

# Be a leader in your community

become a school board trustee



**October 16, 2017**  
**SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS**

# Be a leader in your community

become a school board trustee

## Welcome and Introduction

- Mary Martin, President, Alberta School Boards Association
- A bit more about me
- Getting to know you
- My “I” story

# **Be a leader in your community**

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## **Welcome and Introduction**

- A bit more about me

# **Be a leader in your community**

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## **Welcome and Introduction**

- A bit more about me
- Calgary Catholic School District trustee

# **Be a leader in your community**

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## **Welcome and Introduction**

- A bit more about me
- Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD) trustee
- We serve more than 55,000 students

# Be a leader in your community

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## Welcome and Introduction

- A bit more about me
- Calgary Catholic School District trustee
- We serve more than 55,000 students
- 109 schools: Calgary, Airdrie, Cochrane, Chestermere and Rocky View County

# **Be a leader in your community**

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## **Welcome and Introduction**

- 5,100+ staff members (includes 3,350 certificated staff)
- Annual budget: \$571 million (2015-2016)
- Seven trustees on CCSD board

# **Be a leader in your community**

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## **Welcome and Introduction**

- Getting to know you



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## Welcome and Introduction

- My “I” story – “I became a school board trustee because ...”
- If you decide to run for office, what’s your “I” story?

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## Introduction

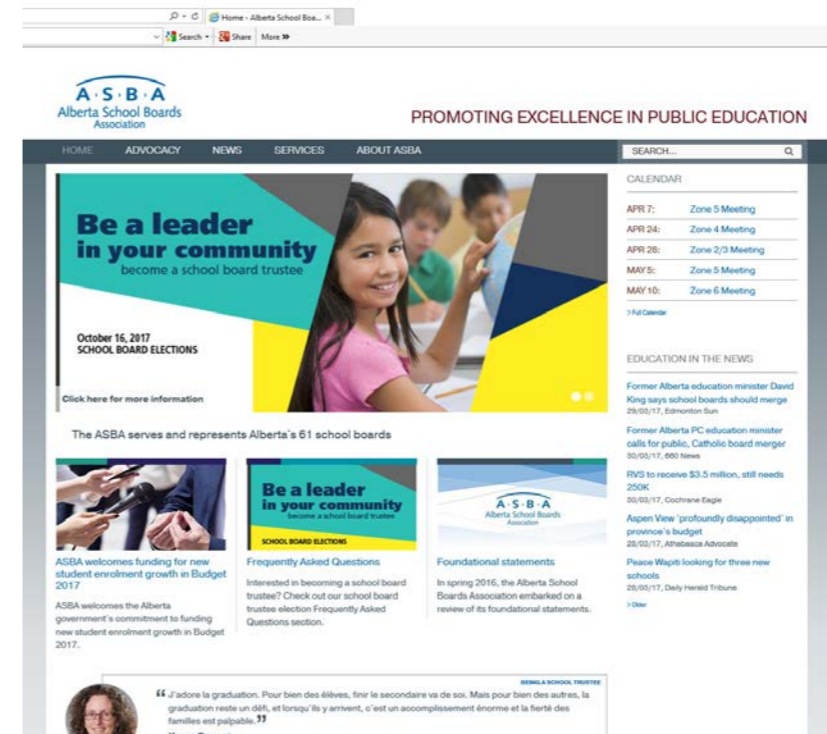
- Covering today in three parts:
  - Part One – the basics – who are school board trustees, what do they do, and why is their role so important?
  - Who can run, and who can't?
  - Why that “who” should be you!
- Part Two – What's next?
- Part Three – Your questions

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## Introduction

- First question – where can I find today's presentation?
- [asba.ab.ca](http://asba.ab.ca)
- The link from the ASBA home page will take you to all 2017 election materials



# Be a leader in your community

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## Introduction

- Brochure – *Be a leader in your community: become a school board trustee*
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- The link from the ASBA home page will take you to all 2017 election materials



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## Introduction

- Important legal disclaimer:
  - Information today – general guidelines only
  - Does not guarantee eligibility
  - Check *Local Authorities Election Act, School Act*, posted at [www.qp.alberta.ca](http://www.qp.alberta.ca)
  - Link from ASBA website – [asba.ab.ca](http://asba.ab.ca)
  - Confirm requirements with your local jurisdiction

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## Part One – the basics

- What is a school board?
  - Exists because of belief that decisions made closest to communities are most effective
  - *School Act* – provincial government delegates to school boards responsibility for conducting affairs of jurisdictions (s. 60)
  - Has three sets of responsibilities: fiduciary (legal), strategic and generative

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## Part One – the basics

- Where did school boards start?
  - Edmonton School District No. 7 formed in 1885

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## Part One – the basics

- Where did school boards start?
  - Edmonton School District No. 7 formed in 1885
  - First school built four years earlier, in 1881\*



\* Photo courtesy G. A. McKee, Edmonton School District No. 7, 1885 – 1935



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## Part One – the basics

- Where did school boards start?
  - Edmonton School District No. 7 formed in 1885
  - First school built four years earlier, in 1881\*
  - By 1905, 602 school districts in Alberta



\* Photo courtesy G. A. McKee, Edmonton School District No. 7, 1885 – 1935

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## Part One – the basics

- Where did school boards start?
  - By the mid-1930s, nearly 4,000 school districts in Alberta
  - Today, 61 publicly-funded public, separate and francophone school boards in Alberta
  - There are another 153 private school authorities and 13 charter school authorities\*

\* Alberta Education Authority Information Report August 2014

# **Be a leader in your community**

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## **Part One – the basics**

Who are school board trustees, what do they do, and why is their role so important?

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## Part One – the basics

Who are school board trustees?

- Local politicians, elected by/accountable to their community

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## Part One – the basics

Who are school board trustees?

- Local politicians, elected by/accountable to their community
- Don't have to be an education expert

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## Part One – the basics

Who are school board trustees?

- Local politicians, elected by/accountable to their community
- Don't have to be an education expert
- Not a professional educator or spokesperson

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – the basics

Who are school board trustees?

- Local politicians, elected by/accountable to their community
- Don't have to be an education expert
- Do need to put student needs first

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## Part One – the basics

Who are school board trustees?

- Passionately believe a quality education is one of most important things a community can do to ensure students have knowledge, skills to help them be better prepared for life



# **Be a leader in your community**

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## **Part One – the basics**

What do school board trustees do?

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## Part One – the basics

What do school board trustees do?

They wear many hats, including:

- Communicator
- Planner
- Policy maker
- Advocate

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## Part One – the basics

What do school board trustees do?

They wear many hats, including:

- Adjudicator
- Lobbyist
- Politician

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## Part One – the basics

- What do school board trustees do?
  - Set jurisdiction goals that help prepare students

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## Part One – the basics

- What do school board trustees do?
  - Set jurisdiction goals that help prepare students
  - Plan priorities based on curriculum requirements, community input, available resources, best practices

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – the basics

- What do school board trustees do?
  - Set jurisdiction goals that help prepare students
  - Plan priorities based on curriculum requirements, community input, available resources, best practices
  - Develop, implement an annual budget

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – the basics

- What do school board trustees do?
  - Set jurisdiction goals that help prepare students
  - Plan priorities based on curriculum requirements, community input, available resources, best practices
  - Develop, implement an annual budget
  - Develop policies

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## Part One – the basics

- What do school board trustees do?
  - Regularly inform residents about jurisdiction work, achievements



# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – the basics

- What do school board trustees do?
  - Regularly inform residents about jurisdiction work, achievements
  - Advocate on important education issues, public priority of education

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## Part One – the basics

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  - Regularly inform residents about jurisdiction work, achievements
  - Advocate on important education issues, public priority of education
  - Provide regular opportunities for public input, access

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – the basics

- What do school board trustees do?
  - Regularly inform residents about jurisdiction work, achievements
  - Advocate on important education issues, public priority of education
  - Provide regular opportunities for public input, access
  - Evaluate superintendent

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## Part One – the basics

- What do school board trustees do?
  - Promote student and stakeholder interests

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## Part One – the basics

- What do school board trustees do?
  - Promote student and stakeholder interests
  - Respect Board authority and do not act on their own

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – the basics

- What do school board trustees do?
  - Defend student and stakeholder interests
  - Respect Board authority and do not act on their own
  - Understand difference between governance, administration

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## **Part One – the basics**

In summary, school board trustees:

- Make important decisions that affect communities and students
- Their decisions affect the direction, quality of local schools
- They respond to local issues
- They shape tomorrow's citizens

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## Part One – the basics

- Why is the role of school board trustees so important?
  - Opportunity to help shape local education delivery
  - Prepare next generation of Albertans who will build this province
  - Stakes are high – important to get it right
  - Participate in local democracy closest to families and communities they serve



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## Part One – the basics

- Why is the role of school board trustees so important?
  - Alberta's school boards make decisions about how to educate nearly 600,000 students from K-12
  - They guide the expenditure of \$6 billion in tax dollars

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## Part One – the basics

- Why is the role of school board trustees so important?
  - The core responsibility of school boards is to understand and reflect the local community's values and priorities for schools
  - They consult communities, gather feedback and integrate information

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – the basics

- Why is the role of school board trustees so important?
  - Individual trustees acting alone have no authority. A school board only has power to make decisions when it sits together as a *corporate board*

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – the basics

- Why is the role of school board trustees so important?
  - School boards make decisions about the local education that produces tomorrow's leaders
  - Schools teach students life skills and quality character traits

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## Part One – the basics

- Why is the role of school board trustees so important?
  - Personal examples
  - Other reasons?

