

CONSIDER SEEKING ELECTION TO A NEW UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD

Subject to approval by the State Board of Education, scheduled for February 21, 2017, the voters of the towns of Chelsea and Tunbridge will go to the polls on April 11, 2017, to determine whether or not to become a single, unified school district (named the First Branch Unified School District). On that same day, we are required by statute to elect the first people who will serve on the new unified board to oversee the creation of the new school district, should it be approved.

The new board, if the new district is approved, will consist of six (6) members, with three members elected from each of the three towns. Nominations will come from each town. However, the actual election of board members will be by all voters in all towns.

In the future, terms for board members will be three years. Per statute, the initial board will be elected to various term lengths. The shortest term served must be until the second annual meeting following the establishment of the unified district. This year, each candidate running for office must choose which term to run for. Below is the list of positions and the year in which the term will expire.

Town/District	2019	2020	2021
Chelsea	1	1	1
Tunbridge	1	1	1

The official procedure for filing for these positions are as follows:

Nominations for the office of Unified School Director representing any district/town shall be made by filing with the clerk of that school district/town proposed as a necessary district in the union, a statement of nomination signed by at least 30 voters in that district or one percent of the legal voters in the district, whichever is less and accepted in writing by the nominee. A statement shall be filed not less than 30 nor more than 40 days prior to the date of the vote. This would place the time to file petitions in the first week or two in March.

We urge you to consider this exciting opportunity now. This is an unprecedented opportunity to create something great for our students, our taxpayers, and our communities.