New School Board Members

The following map shows the number of new school board members elected to their local school boards as a result of the November 2017 elections in Kansas.
Introduction

This report contains information gathered from the KASB School Board Elections Survey, which collects data biannually from all public school districts in Kansas. The report includes responses from the 1996-97 school year thorough 2017-18, and represents data submitted to KASB as of Wednesday, April 4th, 2018. At this point 258 districts had responded, representing 90.21 percent of the districts in Kansas.

It is important to note that the surveys listed above had less than 100 percent response rates for the past several years, so some of the change in trends from year to year could be due in part to the districts who have not provided their information.

For the purposes of this report, “Average” refers to the mean value reported, “Median” refers to the middle-most value reported, “Minimum” refers to the smallest value reported, and “Maximum” refers to the largest value reported.
**Method of Election**

In 2017-18, 42.6 percent of districts reported that all of their board members were elected at-large (up from 40.4 percent in 2014-15).

29.8 percent (down from 31.9 percent in 2014-15) indicated that they have three-member districts with two board members in each district and one at-large.

18.6 percent (down from 19.3 percent in 2014-15) indicated they have six-member districts with one board member in each district and one at-large.

Finally, 8.9 percent (up from 8.4 percent in 2014-15) have two-member districts with three board members in each district and one board member at large.
Voting Plan

For 2017-18, 54.3 percent of districts (up from 47.7 percent in 2014-15) indicated that their voting plan allows all voters to vote for all candidates in both the general and primary elections.

27.5 percent (down from 31.2 percent in 2014-15) indicated that their voting plan allows all voters to vote for all positions in the general election, but allows voters to vote only for candidates in their member districts in primary elections.

18.2 percent (down from 21.1 percent in 2014-15) indicated that their voting plan allows voters to vote for only candidates in their member district in both the general and primary elections.
Board Positions

For 2017-18, the average district had 3.3 positions up for election, 1.6 board members running unopposed, 1.9 incumbents filing for re-election, 0.4 positions where nobody filed for elections, 0.4 positions requiring a primary election, and 1.6 candidates in the primary.

Trends are somewhat difficult to identify for this data. The positions up for election vacillates between 3.2 or 3.3 one year to 4.1 or 4.2 the next, due to the fact that most districts have 7 board members and more districts have 4 of these members up for re-election on school years ending in odd numbers than do on school years ending in even numbers.

The average number of board members running unopposed has been increasing since 2008-09, as have the positions where nobody filed for election and the number of positions requiring a primary election.
Results

For 2017-18, an average of 3.6 board members were not up for re-election, 1.7 did not file for re-election, 1.0 candidate was defeated in the primary election, 1.2 candidates were defeated in the general election, 2.1 were re-elected, 1.7 were new board members, and there were a total of 3.4 winners.

Trend data shows these averages oscillating on alternating years much the same as (and most likely due to) the number of positions up for election.
Gender

In 2017-18, 65.5 percent of the board members reported were men, and 34.5 percent were women. This number represents a steady increase in the percent of women serving on school boards in Kansas since 2004-05, when 29.6 percent of the board members reported were women.