

Version with all changes accepted

Minority Representation on the Board of Education

The Minority Representation for the Board of Education (Subsection 2-30(c) in the existing Charter and Subsection 2-10(b)(2) in the proposed Charter) has been modified in response to recent public concerns and the requests by the Board of Education and Jim Gaston.

Proposed Charter — The number of members of any one political party who may serve on the 7-member Board of Education shall not exceed 4.

Existing Charter — A maximum of 5 members from the same political party is permitted, as determined by provisions of Section 9-167a of the CT General Statutes. At most 2 from any one party are permitted to be elected during elections when 3 Board of Education seats are open, and 3 are permitted when 4 seats are open.

Considerations — The State of Connecticut requires that no more than 5 members of a 7 member board be from any one party, allowing for at least 2 members to provide diverse views to the considerations of the board. A maximum of 5 candidates from one party could: 1) offer the broadest choice of candidates to voters, allowing up to 5 each of Democratic, Republican, and Independent/Unaffiliated to appear on the ballot and 2) allow for more qualified candidates to be elected, should the majority party nominate 5 highly qualified candidates. A maximum of 4 candidates from one party could: 1) ensure a more politically balanced Board reducing the potential of politically-driven outcomes in the actions taken by the Board and 2) encourage the presence of a third-party candidate on the Board by guaranteeing 3 available seats to be held by the minority.

Version with changes noted

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Considerations — The State of Connecticut requires that no more than 5 members of a 7 member board be from any one party, allowing for at least 2 members to provide diverse views to the considerations of the board. A maximum of 5 candidates from one party (~~instead of 4~~) could: 1) offer the broadest choice of candidates to voters, allowing up to 5 each of Democratic, Republican, and Independent/Unaffiliated to appear on the ballot and 2) ~~limit the choices offered to voters by reducing the number of eligible candidates from one party. E.g., if one party has 5 highly qualified candidates, only 4 would be allowed to run (the specific individuals given the opportunity would be determined by the political party), and would guarantee that a potentially less~~ allow for more qualified candidates to be elected, should the majority party nominate 5 highly qualified candidates. A maximum of 4 candidates from one party (~~instead of 5~~) could:

1) ensure a more politically balanced Board ~~and reduce-reducing~~ the ~~potential-likelihood~~ of politically ~~party~~-driven outcomes in the actions taken by the Board and 2) encourage the presence of a third-party candidate on the Board by guaranteeing 3 available seats to be held by the minority.

Paul's original

Minority Representation on the Board of Education

The proposed Charter revision specifies that the number of members of any one political party who may serve on the 7-member Board of Education shall not exceed 4.

Currently, the Charter allows for a maximum of 5 members from the same political party, as determined by provisions of Section 9-167a of the CT General Statutes.

Some points to consider:

- A maximum of 4 candidates from one party (instead of 5) could help ensure a more politically balanced Board and reduce the likelihood of political party-driven outcomes in the actions taken by the Board.
- A maximum of 4 candidates from one party (instead of 5) could help encourage presence of a third-party candidate on the Board by guaranteeing 3 available seats to be held by the minority (instead of 2).
- A maximum of 5 candidates from one party (instead of 4) could offer the broadest choice of candidates to voters, allowing up to 5 each of Democratic, Republican, and Independent/Unaffiliated to appear on the ballot.
- A maximum of 4 candidates from one party (instead of 5) could limit the choices offered to voters by reducing the number of eligible candidates from one party. E.g., if one party has 5 highly qualified candidates, only 4 would be allowed to run (the specific individuals given the opportunity would be determined by the political party), and would guarantee that a potentially less qualified candidate would fill one of the 3 remaining seats.