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## Part One – the basics

- Who are school boards and school board trustees accountable to?
  - As elected officials: to voters
  - As stewards of public dollars: to taxpayers – parents and the community – and the provincial government
  - As employers: to staff

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## Part One – the basics

- School boards and school board trustees must comply with applicable legislation

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – the basics

- School boards and school board trustees must comply with applicable legislation
- They also cannot participate in making decisions where their economic self-interest may conflict with their public duty



# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – the basics

- Economic or pecuniary interest of a trustee's spouse or adult interdependent partner is deemed to be the economic interest of the trustee

# Be a leader in your community

become a school board trustee

## Part One – the basics

- Economic or pecuniary interest of a trustee's spouse or adult interdependent partner is deemed to be the economic interest of the trustee
- Sections 80 to 91 of the *School Act* have more information on:
  - types of pecuniary interest

# Be a leader in your community

become a school board trustee

## Part One – the basics

- Economic or pecuniary interest of a trustee's spouse or adult interdependent partner is deemed to be the economic interest of the trustee
- Sections 80 to 91 of the *School Act* have more information on:
  - types of pecuniary interest
  - steps a trustee who is in conflict must follow

# Be a leader in your community

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- Economic or pecuniary interest of a trustee's spouse or adult interdependent partner is deemed to be the economic interest of the trustee
- Sections 80 to 91 of the *School Act* have more information on:
  - types of pecuniary interest
  - steps a trustee who is in conflict must follow
  - trustee disqualification

# Be a leader in your community

become a school board trustee

## Part One – the basics

- Economic or pecuniary interest of a trustee's spouse or adult interdependent partner is deemed to be the economic interest of the trustee.
- Sections 80 to 91 of the *School Act* have more information on:
  - types of pecuniary interest
  - steps a trustee who is in conflict must follow
  - trustee disqualification
  - What happens when a trustee refuses to resign on disqualification

# **Be a leader in your community**

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## **Questions on the basics?**

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One - Who can run ...

- Who is eligible to run as a school board trustee?
- Who is not eligible to run?
- Details on ASBA website at [asba.ab.ca](http://asba.ab.ca)

# Be a leader in your community

become a school board trustee

## Part One – Who can run ...

- Who is eligible to run as a school board trustee?
- Who is not eligible to run?
- Details in candidate brochure

Please note these are general guidelines only, and not a guarantee of your eligibility. Consult the most current version of the Local Authorities Election Act and the School Act online at [www.qp.alberta.ca](http://www.qp.alberta.ca), as well as your local school jurisdiction's candidate requirements, to confirm your eligibility.

### Legal considerations for candidates

#### Am I eligible to run for school board trustee?

Regardless of the school division or regional authority you want to represent, there are some basic requirements you must meet. You must:

- be at least 18 years old;
- be a Canadian citizen;
- have lived in Alberta for at least six consecutive months immediately preceding nomination day, and you live within the boundaries of the jurisdiction in which you wish to run.

This year, **Monday, September 18, 2017** is nomination day in Alberta; however, there may be local exceptions. You are responsible for verifying the date and time for nominations with your local school division.

Depending on the school jurisdiction – public, separate or francophone – there may be additional eligibility requirements you must meet.

In public school jurisdictions, you must:

- be eligible to vote in the election;
- have lived in the local jurisdiction and the ward, if any, for at least six consecutive months immediately preceding nomination day.\*

In separate school jurisdictions, you must:

- be eligible to vote in the election;
- be of the same faith as those you want to represent on the separate school board;
- have lived in the local jurisdiction and the ward, if any, for at least six consecutive months immediately preceding nomination day.\*

In francophone school jurisdictions, you must:

- be at least 18;
- be a Canadian citizen;
- have lived in Alberta for at least six consecutive months immediately preceding nomination day;
- comply with the faith requirements set out under section 256(3.1) of the School Act.

\* Regardless of this requirement, a candidate for trustee of a board of a school district that is wholly or partly within the boundaries of a city is not required to be a resident of the ward but must be a resident of the school district.

