

# Morton 709 Board Appointment and Election Protocol

## Board Vacancies

According to Illinois law and Board Policy 2:70:

*Whenever a vacancy occurs, the remaining members shall notify the Regional Superintendent of Schools of that vacancy within five days after its occurrence and shall fill the vacancy until the next regular board election, at which election a successor shall be elected to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.*

*However, if the vacancy occurs with less than 868 days remaining in the term or less than 88 days before the next regularly scheduled election, the person so appointed shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term, and no election to fill the vacancy shall be held.*

*Members appointed by the remaining members of the Board to fill vacancies shall meet any residential requirements as specified in the School Code. The Board shall fill the vacancy within 60 days after it occurred by a public vote at a meeting of the Board. Immediately following a vacancy on the Board, the Board will publicize it and accept résumés from District residents who are interested in filling the vacancy. After reviewing the applications, the Board may invite the prospective candidates for personal interviews to be conducted during duly scheduled closed meetings.*

There are well over 868 days remaining in the term of the vacant seat.

## Board Member Appointment

The appointment to the board is for the remainder of this school year until soon after the next election date of April 4<sup>th</sup> when the new board is seated. This appointment is actually unrelated to the next election.

For example, for the next election, the appointee can decide:

- 1) not to run for any position,
- 2) to run for any of the three 4-year terms, or
- 3) decide to run for the remaining 2-year term left on the seat that the appointee replaced.

## The April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Election

- The April 4<sup>th</sup> election will have three 4-year terms and one 2-year term on the ballot.
- Candidates will get to designate which term they are selecting.
- If no candidate runs for the 2-year term, then someone is appointed by the board for that two-year term after the election.
- No more than 5 members can be elected to the board from the incorporated area of the Village of Morton. Or another way of stating it is that “at least two seats must be from the unincorporated area of the Morton-Groveland communities of our district.” So, although unlikely, technically, all 7 seats could reside in the unincorporated area.
- Here is a [MAP](#) of the incorporated areas of Morton.
- Here is a [MAP](#) of Morton CUSD 709.
- Here is the [LINK](#) to the Tazewell County election page for more information.

## Board Member Qualifications

According to Illinois law and Morton 709 Policy 2:40, the qualifications of a board member are as follows:

*A School Board member must be, on the date of election or appointment, a United States citizen, at least 18 years of age, a resident of Illinois and the District for at least one year immediately preceding the election, and a registered voter. Reasons making an individual ineligible for Board membership include holding an incompatible office and certain types of State or federal employment. A child sex offender, as defined in State law, is ineligible for School Board membership.*

## Timeline for Appointment

September 6	Board Meeting (Open Session):	Recognize Resignation/Vacancy Discuss Process and Timeline Begin Advertising Vacancy Request Letters of Interest*
September 16	Candidate letters due to the Morton 709 District Office*	
September 20	Board Meeting (Closed Session):	Review and Screen Candidates
September 27	Special Board Meeting (Closed):	Interview Finalist Candidate(s)
October 4	Board Meeting (Open Session):	Formally Appoint New Member Swear In and Seat New Member Inform All Candidates

\*Please mail or drop off your letter of interest that contains your relevant qualifications to the address below so that it arrives no later than noon on September 16, 2022.

Dr. Craig Smock, Superintendent  
1050 S. Fourth Ave.  
Morton, IL 61550

## Important Dates that Pertain to the April 2023 Election

- Sept. 20, 2022 - Petition circulation may begin
- Dec. 12, 2022 - First day to file candidate petitions
- Dec. 19, 2022 - Last day to file candidate petitions
- Dec. 27, 2022 - Last day to file objections to nominations papers
- Jan. 3, 2023 - Last day to file petitions for public questions
- Jan. 4, 2023 - First day to submit vote by mail applications
- Jan. 10, 2023 - Last day to file objections to petitions for public questions
- Jan. 17, 2023 - Last day for resolution of public questions
- Feb. 23, 2023 - Early voting begins and the first day to distribute vote by mail ballots (if a primary was held, this date is delayed until Mar. 10.)
- Mar. 7, 2023 - Close of voter registration
- Mar. 8, 2023 - Grace period registration and voting begins
- Mar. 10, 2023 - First day of early voting and vote by mail (if a primary was held)
- Mar. 30, 2023 - Last day to mail vote by mail ballots
- Apr. 3, 2023 - Last day for early voting
- Apr. 4, 2023 - Consolidated Election

The Board reorganizes with potential new members within 40 days of the election.