



Employers have multiple responsibilities for Board elections

Traditionally, employers have stepped up to handle multiple responsibilities during Board elections. The 2010 election will again bring multiple tasks to employer groups voting this year.

Simply put, employer responsibilities are:

- To support and promote the 2010 Board of Trustees election—considered to be vital to securing a strong member vote showing,
- To encourage interested and qualified employees to run for OPERS' Board of Trustees by posting information in a prominent place and having nomination materials available, and
- Of course, as a member, to vote if your employee group representative is up for election this year. Remember, your vote is your opportunity to provide input on decisions and policies affecting your retirement benefits—via the OPERS Board of Trustees elections.

Employer responsibility: *Promoting voter turnout*

Voter participation in the 2009 Board election averaged only about 10 percent for active members. If your representative is up for election this year, be sure to cast your vote and encourage others to exercise their right to vote.

■ **Who are you?**

Because some employees do not fully understand which employer group is theirs, employers may be asked for verification or clarification. If employees ask you for this information, steer them to the OPERS website, www.opers.org. There, each OPERS member can follow a link to an election information page. On the election page, you and your employees will find a list of OPERS employers and their corresponding employer group.

■ **2010 election facts**

The OPERS Board is comprised of 11 trustees—seven individuals are elected by the specific group each represents (five employer group representatives and two retiree representatives).

Each employee is a part of a specific employee group; the four seats up for election in 2010 include one representative for each of the following groups:

- State employees—Representing those working for the state of Ohio (approximately 55,432 employees)
- State colleges and universities—Representing approximately 55,141 non-teaching employees at state colleges and universities in Ohio
- Municipal employees—Representing approximately 65,783 employees working for Ohio's municipalities
- Retirees—One of two seats representing approximately 150,000 age and service and disability retirees.

Employer responsibility: *Encourage interested and qualified candidates*

Any active OPERS member is eligible for election to represent their employee group on the OPERS Board of Trustees. OPERS retirees receiving an age-and-service benefit, disability benefit or benefits paid under the Combined or Member-Directed plans are eligible to run for the retiree seat. Election packets with an election poster, nomination petitions and all other necessary forms were sent to employers for distribution. Packets are also available at the OPERS office, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio, and via the OPERS website.

Special Election Update

Take a moment to review the packets and prominently post the election poster. The packets detail the complete nomination process (also found on the OPERS website and in member newsletters). If an employee comes to you requesting guidance (and the individual is qualified) be encouraging—the work of the Board is important and ultimately fulfilling.

Election calendar of important next steps

Complete election packets have been sent to employers—review and promote.



Completed petitions for those choosing to run for office are due by 4:30 P.M. on August 2.



Voting materials will be mailed to qualified voters on August 23.



Final date of vote

Eligible members and retirees will be able to vote until midnight on October 1.

Encourage and promote electronic voting



The election count is scheduled for Monday, October 4. The final results will be certified by Ohio's Secretary of State.

Board of Trustees

Ken Thomas, Chair

Representative for Municipal Employees

Cynthia L. Sledz, Vice Chair

Representative for Miscellaneous Employees

Eddie L. Parks

Representative for State Employees

Sharon M. Downs

Representative for Retirees

John W. Maurer

Representative for Retirees

Kimberly Ann Russell

Representative for Non-teaching College/University Employees

Helen Youngblood

Representative for County Employees

Hugh Quill

Director, Department of Administrative Services

Lennie Wyatt

Governor Appointed Investment Expert

James R. Tilling

General Assembly Appointed Investment Expert

Charlie Adkins

Treasurer Appointed Investment Expert

Chris DeRose

Chief Executive Officer