#### Who is not eligible to run for school board trustee?

You are not eligible to run if, on nomination day, you:

- are an employee of any school district, school division, charter school or private school as of nomination day – unless you take an unpaid leave of absence to run before the last working day prior to nomination day;
- are an auditor of the jurisdiction in which you want to be a candidate;
- do not meet the residency requirement for the jurisdiction in which you want to run;
- are otherwise ineligible or disqualified as outlined under section 22 of the Local Authorities Election Act.

See sections 22, 23 and 24 of the Local Authorities Election Act for more details.

#### Who is eligible to vote?

You are eligible to vote in a public or separate school division or district election if, on election day, you:

- are at least 18 years old;
- are a Canadian citizen;
- have lived in Alberta for at least six consecutive months immediately preceding election day;
- live within the boundaries of the local jurisdiction on election day.

You are eligible to vote in a francophone regional authority if, on election day, you:

- are at least 18 years old;
- are a Canadian citizen;
- are francophone;
- have lived in Alberta for at least six consecutive months immediately preceding election day;
- have a child enrolled in a school operated by the francophone regional authority.

\*A person who is eligible to vote in an election for a board other than a regional authority and in an election for a regional authority may exercise the right to vote in both elections.



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## Part One – Who can run ...

- Your eligibility is determined by where you live and
- Which board you want to serve on

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Who can run ...

Basic requirements:

- At least 18 years old

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Who can run ...

Basic requirements:

- At least 18 years old
- Canadian citizen

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Who can run ...

Basic requirements:

- At least 18 years old
- Canadian citizen
- Six-month Alberta residency requirement

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Who can run ...

Basic requirements:

- At least 18 years old
- Canadian citizen
- Six-month Alberta residency requirement
- Live within the area where you wish to run

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Who can run ...

Additional requirements:

- Depend on jurisdiction: public, separate or francophone
- Francophone school jurisdictions – must comply with faith requirements: s. 256(3.1) of *School Act*
- Check with your local school jurisdiction office

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## Part One ... and who can't

Who cannot run?

- See your prospective candidate brochure, but generally:
  - School jurisdiction employees (unless they take a leave of absence)
  - Auditor in jurisdiction where you want to run
  - Do not meet residency requirements
  - Otherwise ineligible under s. 22 of *Local Authorities Election Act*

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- be of the same faith as those you want to represent on the separate school board;
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In francophone school jurisdictions, you must:

- be at least 18;
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- have lived in Alberta for at least six consecutive months immediately preceding nomination day;
- comply with the faith requirements set out under section 256(3.1) of the *School Act*.

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- are at least 18 years old;
- are a Canadian citizen;
- are francophone;
- have lived in Alberta for at least six consecutive months immediately preceding election day;
- have a child enrolled in a school operated by the francophone regional authority.

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## Part One ... and who can't

Who cannot run?

- Within the previous ten years, anyone convicted of an offence under:
  - *Local Authorities Election Act*
  - *Election Act*
  - *Canada Elections Act* (federal)



# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One ... and who can't

See sections 22, 23 and 24 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* for more details

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

What's it like to be a school board trustee?

- Lots of homework
- Need to be fully informed

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

What's it like to be a school board trustee?

- Lots of homework
- Need to be fully informed
- Lots of meetings – with trustees, parents, jurisdiction administration

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

What's it like to be a school board trustee?

- Lots of homework
- Need to be fully informed
- Lots of meetings – with trustees, parents, jurisdiction administration
- School visits
- Fun events: band concerts, theatre arts productions, seasonal events

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

What are some of the other rewards of being a school board trustee?

- Make decisions that improve education
- Opportunity to make a difference
- Interesting work – no two days the same

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

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- Make decisions that improve education
- Opportunity to make a difference
- Interesting work – no two days the same
- Personal growth
- Enriching experience and learning opportunity

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## **Part One – Why that “who” should be you!**

Typical questions:

- Do I need to be an education expert? (Hint: no)



# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

Typical questions:

- Do I need to be an education expert? (Hint: no)
- How many hours a week do I need to be prepared to devote to being a school board trustee?

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

Typical questions:

- Do I need to be an education expert? (Hint: no)
- How many hours a week do I need to be prepared to devote to being a school board trustee?
- Do I need to give up the job I’m doing now?

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

Typical questions:

- Do I need to be an education expert? (Hint: no)
- How many hours a week do I need to be prepared to devote to being a school board trustee?
- Do I need to give up the job I’m doing now?
- Do school board trustees get paid, or is it a volunteer position?

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

Typical questions:

- Do I need to be an education expert? (Hint: no)
- How many hours a week do I need to be prepared to devote to being a school board trustee?
- Do I need to give up the job I’m doing now?
- Do school board trustees get paid, or is it a volunteer position?
- Do I have to have children currently in the school system in order to run?

