

Nominating Petition Pick-Up 2026

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Who is the petition for? _____

Signature _____





Odessa-Montour School Board Member Election

300 College Avenue, Odessa, NY 14869

Congratulations on deciding to run for a seat on the Odessa-Montour Central School District Board of Education. Two (2) seats are open for the following term:

Two (2) seats for July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029 (3 years)

In accordance with Education Law, candidates shall be nominated by petition directed to the Board of Education and signed by at least twenty-five (25) persons qualified to vote at the school elections in the Odessa-Montour School District. Such petitions must contain the names and residence of the candidates for the vacancies to be filled at the annual election.

The petition must be filed with the District Clerk of the Board of Education on or before 3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2026.

Included in this packet are the following:

- General information for candidates.
- Petition forms and instructions.
- A list of important dates regarding the School Board Election/Budget Vote.
- Candidate Information Sheet for publishing in the Budget Newsletter.
- Information regarding the filing of campaign expenditure statements, as required by the State Education Department.
- Information on mandated fiscal training for Board Members.

If you have any questions or need further clarification on this information, please feel free to contact the District Office at (607) 594-3341, ext. 4100.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Education is one of the most significant responsibilities of any society. Our children and our schools deserve the service and commitment of strong, dedicated people as members of the Board of Education.

There are some facts about Board membership you should know before you assume candidacy.

- To be elected a member of the Board of Education a candidate must meet the following qualifications:

- A citizen of the United States;
 - Eighteen (18) years of age or older;
 - Able to read and write;
 - A legal resident one (1) year prior to the election;
 - Cannot be an employee of the Odessa-Montour Central School District;
 - May not reside with another member of the same school board as a member of the same family;
 - May not simultaneously hold another, incompatible public office;
 - Must not have been removed from a school district office within one year preceding the date of election to the Board.
-
- A candidate must file petitions with the Clerk of the Board at the School District Office twenty days prior to the Annual Election containing at least twenty-five (25) signatures of qualified voters in the District.
 - Election to the Board means that the member is an elected agent of the State of New York and, as such, is subject to the terms of the General Municipal Laws and the Education Laws of the State of New York, as well as the Rules and Regulations of the State Education Department and the decisions of the Commissioner of Education.
 - Since the Board of Education has final authority and responsibility in the operation of the School District, no single member of the Board has authority to act as an individual except as directed by vote of the Board. All legal Board action must be expressed by resolutions or motions duly adopted or passed by a Board majority.
 - School Board members draw no salary or compensation. However, certain expenses incurred on School Board business, such as mileage or conference cost, may be reimbursed.
 - The term of office is three (3) years. Any current or past Board member can tell you this service is challenging, personally rewarding and satisfying, demanding, and time-consuming.
 - The election will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.



MANDATED FISCAL TRAINING FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Currently, within the first year of election or appointment, each Board member must complete a minimum of six (6) hours of training on the financial oversight, accountability and fiduciary responsibilities of a school board member. In addition, he/she shall be required to complete a training course acquainting them with the powers, functions and duties of Boards of Education, as well as the powers and duties of other governing and administrative authorities affecting public education.

Newly elected or re-elected school board members must complete their training within one year of being elected or re-elected unless they have previously completed this training.

Essentials of School Board Governance

- The boards' role in student achievement.
- The dynamics of the board-superintendent relationship.
- How policy is developed and used by the board.
- Key legal parameters such as the Open Meetings Law.
- How data is used by school boards in decision making.

This training is comprised of four modules:

Module A: The Importance and Purpose of School Boards

Module B: School Board Members' Rights, Risks and Responsibilities

Module C: Policy and Board Operations

Module D: Data Use for Accountability and Student Achievement

Fiscal Oversight Fundamentals

- How school districts are funded.
- The qualifications and responsibilities of key financial positions such as the claims auditor, treasurer, and audit committee, and the relationship of these positions to the board.
- The importance of independence and segregation of duties in preventing fraud, waste and abuse.
- Reports you need to receive, from whom, and how often. Learn how to use these reports to assess your district's financial condition.
- The key laws such as those regulating fund balance and other reserve funds your district must comply with.
- Policy and oversight actions your board can take to set the example and protect resources.

This training is comprised of five modules:

Module 1: School District Finances: Roles and Responsibilities

Module 2: Revenue Sources and the Budget Process Module 3: Building School District Fiscal Fitness Module 4: Monitoring School District Fiscal Fitness

Module 5: Preventing Fraud, Waste and Abuse of District Resources



IMPORTANT DATES

- Monday, March 16, 2026 - Petitions available in the District Office for Board of Education candidate
- Thursday, April 16, 2026 - Regular Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
District Conference Room, Room 305
- Board of Education adopts 2026-2027 budget
- Clerks and Inspectors appointed for election
- Monday, April 20, 2026 - Petitions due in the District Office by 3:00 p.m. for Board candidates
- Position placing on ballot drawn
- Wednesday, April 22, 2026 - Regular Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
District Conference Room, Room 305
- Component district vote on BOCES Administrative Budget and elect BOCES Board Members
- Thursday, May 7, 2026 - Annual Budget Hearing and "Meet the Candidates Night" and Regular Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 p.m., District Conference Room, Room 305
- Proposed Annual Operating Budget available to public
- Tuesday, May 19, 2026 - Budget Vote and Board of Education Election
- Budget and Election results announced.

