

(a) (1) Nomination for membership on the Garrett County Board of Education, except as otherwise provided by this section, shall be by petition endorsed by a minimum of 100 registered voters of Garrett County. Each petition shall be filed with the board of election supervisors for Garrett County not later than 9 p.m. on the Monday which is 70 days before the day on which the primary election is held. Each petition shall be accompanied by a \$25 filing fee. Except as otherwise provided in this section, each petition shall conform generally to the laws and requirements of this article.

(2) If after the expiration of the time allowed for filing of petitions, there are not more than two nominees for the board for each member then to be elected, the board of supervisors of elections shall certify the candidates as duly nominated candidates for election for the respective board of education offices. These names and the name of the position for which they are candidates shall be omitted from the ballot required by paragraph (3) of this subsection.

(3) If after the expiration of the time allowed for the filing of petitions, there are more than two nominees for each member of the board then to be elected, the board of supervisors of elections shall provide the means for all duly registered voters of Garrett County, irrespective of party affiliation, to vote for the nominees for the board at a primary election. This primary election shall be held at the time and place for holding the primary elections of the political parties. In taking the ballot, voting machines shall be used. However, if the number of candidates submitted for vote at the primary elections is too large for the practical use of voting machines, the board of supervisors of elections may supply paper ballots in the usual form for use in voting for such offices. The nominees in the primary election, equal to twice the number of members to be elected to the board, who receive the largest number of votes are duly nominated candidates for election to the board offices. The board of canvassers for Garrett County, upon the completion of its canvass of voters at the primary election, shall determine who are the duly nominated candidates for election to the respective board offices under the provisions of this section and shall certify them to the board of supervisors of elections of Garrett County. Any person who has qualified as a candidate for nomination to the county board, and who is required to run in a primary election, may on or before 65 days preceding the primary election, in a writing signed by him and acknowledged before an officer duly authorized to take acknowledgments under the laws of Maryland, notify the board of supervisors of elections of Garrett County that he desires to withdraw as a candidate for the nomination. The petition of candidacy of any candidate so withdrawing shall be void and the name of that candidate may not be placed on