

Ohio PERRS NEWS

YOUR BENEFIT CONNECTION

News and information for active members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Member-Directed
Plan

OPERS Board of Trustees 2014 Election

As a member of OPERS, you have a voice in decisions and policies affecting your retirement benefits. Every member is part of a specific employee group and each group has a representative on the Board of Trustees. The Board is ultimately responsible for all administration and management of OPERS including setting retirement system policies, approving the overall investment plan and asset allocation strategy, reviewing and approving budgets and acting as fiduciaries of the System.

Individuals elected to the OPERS Board also automatically serve on the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Program Board.

Election 2014 — Elections for four seats on the OPERS and Ohio Deferred Compensation Boards of Trustees will be held in September. Those elected will serve four-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2015.

The four seats up for election in 2014 include one representative for each of the following groups:

State employees — Representing those working at a job for the state of Ohio, approximately 49,307 employees.

State colleges and universities — Representing approximately 48,790 non-teaching employees at state colleges and universities in Ohio.

Municipal employees — Representing approximately 60,116 employees working for Ohio's municipalities.

Retirees — One of two seats representing approximately 166,379 age and service and disability retirees. The two retiree seats do not come up for election in the same year. The other retiree representative was elected to office in 2013.

It's important to realize every single OPERS member and retiree is represented by a Board member. Just as in national and local elections for public office, your vote—your voice—is vital. Members of the Board of Trustees serve four-year terms. That means that every four years you have the opportunity, and the responsibility, to select your Board representative.

If your representative is up for election this year, please plan to cast your vote! Your retirement and your representation on the OPERS Board are too important not to participate in the election process. Serve as the voice for your fellow members.

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Ohio PERS NEWS – Your Benefit Connection is a quarterly newsletter providing news and information to more than 374,000 active members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. An active member is anyone currently contributing toward an Ohio PERS retirement benefit. This publication allows us to communicate vital information concerning retirement benefits to our active members and also educate them on the services we provide.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Monday - Friday

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

newsfeedback@opers.org

It is your responsibility to be certain that OPERS has your current address on file. If OPERS is not made aware of address changes, we cannot guarantee that you will receive important information pertaining to your OPERS account.

This newsletter is written in plain language for use by members of 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.

OPERS Board election

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Any active OPERS member, with the exception of one receiving a disability benefit, is eligible for election to represent the members of their employee group on the OPERS Board of Trustees. Any OPERS retiree receiving an age and service retirement benefit or a disability benefit is eligible for election as a retiree representative.

The nomination process — 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. The same rules apply to a retiree seeking nomination except that they must obtain at least 250 signatures. At least five different counties must be represented by a minimum of 10 signatures each.

Nominating petition packets will be mailed to employers Friday, June 13 for distribution to interested candidates. Packets will also be available at the OPERS office, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio and on the OPERS website. These packets contain official nominating petitions and all other necessary forms to be completed by the candidate. Completed nominating petitions and forms are due at the OPERS office no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 4; petitions postmarked on this date, but received later, are invalid. Any candidate successfully meeting the above nomination criteria will be placed on an official ballot. Every effort is made to ensure that each candidate is given equal space and placement on the ballot.

Voting materials will be mailed to qualified voters Aug. 26. Eligible members and retirees will be able to vote until Oct. 3. The election count is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 6. The final results will be certified by the Ohio Secretary of State's office.

Qualified voters will be able to cast their vote for their Board representative by mail, phone or online, beginning Aug. 26 and continuing through Oct. 3.

Electronic quarterly statements

It's easy to access your statements online

You can reduce the amount of mail delivered to your mailbox by electing to receive your quarterly statements and account transaction confirmations electronically. Simply go to www.opers.org and log in to your online account, or call the OPERS Help Line at (866) 673-7748 for assistance.

Here are the steps to set your mail delivery preference:

- Visit www.opers.org to log in to your online account.
- Access your Defined Contribution account by choosing View your Member-Directed Plan account under Account Summary.
- Enter your preferred e-mail address, mobile phone and select your mail delivery preferences. Then check I Agree under Terms & Conditions and click submit.

Once you've changed your delivery preference, you will be notified via e-mail when new correspondence or quarterly statements become available. The e-mail will specify if the electronic document is an account statement or a confirmation letter.

To view your electronic documents:

- Visit www.opers.org to log in to your online account.
- Access your Defined Contribution account by choosing View your Member-Directed Plan account under Account Summary.
- Click on Statements & Documents and select Correspondence, Tax Forms and Prior Statements.

Reports provide insight into OPERS

OPERS publishes a number of reports throughout the year highlighting many aspects of the organization from finance to health care. These reports are available online at www.opers.org and contain valuable information about OPERS.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

OPERS *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*, or CAFR, details important financial, investment, actuarial and statistical information about our system. We also published a *Summary Annual Financial Report*, or PAFR, designed to relay in plain language key data contained in our CAFR. The summary report provides a condensed snapshot of our fiduciary net assets, investment returns, member demographics, benefit amounts and other related data. To view the reports, click on the **CAFR/PAFR** icon on the [opers.org](http://www.opers.org) home page.

2014 OPERS Investment Plan

Each year the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System writes a new plan to guide our investments for the year. The *2014 OPERS Investment Plan* outlines the strategies, asset allocation and asset class strategies for our Defined Benefit Fund and our Health Care Fund. Performance and risk expectations are part of the plan. This publication can be found by clicking the **Investments** tab on [opers.org](http://www.opers.org).

Corporate Governance Report

The *Corporate Governance Report* highlights our interactions with public companies and the ways in which we took active roles in the companies in which we invest. View the *Corporate Governance Report* by clicking the **Government Relations** tab on the [opers.org](http://www.opers.org) home page.

Educational webinars and recorded online presentations

OPERS offers targeted, educational webinars and recorded presentations tailored to Member-Directed Plan participants. To register for a webinar or to view a recorded online presentation, visit www.opers.org, and click on Seminar Options. The content of these presentations is consistently updated, so be sure to check the Seminar Options page for the latest and most up-to-date listing of educational offering for Member-Directed Plan participants.



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Ohio PERS Board of Trustees

The 11-member OPERS Board of Trustees is responsible for the administration and management of OPERS. Seven of the 11 members are elected by the groups that they represent (i.e., college and university non-teaching employees, state, county, municipal, and miscellaneous employees, and retired members); the Director of the Department of Administrative Services for the state of Ohio is a statutory member, and three members are investment experts appointed by the Governor, the Treasurer of State, and jointly by the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives and the President of the Ohio Senate.

Elected Board Members

Sharon M. Downs
Vice Chair
Retired Members

Heather Link
State College and
University Employees

Sean Loftus
County Employees

John W. Maurer
Retired Members

Matthew Schulz
State Employees

Cynthia Sledz
Chair
Miscellaneous
Employees

Ken Thomas
Municipal Employees

Statutory Board Member

Bob Blair
Director, Department
of Administrative
Services

Appointed Board Members

Vacant
Investment Expert
Governor Appointee

Robert Smith
Investment Expert
Treasurer of State
Appointee

James R. Tilling
Investment Expert
General Assembly
Appointee

Karen Carraher
Executive Director