PRINCIPLES FOR BOARD MEMBERS

A school Board member, operating under the highest ethical standards, should:

- Assure the opportunity for high quality education for every student.
- Observe state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to education.
- Accept office as a Board member as a means of unselfish service.
- Take official actions only in public sessions.
- Represent the entire community without fear or favor.
- Remember at all times the Board member is one of an educational team.
- Maintain confidentiality of privileged information.
- Recognize that the strength of a school Board is, as a Board, not as individuals.
- Delegate authority to the chief school administrator as the Board executive and confine Board action to policy making, planning and appraisal.
- Employ only competent trained personnel.
- Preserve the obligation of having controversial issues presented fairly and without bias.
- Instill respect toward our country and one's fellow man.

The Board is committed to the education of all students to the best of their individual abilities; to a constant awareness of the concerns and desires of the whole community regarding the quality and performance of the school system, with the Board assuming an educational leadership role; to the employment of a Superintendent who will see that the Odessa-Montour Central School District maintains a position as an outstanding school system and under whose leadership the school personnel will carry out the policies of the Board with imagination and dedication; and that the school system will continue to serve as an institution for the benefit of the young people of the community.

Odessa-Montour Grizzlies

Engage • Empower • Educate
Every student. Every day.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR NOMINATING PETITIONS

1. The name and address of the nominee must be printed on the first page of the petition in the blanks provided.
2. The nominee must obtain a minimum of twenty-five (25) valid signatures on the petition. The signatories must be duly qualified voters in the Odessa-Montour Central School District, and the signatures must be valid. Fifty blanks are provided in the event you wish to obtain additional signatures.
3. A person is considered a qualified voter if they: (1) are a citizen of the United States; (2) are at least 18 years of age; and (3) have been a resident of the school district for at least 30 days immediately prior to the election at which he/she seeks to vote.
4. Each signature must be witnessed. The witness must verify that he witnessed the signatures and sign the attached verification to that effect before a notary public.
5. A separate nominating petition must be used and verified by each witness who obtains signatures in support of a candidate; if the signatures contained on one petition are witnessed by different people, the petition will be rejected.
6. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject incomplete nominating petitions not in compliance with these instructions, and nominating petitions which contain a material misstatement of fact.
7. A qualified voter may sign petitions in support of as many candidates as there are vacancies on the Board of Education.
8. The completed petition must be filed with the District Clerk no later than 3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2026.
9. The order of candidate's names is determined by a drawing by lot. The District Clerk will conduct the drawing on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 3:00 in the District Office. Candidates are invited to be in attendance for this drawing.

Odessa-Montour Central School District Board of Education Candidate Information

Please provide the following information regarding the upcoming Board of Education election.

The information will be used in the budget edition of OMCS News Notes.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Education: _____

Activities: _____

Personal (family, number of years in district, etc.): _____

In one sentence, please describe why you are running for a seat on the Odessa-Montour Board of

Education: _____



For District Office use only - not for publication

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____



**NOMINATING PETITION
FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF
MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE ODESSA-MONTOUR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

I, the undersigned, do hereby state that I am a duly qualified voter of the Odessa-Montour Central School District that my place of residence is truly stated opposite my signature hereto, and I do hereby nominate the following named person as a candidate for the Office of Member of the Board of Education of the Odessa-Montour Central School District.

Name: _____
(Please Print Nominee's Name)

Address: _____

Number of vacancies: Two (2)

Terms: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029 (3 years)

Date of Election: May 19, 2026

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, the day and year placed opposite my signature:

DATE	SIGNATURE (PLEASE PRINT NAME BENEATH SIGNATURE)	RESIDENCE
1.		
2.		
3.		
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9.		

DATE	SIGNATURE (PLEASE PRINT NAME BENEATH SIGNATURE)	RESIDENCE
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PLEASE COMPLETE STATEMENT ON LAST PAGE

DATE	SIGNATURE (PLEASE PRINT NAME BENEATH SIGNATURE)	RESIDENCE
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PLEASE COMPLETE STATEMENT ON LAST PAGE



**ODESSA-MONTOUR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD ELECTION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Candidates are required to file three (3) statements of election expenses on the 30th day prior to Election Day, the 5th day prior to Election Day, and the 20th day after the election. This form may be used for that purpose. If both expenditures and campaign contributions are less than \$500, only this form must be filed with the Odessa-Montour Central School District Clerk. If expenses and/or donations total more than \$500, an itemized statement of expenses and donations must be attached to this statement as outlined in Policy #1220. The itemized statement of expenses and donations must be filed with the District Clerk **AND ALSO** with the Commissioner of Education. The Commissioner's address is as follows:

**Commissioner of Education
New York State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12234**

First Statement due on or before: Monday, April 20, 2026

Second Statement due on or before: Thursday, May 14, 2026

Third Statement due on or before: Monday, June 8, 2026

- I state that I am a candidate for the Board of Education and at the close of this reporting period either the total expenditures of this campaign or the total donations to the campaign, or both HAVE NOT exceeded \$500.**
- I state that I am a candidate for the Board of Education and at the close of this reporting period either the total expenditures of this campaign or the total donations to the campaign, or both HAVE exceeded \$500. I have attached an itemized statement of expenses and donations detailing these expenditures and/or receipts.**

Name - print or type

Signature

State of New York:

County of _____

On this _____ day of _____, 2026, before me personally appeared _____ known to me to be the same person described in and who executed the foregoing and she/he duly acknowledged to me that she/he executed the same.

Notary Public



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