

A board that most closely represents the demographic composition of the region it serves is not only desirable, but often essential for true representation of the district.

So don't let a feeling of inexperience keep you from seeking trusteeship. If it seems right for you, it's probably right for your community.

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## HOW DO I BECOME A TRUSTEE?

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If you are:

- 18 years of age or older
- a citizen of the United States, and
- have lived in your community college district for at least one year

then you are eligible to seek a board seat in your home district.

The only other qualification is an honest commitment to the community college mission: that is, a belief in the value of the services and educational opportunities provided to nearly 600,000 students each year.

Outside the city of Chicago, elections are held on the first Tuesday in April of odd-numbered years, with trustees serving staggered six-year terms.

If you are interested in becoming a trustee and would like more information, call your local community college. Attending a board meeting and talking with current trustees is a great way to get a feel for the office.

You may also contact the Illinois Community College Trustees Association at 1-800-454-2282 or [iccta@communitycolleges.org](mailto:iccta@communitycolleges.org). ICCTA is a statewide organization that provides legislative advocacy and ongoing educational programming for trustees.

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## WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES FOR THE 2025 TRUSTEE ELECTIONS?

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**August 20, 2024**

First day to circulate nominating petitions for the 2025 Illinois consolidated election

*A petition must be signed by at least 50 voters or 10 percent of the voters residing within the college district, whichever is less*

**November 12 - 18, 2024**

Official filing period to submit candidate nominating petitions to the local election official

**April 1, 2025**

Illinois consolidated election

**April 29, 2025**

Final day for Illinois community college boards to conduct organizational meetings and seat trustees elected on April 1

**For more information,  
contact ICCTA at 1-800-454-2282  
or [iccta@communitycolleges.org](mailto:iccta@communitycolleges.org)**

**ICCTA**

Illinois Community College Trustees Association

# COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEESHIP



*Local leadership  
that makes  
a difference*

**ICCTA**

Illinois Community College Trustees Association

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## LEADERSHIP THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

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There is a unique bond between a community college and the people it serves that even the most prestigious university cannot match.

It is that bond, derived from the very nature of the community college -- with its "open door" admissions policy, affordable tuition, and programs tailored to local occupational interests -- that makes dedicated and "in-touch-with-the-people" college leadership absolutely essential.

Because a community college must address an array of interests as diverse as the district itself, the best leadership often arises not from those with in-depth knowledge of educational policy, but rather from those who have the pulse of their community and are willing to act tirelessly on its behalf.

These individuals are the 273 community college trustees serving the people of Illinois. True public servants, their diligent and often unrecognized work helps build better schools, better communities, and a better quality of life for all.

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## WHAT IS A COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEE?

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Each one of Illinois' 39 community college districts is represented by its own seven-member board of trustees, helping shape the activities of the one or more community colleges within its jurisdiction.

In 38 of the districts, a locally elected board of trustees provides college governance. Voters in two districts – Lincoln Land Community College and Southwestern Illinois College – elect trustees by regional subdistricts.

In the city of Chicago, trustees are appointed by the mayor of Chicago and govern all seven community colleges within that district.

In addition, a non-voting student trustee is selected every spring to serve a one-year term on each local board.

Overall, it is the duty of the board to ensure that the priorities and spending of its district meshes with those of the community as a whole. It is therefore incumbent upon each trustee to do their part in accomplishing this daunting task.

This entails remaining neutral and balanced in looking at issues, avoiding the tendency to focus solely on one topic, and always keeping the overall interests of the community in mind.

In addition, trustees are required to work cooperatively with other board members, college administrators, and community leaders. It is easy to see how demanding being a trustee truly is. It is a position that requires dedication, diplomacy, integrity, and an open mind.

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## WHAT DOES A COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEE DO?

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Trustees are charged with several tasks essential to the operation of their institution, including:

- Approving the annual college budget
- Hiring and evaluating the college president
- Setting the college mission
- Participating in legislative advocacy
- Mentoring new trustees
- Helping to shape a positive image of the college within the campus and the community

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## WHAT ARE MY COMMITMENTS?

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While the job of community college trustee is rewarding, it does require a significant amount of unpaid time, interest, dedication, and energy on the part of each board member.

More specifically, all trustees are expected to:

- Attend monthly board and committee meetings
- Participate in special college activities
- Stay informed on educational trends and issues at the state and federal levels
- Complete mandatory leadership and ethics training
- Be involved in state and national trustee associations

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## WHY ME?

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Perhaps a better question to ask yourself is "Why *not* me?"

Many Americans are making positive changes in their communities as members of religious groups or civic organizations. Just as important, however, is the need for able members of the community to contribute skills, knowledge and perspectives in charting the course of their local community college.

Excellence in any community begins with teaching and learning, and on the community college level, that begins with a strong board.

In addition to the sense of pride that trustees feel in helping build their communities, their work enables them to strengthen their communication skills and gain a broader perspective of the events and institutions shaping their district.

Serving as a trustee is an excellent experience for all community-minded persons, regardless of age, sex, racial, socioeconomic, or academic background. Anyone can benefit from serving on a board, and more importantly, all can contribute by sharing their own unique experiences and perspectives.