

# Ohio PERS NEWS

## Your Benefit Connection

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

### OPERS Board of Trustees 2014 Election Your voice, your choice

As an OPERS retiree, you have a voice in decisions and policies affecting your retirement benefits. Every retiree and 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.

***Your representative is up for election this year, so 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 retirees!***

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*OPERS NEWS – Your Benefit Connection* is a quarterly newsletter providing news and information to more than 160,000 age and service retirees, disability benefit recipients and survivor benefit recipients of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. This publication allows us to communicate vital information concerning retirement benefits and health care coverage to our retirees and also educate them on the services we provide.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

www.opers.org  
1-800-222-7377  
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 is not required to provide health care coverage to retirees or their dependents and will only do so at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.**

## OPERS Board election

*(continued from page 1)*

Any OPERS retiree receiving an age and service retirement benefit or a disability benefit is eligible for election as a retiree representative. 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.

### The nomination process

— Under Ohio law, a retiree candidate seeking nomination must obtain at least 250 signatures. At least five different counties must be represented by a minimum of 10 signatures each.

Nominating packets are 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 Aug. 26, and you 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.

**You will be able to cast your vote for your board representative by mail, phone or online through Oct. 3.**

## **OPERS published reports**

### **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](http://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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **OPERS Health Care Report**

The *OPERS Health Care Report* summarizes the changes in health care coverage that we made in the previous year, how we plan to fund health care, how the industry is evolving and how we can maximize quality of care for our plan members. The report also discusses the history of the OPERS health care plan, lists the statutory requirements to which we adhere, and looks at the fund's financial performance.

#### **OPERS Disability Report**

The *OPERS Disability Report* details recent changes to the plan and statistical information such as the number of disability applications OPERS received the previous year, how many applications were approved, and how much we paid in disability benefits.

## **OPERS Educational Opportunities**

**Face-to-Face Seminars** - The OPERS education staff presents seminars on a regular basis throughout the state. These seminars address pension and health care content customized for the audience. Participants can access our health care vendor representatives and OPERS representatives to ask questions. You can register for Face-to-Face Seminars through your online account by selecting "Tools and Resources" then "Seminars and Counseling."

#### **2014 Seminars**

**Cambridge** - July 23

**Youngstown (Boardman)** - Aug. 6

**Rootstown** - Aug. 20

**Chillicothe** - Aug. 27

**Mentor** - Sept. 24

**Oberlin** - Oct. 1

**Columbus** - Oct. 8

**Akron** - Oct. 15

**Zanesville** - Oct. 22

**Tiffin** - Oct. 29

#### **Webinars and recorded presentations**

OPERS is currently conducting weekly, "live" online seminars in an effort to provide our membership with an understanding of the upcoming changes to retiree health care coverage. Please visit [www.opers.org](http://www.opers.org) and click on "Seminar Options" under the heading of "Retirees" to register for webinars.

OPERS has also made available some recorded presentations. These are educational slide presentations with voice-over which reads and guides you through the information. These presentations cover a variety of topics and can be found by visiting [www.opers.org](http://www.opers.org) and clicking on "Seminar Options" under the heading of "Retirees" to view available recorded presentations.



Ohio Public Employees  
Retirement System

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# Ohio PERS NEWS

YOUR BENEFIT CONNECTION

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## Making smart health care choices

OPERS now offers easy access to information and tools that will assist you in making decisions about your medical care. The recently launched wellness section of [www.opers.org](http://www.opers.org), *Making Smart Health Care Choices*, is designed to help you with medical decisions. Whether it's talking to your doctor, deciding to have a particular procedure or simply gaining a higher comfort level about advance care planning, the information on the *Making Smart Health Care Choices* section will improve your knowledge and help manage your decision process. Visit [www.opers.org](http://www.opers.org) and click on the *Making Smart Health Care Choices* link under the Retirees section of the website to experience all the features and information OPERS has provided.

## Ohio PERS Board of Trustees

### Elected Board Members

**Sharon M. Downs**  
Retired Members

**Heather Link**  
State College and  
University Employees

**Sean Loftus**  
County Employees

**John W. Maurer**  
Retired Members

**Matthew Schulz**  
State Employees

**Cynthia Sledz**  
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*