

News Release: Byram Township School District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Byram Township Board of Education Adopts Resolution Moving School Elections to
November**

January 25, 2012—The Byram Township Board of Education today approved a resolution that moves the school elections from April to the General Election in November.

On Jan. 17, Gov. Chris Christie signed into law Senate Bill 3148, which gives communities the option of moving the school elections from their current date, the third Tuesday in April, to the November general election. The move places school board candidates on the November ballot, but it eliminates the annual vote on proposed school budgets that are at or below the state's 2-percent tax levy cap.

The change to November school elections may be made by the board of education, the municipal governing body, or through voter referendum.

“The Byram Township Board of Education believes that more citizens will participate in the selection of its members at the General Election than on the third Tuesday in April and that the higher level of participation will foster positive interest in our public schools,” said the resolution approved by the board.

“Proposed school budgets will still undergo a thorough review by the state Department of Education to ensure efficiency, and they are controlled by the same 2-percent tax levy cap as are municipal and county budgets, which are not presented to voters. Any spending above the 2-percent cap must be presented to voters.”

Members of the school board whose terms would have expired after the April 2012 election will continue to serve until the board's organization meeting, which will be held the first week in January 2013.

School board races will remain non-partisan, and candidates' names will appear on a separate section of the November ballot. The change in the school election date will remain in effect at least through November 2015, after which the community has the option of changing it back to April.

With November school board member elections, candidates will be required to submit a nominating petition (the document that places their name on the ballot) to the County Clerk, not the local school board office. The deadline to submit nominating petitions will be June 5, 2012. More information about candidacy for the November election will be posted on the New Jersey School Boards Association website, www.njsba.org.

The New Jersey School Boards Association supported the law to allow communities to move to November school elections, based on the permissive nature of the bill and NJSBA's long-standing support of eliminating the vote on proposed school budgets that are within cap.