



New School Board Election “Bracketing” Law Takes Effect

As you may know, the deadline for school board candidates to submit their nominating petitions to county clerks for the upcoming November 2018 elections is this Monday, July 30 at 4:00pm (last Monday in July). The November elections will be the first since Governor Phil Murphy signed a bill into law allowing for the “bracketing” of school board candidates on May 30, 2018. Specifically, school board candidates are now permitted to run with one another and circulate nominating petitions jointly. In the case of a November election, school board candidates who wish to take advantage of bracketing must either submit a joint petition or specifically notify the county clerk in writing at least seven (7) days before the August 13, 2018 ballot position drawing date, that is before August 6, 2018.

The bracketing law also permits short non-political designations in not more than three words that conveys the principles which the candidate or candidates represent. The designation may not contain the name of any political party entitled to participate in a primary election, or any derivative of that political party’s name. Importantly, this designation must be included with a school board candidate’s petition.

Should you have any questions or concerns, the attorneys at The Busch Law Group are available to assist you.

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