begin any type of campaign activities before filing one or the other of these forms.

State law requires that a new Statement of Organization or \$500 Threshold Statement be filed before each election (*A.R.S. § 16-903*). Committee names must include the candidate's name (*A.R.S. § 16-902.B*). Any change of committee information, such as new officers, must be reported to the filing officer within five (5) business days. These changes are reported by filing an amended Statement of Organization.

**Petition Signature Filing**

Candidate filing for school district governing board candidates *begins* at 8:00 AM on July 7, 2014. The *deadline* for filing **NON-PARTISAN NOMINATION PETITION** signatures and nomination papers for your school district governing board candidacy is 5:00 PM on August 6, 2014. Petitions presented after 5:00 PM on August 6 cannot be accepted (*A.R.S. § 16-311.F*). Your signed *Non-partisan Nomination Petitions* and *Nomination Paper/Affidavit of Qualification* can be filed with the Gila County Superintendent of Schools (offices in Globe or Payson) or the Gila County Elections Department in Globe.

**Candidates for Two (2) Year Terms**

If you are a candidate for a *two (2) year Governing Board term*, you **MUST** designate the expiration of the term following the name of the office you are seeking on the petitions prior to gathering signatures; this information must also be included on the nomination papers. Please contact Susan O'Connor or Margie Velasquez at the Gila County School Superintendent's office if you have any questions about this issue.

1400 E. ASH STREET • GLOBE, AZ 85501 • PHONE 928.402.8784 • FAX 902.402.0038  
112 W. CEDAR LANE • PAYSON, AZ 85541 • PHONE 928.472.5371 • FAX 928.472.5376

**Filing of Statement of Organization/Threshold Exemption Statements, Nomination Papers, and Nomination Petitions:**

Statements of Organization/\$500 Threshold Exemption Statements, nomination papers, and signed nomination petitions can be filed at any of the locations listed below:

Gila County School Superintendent's Office  
1400 East Ash Street  
Globe, AZ 85501  
Phone: (928) 402-8784 (Susan O'Connor or Margie Velasquez)

Gila County School Superintendent's Office  
112 West Cedar Lane  
Payson, AZ 85541  
Phone: (928) 472-5371 (Linda O'Dell)

Gila County Elections Department  
Eric Mariscal, Director  
5515 South Apache Avenue, Suite 900  
Globe, AZ 85501  
Phone: (928) 402-8709

**Candidate Statement**

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-421, each candidate whose name has been certified to appear on the election ballot shall submit the following to the Gila County School Superintendent's Office:

1. A recent photograph
2. A typewritten or electronic statement, not to exceed 500 words.

Certified candidates may begin submitting their photograph and written statement NO EARLIER THAN August 7, 2014 and NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM September 11, 2014. Submissions will be accepted at our Globe or Payson office or by e-mail to Susan O'Connor: [soconnor@gilacountyaz.gov](mailto:soconnor@gilacountyaz.gov). Please use the Personal Identification Number issued to you at the time of initial petition filing when submitting your photograph and written statement to our office.

**Cancellation of Election**

Please note that, in the event that only one candidate or no candidate files qualified nomination papers for each school district governing board member position by August 21, 2014, the Gila County Board of Supervisors (BOS) may opt to cancel the election for that district (A.R.S. § 15-424.D). Under these circumstances, the candidate who has filed in a timely and appropriate manner may be appointed by the BOS *as if elected* to fill the school district's governing board position. If no candidate files, and the BOS votes to cancel the election, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Gila County Superintendent of Schools (A.R.S. §§ 15-424.D and 15-302). The deadline for write-in candidates is August 20, 2014.

*This packet has been prepared for your convenience in order to inform you of the requirements involved with the election process. All documents included in this packet are also available on our website at [www.gilacountyschools.org](http://www.gilacountyschools.org) under the Elections tab. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have regarding the election process at (928) 402-8784.*