



# EMPLOYER NOTICE

## 2017 Elections for OPERS Board of Trustees

### WHO SHOULD READ THIS NOTICE

Those responsible for communicating information to employees.

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

Work on the 2017 Board of Trustees election has begun. The final day to receive votes for the three positions up for election on OPERS Board of Trustees will be at midnight Sept. 29, 2017. The election will be verified Oct. 2, 2017, by the Ohio Secretary of State's office.

Those elected will serve four-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2018. Individuals elected to the Board of Trustees automatically receive a seat on the Ohio Deferred Compensation Board of Trustees.

The three seats up for election in 2017 include one representative for each of the following groups:

- **County Employees**—Representing approximately 87,600 members working at a county job within the state of Ohio.
- **Miscellaneous Employees**—Representing approximately 46,000 members not included in one of the other groups, employers such as: park districts, conservancy districts, sanitary districts, health districts, townships, metropolitan housing authorities, state retirement systems, public libraries, county law libraries, union cemeteries, joint hospitals, or institutional commissaries within the state of Ohio.
- **Retirees**—One of two seats representing approximately 177,500 age and service, disability, and defined contribution (DC) plan retirees. This group includes re-employed retirees.

Any actively contributing public employee who is a member of OPERS in one of the categories up for election (County or Miscellaneous employees) is eligible to represent their group, except one who is receiving a disability allowance. Any OPERS retiree receiving an age and service benefit, disability benefit or benefit under the DC plan is eligible to represent retirees, including re-employed retirees.

Under Ohio law, a candidate seeking election to an **employee member Board seat** is required to obtain a minimum of 500 signatures from active members within their employee group. At least 10 different counties must be represented by a minimum of 20 signatures each. Employees signing petitions should indicate the county of their employment.

Under Ohio law, a candidate seeking election to a **retiree Board seat** is required to obtain at least 250 signatures from OPERS retirees. At least five different counties must be represented by a minimum of 10 signatures each. Retirees signing petitions should indicate the county in which they reside. Signatures of a retiree's spouse or beneficiary do not count toward the 250 signatures required. A separate communication will be sent directly to all current retirees outlining the requirements for candidates seeking the retiree position.

Here's the 2017 election process, with deadlines:

- **June 1**—*Notice of Election* packets, including posters, petitions and forms, will be sent to all employers and will be available at the OPERS office and online at [www.opers.org/elections](http://www.opers.org/elections). We ask employers to display election materials prominently.
- **July 31, 4:30 p.m.**—Completed petitions, forms and biographical statements must be received by OPERS. (Note: This is an *actual receipt* date, not a postmark date.)
- **August 16**—OPERS Board certifies slate of candidates and biographical statements, which will appear on the voting materials. Candidates will be notified of eligibility.
- **August 22**—Voting materials will be sent to all qualified voters at their home address. As in the past, voters will have the option of voting by mail, through an interactive voice telephone system or via the internet.
- **September 29, midnight**—Last day to receive votes (again, actual date, not postmark date).
- **October 2**—Election results verified under the supervision of the Secretary of State. Winners will be notified after certification of election results.

#### ACTION REQUESTED

Please be aware of these important election dates for 2017 and post the information as prominently as possible.

- Employers are asked to make copies of the petitions available to any interested employee when you receive them.
- Also, remind your employees to submit any recent or upcoming address changes to OPERS. This will ensure each and every eligible employee receives voting material. Employees may submit an address change via their online account on the OPERS website, by contacting a member services representative at 1-800-222-7377, or by written notification submitted to OPERS.

## WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

OPERS' Board of Trustees has an impressive tradition of service to members. Employees who are interested and eligible to run for a position on the Board should be encouraged to do so.

## WHOM TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

After you review this *Employer Notice*, contact your Employer Outreach representative with questions or comments at (888) 400-0965, or by email at [employeroutreach@opers.org](mailto:employeroutreach@opers.org).

## ATTACHED

*Board Election Talking Points* are attached. This document may help you to answer questions employees may have about the specific processes involved in becoming a candidate for election to the OPERS Board of Trustees.

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For a current listing of OPERS Board members, please visit [www.opers.org](http://www.opers.org)

It is your responsibility to be certain that OPERS has your current physical and e-mail address on file. If OPERS is not made aware of address changes, we cannot guarantee that you will receive important information pertaining to OPERS public employers. This Employer Notice is written in plain language for use by public employers who are subject to coverage under the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. It is not intended as a substitute for the federal or state law, namely the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Administrative Code, or the Internal Revenue Code, nor will its interpretation prevail should a conflict arise between it and the Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Administrative Code, or Internal Revenue Code. Rules governing the retirement system are subject to change periodically either by statute of the Ohio General Assembly, regulation of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement Board, or regulation of the Internal Revenue Code. If you have questions about this material, please contact our office or seek legal advice from your attorney.