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

Questions to ask yourself:

- Why do I want to be a school board trustee?

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

Questions to ask yourself:

- Why do I want to be a school board trustee?
- Can I work well with others – other trustees, administration?

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

Questions to ask yourself:

- Why do I want to be a school board trustee?
- Can I work well with others – other trustees, administration?
- Am I okay with not always “getting my way”?

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

Questions to ask yourself:

- Why do I want to be a school board trustee?
- Can I work well with others – other trustees, administration?
- Am I okay with not always “getting my way”?
- Am I willing to listen and learn?



# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

Questions to ask yourself:

- Why do I want to be a school board trustee?
- Can I work well with others – other trustees, administration?
- Am I okay with not always “getting my way”?
- Am I willing to listen and learn?
- Can I respect confidentiality?

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

Questions to ask yourself:

- Why do I want to be a school board trustee?
- Can I work well with others – other trustees, administration?
- Am I okay with not always “getting my way”?
- Am I willing to listen and learn?
- Can I respect confidentiality?
- Can I put in the time and attention needed to do a great job?

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

Typical questions:

- What resources and information are available to me if I'm thinking about running for school board trustee?
  - Resources available on ASBA website at [asba.ab.ca](http://asba.ab.ca)

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Typical questions:

- What resources and information are available to me if I'm thinking about running for school board trustee?
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  - Alberta Education website

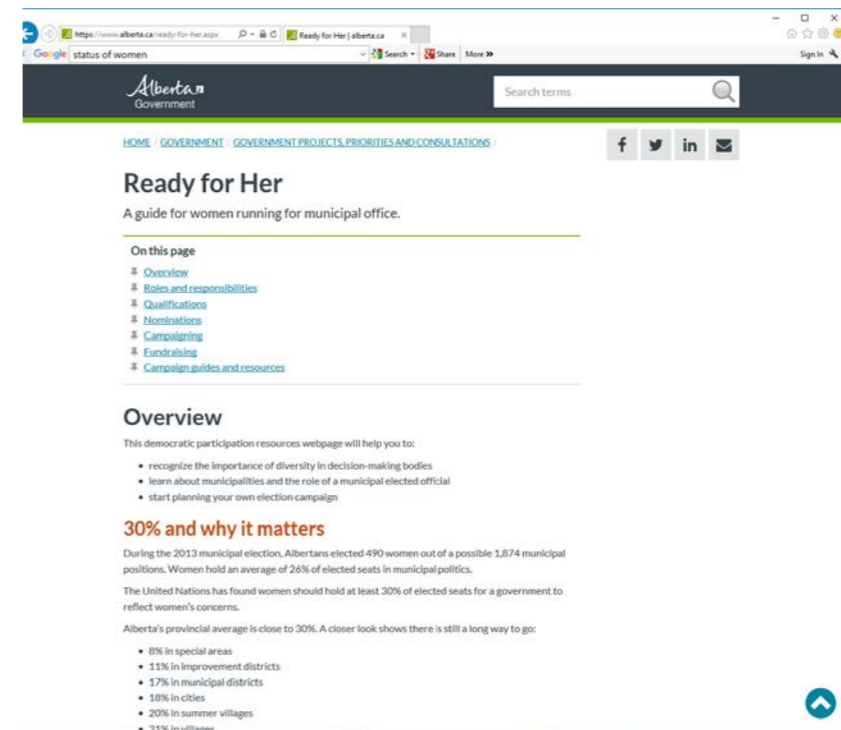
# Be a leader in your community

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## Part One – Why that “who” should be you!

Typical questions:

- Resources and information available:
  - Alberta Status of Women website - #ReadyForHer
  - Practical information on how to run a campaign



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**Questions on Part One?**

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part Two – What's next?

- Start attending local school board meetings

# Be a leader in your community

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## Part Two – What's next?

- Start attending local school board meetings
- Talk to friends, family and neighbours



# Be a leader in your community

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## Part Two – What's next?

- Start attending local school board meetings
- Talk to friends, family and neighbours
- Start door-knocking

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## Part Two – What's next?

- Talk to your local school jurisdiction office about:
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# Be a leader in your community

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  - Requirements for those nominating you

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## **Part Three – Your questions**

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## Election Day: Monday, Oct. 16, 2017

- Thank you for being here today
- Good luck to all candidates
- Visit [asba.ab.ca](http://asba.ab.ca) for school board trustee election info
- See us at the Resource Fair today

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**October 16, 2017**  
**SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS**