

(2) If the number of candidates for membership on the Board of Education at the time of the deadline for the withdrawal of candidacy is no more than twice the number of vacancies to be filled, the board of supervisors of elections shall certify the candidates as nominated. These names and the name of the office for which they are candidates shall be omitted from the ballot.

(3) If the number of candidates for membership on the Board of Education at the time of the deadline for the withdrawal of candidacy is more than twice the number of vacancies, the board of supervisors of elections shall permit all registered voters of Montgomery County, with or without party affiliation, to vote for the nominees at a primary election held at the same time and place as the primary elections of the political parties. A registered voter may not vote for more than the number of nominees for which there are offices to fill. Those persons receiving the largest numbers of votes at the primary election are the candidates for election to the county Board of Education offices in the following ratio:

(i) Years of the election for four board members -- eight primary nominees;

(ii) Years of the election for three board members -- six primary nominees.

Voting machines shall be used except for any election at which the use of electronically tabulated punchcard ballots has been authorized by the State Administrative Board of Election Laws pursuant to § 16A-1 of this article. If the number of candidates is too large for the use of voting machines, the board of supervisors of elections shall supply paper ballots in the usual form for use in voting for the offices.

Upon the completion of the canvass of voters at the primary election by the board of canvassers, the board shall determine who are the candidates nominated for election to the school board and shall certify their names to the Montgomery County board of supervisors of elections. ANY PERSON NOMINATED FOR SCHOOL BOARD MAY DECLINE THE NOMINATION ONLY IF THE STATEMENT OF DECLINATION IS MADE IN THE MANNER AND TIME PRESCRIBED BY ARTICLE 33 § 9-1 OF THIS CODE. If a nominated candidate ceases for any reason to be a candidate, the board of supervisors of elections shall place on the ballot for the general election only the names of the remaining candidates.

(4) Any person subject to the authority of the Board of Education of Montgomery County may not be certified as a candidate.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1981, contingent upon the failure