



GENERAL LOCAL ELECTIONS 2018
TRUSTEE ELECTIONS BULLETIN

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School Trustee Oath of Office

Below please find some frequently asked questions about the school trustee oath of office.

Q: Where do I find the oath of office?

The oath of office can be found in the [School Trustee Oath of Office Regulation](#) (see page D-81 of the Ministry of Education's [Manual of School Law](#)). Please note that the trustee oath of office differs from the oaths of office used by local governments.

Q. When must a trustee elected in the 2018 general election take the oath of office?

If a trustee is **elected by voting**, the official election results are declared on October 24 and there are no pending applications for judicial recount, the trustee must take the oath of office between **October 30 and December 8, 2018**.

If a trustee is **elected by acclamation**, they must take the oath sometime between the date they are declared elected and **December 10, 2018**.

If a trustee fails to take the oath by the above-noted deadlines, then their seat will be deemed to be vacant and the individual will be disqualified from holding office as a trustee until the next general school election.

See section 50 of the [School Act](#) for more information about the timing of the oath.

Q: What if a trustee-elect cannot attend the inaugural board meeting?

It is not necessary to take the oath at the inaugural meeting. Accordingly, the trustee-elect could take the oath at another time. The trustee-elect cannot take office until the written certificate is delivered to the secretary treasurer.

Q: Can we ask our Board lawyer or a notary public to attend and administer the oath of office to the trustees?

No. Section 50 of the *School Act* states that the oath must be made before:

- the secretary treasurer of a board;
- a local government corporate officer;
- a justice of the peace; or,
- a judge of the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court or Provincial Court.

Lawyers and notaries are **not** authorized to administer the oath of office under the *School Act*. This is different from the oaths for local government elected officials which may be administered by a commissioner for taking affidavits for British Columbia (lawyers and notaries public may be commissioners for taking affidavits in BC).