

Summary of School Elections Law (S-3148)

- Law provides several procedures for moving the school election to November:
 - Adoption of a resolution by the Board of Education OR
 - Adoption of a resolution by the governing body of a municipality OR
 - A ballot question presented to the voters in a November election. In this case, the referendum would be prompted by a petition signed by not less than 15 percent of the voters who voted in the district during the last preceding presidential election.

- Law does not alter the board/budget election process for districts that continue to hold their annual school election in April.

- If the school election is moved to November:
 - **No public vote required for budget that is at or below the levy cap.**
 - Legislation refers to levy cap, not “2% levy cap.”
 - Four year commitment – election can’t be returned to April until at least four annual school elections have been held in November.
 - Board members are elected in November; Board reorganization occurs first week of January.
 - Board members whose terms would have expired following the April election will have their terms extended to the January organization date.
 - County clerk takes over election duties previously handled by Business Administrator
 - Requests for spending above the levy cap must be approved by voters in November.
 - Public hearing still required.
 - Budget must still be submitted to the County Executive Superintendent for approval.
 - If district proposes a budget that exceeds the levy cap, the district would operate under a temporary budget until the election.
 - If the voters approve the proposal for additional spending at the November election, the tax levy for the school year would be recertified to reflect the additional amount.
 - If the voters reject the proposal for additional funds, the district's temporary budget would be the final budget for that school year.

- Election expenses would be shared among various entities. Current expenses:
 - Postage for sample ballots: \$11,000
 - Camden County Board of Freeholders: \$1,000
 - Printing costs for Sample ballots: \$14,000
 - Camden County Treasurer: \$11,000
 - Election Workers: \$10,000

- Law is silent on deadline for changing the date of the election.