



Special Report

IASB Commentary on Education Issues

New Special Election Dates

House File 2620 made a number of changes to school elections law. The bill limits school district special elections to four dates, extends school board terms to four years and requires school elections to be held in September of odd numbered years, beginning in September, 2009. The special election restrictions are effective Jan. 1, 2009 and affect K-12 districts and community colleges. The terms of office affect K-12 districts, area education agencies and community colleges.

The bill inadvertently prohibits the use of special elections to impose or extend a physical plant and equipment levy (PEEL) and restricts PEEL votes to the regular school election in September of odd numbered years. IASB anticipates fixing this drafting error early in the 2009 legislative session.

The following table shows the special election dates available to schools, beginning Jan. 1, 2009:

Special School Election Dates	
Odd Years	Even Years
February – 1 st Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2009	February – 1 st Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2010
April – 1 st Tuesday, April 7, 2009	April – 1 st Tuesday, April 6, 2010
June – last Tuesday, June 30, 2009	
September – 2 nd Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009 (with school board election)	September – 2 nd Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2010 (No school board election)
	December – 1 st Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010

Please note that for bond issues, revenue purpose statements and instructional support levies there are limitations on how soon you can go try a new vote after a failed vote. The chart recognizes this on the next page and identifies the next possible election date should a vote fail.

Regular and Special Election Dates and Minimum Timelines*					
Election Dates	12/30/2008	2/3/2009	4/7/2009	6/30/2009	9/8/2009
Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PEEL)					
Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PEEL)	11/27/2008	12/31/2008	3/5/2009	5/28/2009	7/28/2009
Last Possible Day to Begin Process	11/28/2008				7/29/2009
Should it Fail, Next Election Date Possible	9/8/2009				9/14/2010
Revenue Purpose Statement - Sales Tax (RPS)					
Last Possible Day to Begin Process	11/27/2008	12/31/2008	3/5/2009	5/28/2009	7/28/2009
Should it Fail, Next Election Date Possible (Min. 6 months)	9/8/2009	9/8/2009	2/2/2010	2/2/2010	12/7/2010
Bond Issue**					
Last Possible Day to Begin Process	11/13/2008	12/17/2008	2/19/2009	5/14/2009	7/14/2009
Should it Fail, Next Election Date Possible (Min. 6 months)	9/8/2009	9/8/2009	2/2/2010	2/2/2010	12/7/2010
Instructional Support Levy (ISL)					
Last Possible Day to Begin Process	11/14/2008	12/21/2009	2/22/2009	5/17/2009	7/18/2009
Should it Fail, Next Election Date Possible (Min. 159 days)	6/30/2009	9/8/2009	6/30/2009	2/2/2010	4/6/2010
* Minimums expressed here are the absolute minimum and do not take into account publication requirements or your local newspaper.					
** Includes a two week period to conclude petition process.					

Due to the limitations on how soon you can vote and the PEEL drafting error, IASB is already working with legislators to address these issues early in the session. The PEEL fix will likely be voted within the first or second week of session. We anticipate that the PEEL vote and the sale of property will be fixed in the same bill. We have commitments that this bill will move fast to allow school districts to transfer titles on property and hold PEEL votes more than once every two years.

Should you have any questions, contact Larry Sigel, lsigel@ia-sb.org or Mary Gannon, mgannon@ia-sb.org, or 800-795-4272.

To view House File 2620 click on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/62xesr>