



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution #8

Changing School Board Election Standards

Submitted by: Jeffry Alsup and Holly Beeman

Submitted: 4/22/2025

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that: AASG supports urging the Alaska State Legislature to adopt a law prohibiting individuals who have committed barrier crimes from serving on a school board within the time period that they could not lawfully be employed within a school district.

1. **Whereas**, a barrier crime is defined as “a criminal offense or civil finding that prohibits a provider or an applicant from being approved under 7 AAC 10.990.” These crimes include:
 - A. Lesser offenses- such as theft or forgery- which may result in being marked with a three-year barrier crime.
 - B. Actions such as kidnapping, sexual abuse of a minor, and assault in the first, second, and third degree which would result in being marked with a permanent barrier crime;¹
2. **Whereas**, barrier crimes will appear on a background check for a certain number of years, either three, five, ten, or permanently, depending on the seriousness of the crime(s) committed;²
3. **Whereas**, a felon marked with a barrier crime cannot be hired to work for a school district, but can serve on a school board and make financial and educational decisions;
4. **Whereas**, current state hiring laws disqualify individuals marked with barrier crimes from working inside schools or hospitals for a set amount of years, yet this restriction does not apply for individuals running to serve on a school board;³
5. **Whereas**, currently, the only regulation for those running on a school board is that they maintain their municipal voting status;⁴

6. **Whereas**, in Alaska, after you serve time or pay bail, you regain voting status;⁵
7. **Whereas**, school board members are responsible for making critical decisions that impact the education, safety, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff;
8. **Whereas**, allowing individuals with a history of violent crimes to serve on school boards will undermine public trust in the education system and pose potential safety concerns, especially if that person is barred from working inside a school;
9. **Whereas**, the state of New Jersey requires all school board members to undergo a thorough background check and have their fingerprints run. If that individual is convicted of crimes or offenses enumerated in N.J.S.18A:12-1, they will be deemed ineligible for a position on the school board;⁶
10. **Whereas**, stakeholders in the school need to be able to trust that school board members will stay transparent and accountable for their choices, as they make crucial decisions regarding their jobs, including budget, policy, curriculum, and facility decisions;
11. **Whereas**, community members should be able to trust that school members have the students in their best interests, and can rely on them to make dependable decisions;
12. **Whereas**, community members, especially in rural places, may not have the resources or information to run background checks during elections;
13. **Whereas**, students, staff, and community members deserve to have a safe educational environment and transparency around their school board members;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the implementation of a law prohibiting felons who have committed barrier crimes from serving on a school board within the time period that they could not lawfully be employed within a school district by going through a background check

Action Statement: If passed by the general assembly of AASG, this resolution will be submitted to the Alaska State Legislature for consideration of the implementation of a law requiring school board members to be held to the same hiring standards as school teachers and staff by going through a thorough background check before the election process.

Works Cited

1. “Alaska Admin Code.” *Akleg.gov*, 2025, www.akleg.gov/basis/aac.asp#7.10.905. Accessed 22 Apr. 2025.
2. *BARRIER CRIME a Barrier within the Following Time Periods*. 1 Jan. 2020, health.alaska.gov/media/tezf5uyr/bcpbarriercrimematrix.pdf.
3. “Background Check Program.” *State of Alaska | Department of Health*, 2025, health.alaska.gov/en/services/background-check-program/. Accessed 22 Apr. 2025.
4. “Alaska Statutes 2023.” *Akleg.gov*, 2023, www.akleg.gov/basis/statutes.asp#14.12.080. Accessed 6 Mar. 2025.
5. “Alaska Division of Elections - Restoration of Voting Rights.” *Alaska.gov*, 2025, www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/restorationofvotingrights.php. Accessed 22 Apr. 2025.

6. Parmalee, Thomas. "New Board Members Must Complete Criminal Background Checks." *New Jersey School Boards Association*, 12 Nov. 2024, www.njsba.org/news-information/school-board-notes/new-board-members-must-complete-criminal-background-checks-3/. Accessed 22 Apr. 2025.

Resolution passes with unanimous consent

Passed by the Spring 2025 General Assembly of AASG hosted by Sitka High School and Mt Edgecumbe High School

Francis Myers

AASG Vice President, Francis Myers

Kathleen Navarre

AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre