



# HOUSE BILL 452: Franklin Co. Bd. of Ed. Election Method.

2023-2024 General Assembly

**Committee:** Senate Redistricting and Elections. If **Date:** May 10, 2023  
favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of  
the Senate

**Introduced by:** Rep. Winslow

**Prepared by:** Jessica Sammons

**Analysis of:** Second Edition

Staff Attorney

**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 452 would change the method of election of the Franklin County Board of Education from the nonpartisan election and runoff method to the nonpartisan primary and election method, with the election held at the time of the general election in even-numbered years, and the primary, if needed, held at the time of the primary for county offices in even-numbered years.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The Franklin County Board of Education (Board) consists of seven members elected for staggered four-year terms. Five members are elected from districts and two members are elected from the county at-large. For the district seats, only qualified voters of the district are eligible to be candidates and only qualified voters of the district are eligible to vote. For the at-large seats, any qualified voter of the county is eligible to be a candidate and all qualified voters of the county are eligible to vote. Elections are conducted in even-numbered years with results determined according to the nonpartisan election and runoff election method. With this method of election, if a winner in the election does not receive a majority (50%+) of the votes, the candidate who came in second is allowed to ask for a runoff. In the runoff election, all candidates are eliminated except the plurality winner and the runner-up. The winner of the runoff is elected to the seat. The election is held on the date of the primary for county offices in even-numbered years, and the runoff election, if needed, is held on the date of the second primary for county offices in even-numbered years. Members take office on the first Monday in December following their election.

Vacancies on the Board are filled by the remaining members of the Board, with the appointee serving for the unexpired term of the vacating member.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 452 would change the method of election for members of the Franklin County Board of Education from the nonpartisan election and runoff method to the nonpartisan primary and election method.

With the nonpartisan primary and election method, if there are more than two candidates filing for a single office, there will be a primary election to narrow the field of candidates to two candidates. The two candidates for a single office receiving the highest number of votes in the primary are declared nominated. If only one or two candidates file for a single office, no primary is held, and those candidates are declared nominated. In the election, the names of those candidates declared nominated are placed on the ballot, and the candidate receiving the highest number of votes is elected.

The primary, if needed, would be held on the date of the primary for county offices in even-numbered years. The election would be held on the date of the general election in even-numbered years.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Effective when it becomes law and applies to elections held on or after that date.

Jeffrey Hudson  
Director



Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578