

BOARD MEMBERS
VACANCIES AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

BBC
(LEGAL)

RESIGNATION	A board member may resign by delivering written notice, signed by the board member, to the presiding officer of the board. The board may not refuse to accept a resignation. <i>Election Code 201.001 (a)–(b)</i>
EFFECTIVE DATE	If a board member submits a resignation, whether to be effective immediately or at a future date, a vacancy occurs on the date the resignation is accepted by the board or on the eighth day after the date of its receipt by the board, whichever is earlier. <i>Election Code 201.023</i>
HOLDOVER DOCTRINE	All public officers shall continue to perform the duties of their offices until their successors shall be duly qualified, i.e., sworn in. Until the vacancy created by a board member's resignation is filled by a successor, the board member continues to serve and have the duties and powers of office and continues to be subject to the nepotism provision. A holdover board member may not vote on the appointment of his or her successor. <i>Tex. Const. Art. XVI, Sec. 17; Atty. Gen. Ops. JM-636 (1987), DM-2 (1991), O-6259 (1945)</i> [See DBE]
RESIDENCY	A person elected to serve as a board member must remain a resident of the college district throughout the term of office. A board member who ceases to reside in the college district vacates his or her office. <i>Tex. Const. Art. XVI, Sec. 14; Whitmarsh v. Buckley, 324 S.W.2d 298 (Tex. Civ. App. — Houston 1959, no writ)</i>
RESIDENCE DEFINED	“Residence” means domicile, one’s home and fixed place of habitation to which one intends to return after any temporary absence. A person does not lose one’s residence status by leaving to go to another place for temporary purposes only. A person does not acquire a residence in a place to which the person has come for temporary purposes only and without the intention of making that place the person's home. Residence shall be determined in accordance with the common-law rules, as enunciated by the courts of this state, except as otherwise provided by the Election Code. <i>Election Code 1.015</i>
	<hr/> Note: The issue of whether a candidate has satisfied residency requirements should be judicially determined. <i>State v. Fischer, 769 S.W.2d 619 (Tex. App.—Corpus Christi 1989, writ dismissed w.o.j)</i> <hr/>
INVOLUNTARY REMOVAL FROM OFFICE QUO WARRANTO	On his or her own motion, or at the request of an individual, the attorney general or the county district attorney may petition the district court for leave to file an action in quo warranto to remove a board member. An action in quo warranto is available if:

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1. A person usurps, intrudes into, or unlawfully holds or executes a public office; or
2. A public officer does an act or allows an act that by law causes forfeiture of office.

Civ. Prac. and Rem. Code 66.001–.002

REMOVAL BY
PETITION AND
TRIAL

A resident of the state who has lived for at least six months in the county in which the petition is to be filed and who is not currently under indictment in the county may file a petition to remove a public officer from office for one of the reasons listed below. A proceeding for removal is begun by filing a written petition for removal in a district court of the county in which the officer resides. *Local Gov't Code 87.015*

REASONS FOR
REMOVAL

A public officer may be removed from office for:

1. "Incompetency," which means:
 - a. Gross ignorance of official duties;
 - b. Gross carelessness in the discharge of those duties; or
 - c. Unfitness or inability to promptly and properly discharge official duties because of a serious physical or mental defect that did not exist at the time of election.
2. "Official misconduct," which means intentional, unlawful behavior relating to official duties by a board member entrusted with the administration of justice or the execution of the law. The term includes an intentional or corrupt failure, refusal, or neglect of a board member to perform a duty imposed on the board member by law.
3. Intoxication on or off duty caused by drinking an alcoholic beverage, but not if it was caused by drinking an alcoholic beverage on the direction and prescription of a licensed physician.
4. Conviction of a board member by a jury for any felony or for misdemeanor official misconduct. The conviction of a public officer by a petit jury for any felony or for a misdemeanor involving official misconduct operates as an immediate removal from office of that officer.
5. Nonattendance of board meetings if the member is absent from more than half of the regularly scheduled board meetings that the member is eligible to attend during a calendar year, not counting an absence for which the member is excused by a majority vote of the board.

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*Tex. Const. Art. V, Sec. 24; Local Gov't Code 87.011, .013, .031;
Education Code 130.0845*

REMOVAL FOR PURCHASING VIOLATIONS	A board member who is convicted of a purchasing offense [see CF(LEGAL), IMPERMISSIBLE PRACTICES] is considered to have committed official misconduct and is subject to removal under Local Government Code Chapter 87. <i>Education Code 44.032</i>
FILLING A VACANCY AT LARGE	Any vacancy occurring on the board through death, resignation, or otherwise, shall be filled by a special election ordered by the board or by appointment by resolution or order of the board. If the vacancy occurs on a board whose members are elected at large/by position, the person appointed to fill the unexpired term shall serve until the next regular election of members to the board, at which time the position shall be filled by election for a term appropriately shortened to conform with what regularly would have been the length of the term for that position. <i>Tex. Const. Art. XVI, Sec. 27; Education Code 130.082(d)</i>
APPOINTMENT	To be eligible to be appointed to the board, a person must have the qualifications set forth at Election Code 141.001(a). <i>Election Code 141.001(a)</i> [See BBA] An appointment to the board may be made with the intent to ensure that the board is representative of the constituency served by the board. A board that chooses this option shall adopt procedures for its implementation. <i>Local Gov't Code 180.005(b)-(c)</i>
SPECIAL ELECTION	A special election to fill a vacancy shall be conducted in the same manner as the college district's general election, except as provided in the Election Code. <i>Education Code 130.082(d)</i>
DATE OF ELECTION	A special election shall be conducted on the next uniform election date that will afford enough time to hold the election in the manner required by law. <i>Election Code 41.001(a), .004(a)</i> [See BBB]
ORDERING ELECTIONS	If a vacancy is to be filled by special election, the election shall be ordered as soon as practicable after the vacancy occurs. The special election shall be held on the first authorized uniform election date occurring on or after the 45th day after the date the election is ordered. If the special election is to be held on the date of the general election for state and county officers, the election shall be ordered not later than the 78th day before election day. The general election for state and county officers is the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even-numbered years. <i>Election Code 41.002, 201.051-.052</i>

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TEMPORARY
REPLACEMENT OF
BOARD MEMBER ON
MILITARY ACTIVE
DUTY

A board member who enters active duty in the armed forces of the United States as a result of being called to duty, drafted, or activated does not vacate the office held, but the board may appoint a replacement to serve as a temporary board member if the elected or appointed board member will be on active duty for longer than 30 days.

The board member who is temporarily replaced may recommend to the board the name of a person to temporarily fill the office. The board shall appoint the temporary board member to begin service on the date specified in writing by the board member being temporarily replaced as the date the board member will enter active military service.

A temporary board member has all the powers, privileges, and duties of the office as the board member who is temporarily replaced. A temporary board member shall perform the duties of office for the shorter period of:

1. The term of the active military service of the board member who is temporarily replaced; or
2. The term of office of the board member who is temporarily replaced.

“Armed Forces of the United States” means the United States Army, the United States Navy, the United States Air Force, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Coast Guard, any reserve or auxiliary component of any of those services, or the National Guard.

Tex. Const. Art. XVI, Sec. 72