

# Reasons to conduct elections per bylaws timeline

Bylaws indicate when elections are held; but, WHY is it important to elect new officers before the current school year ends and not when the new school year starts?

## ***If the new school year begins without new officers:***

Four months of transition and planning time is forever lost. The new board can begin meeting and planning right after an April election.

1. The program and budget committees have inadequate time to develop and plan prior to the first association meeting, which leaves little time to give notice for and present plans to the membership for its required approval.
2. The PTA executive board must play catch-up. It can take months to feel organized and prepared to effectively lead the association.
3. Banking, check signatures and bill paying can be impaired if previous officers have moved on and financial procedures have not been properly addressed at the end of one fiscal year and the beginning of another.
4. The transition of officers and chairmen after an extended break loses the momentum of sharing and passing on information and materials. If past officers or chairmen move to another campus or community, materials and procedure books often become lost.
5. Newly-elected officers miss the opportunity to participate in counterpart training often provided by the district and council PTA in the spring, as well as convention and other workshops.
6. Bylaws state the president-elect is entitled to represent the PTA at the annual California State PTA convention, if the budget allows. The annual convention is always held in late April or very early May.
7. Mailings of valuable resources and materials from National and California State PTA are missed or not received in a timely manner.
8. The opportunity to promote PTA, build a relationship with the school, and publicize the PTA's role on campus is delayed and momentum is lost.
9. Administrators and school staff may be confused as to whom the PTA leaders are and how valuable the PTA/PTSA is to the school community.
10. Opportunities for valuable community building, networking and volunteer recruitment, which normally begin when officers take office, are lost.
11. The membership campaign begins too late for the PTA to qualify for the Ready, Set ... Remit! Award and may prevent the PTA from remitting the first required dues payment on time.
12. Students lose the opportunity to participate in *Reflections*, PTA's fine arts program, because there is inadequate time to plan, kick off and meet entry deadlines.