



OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM
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www.opers.org

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 12, 2018

TO: OPERS Retirement Board Members

FROM: Eric Harrell, Interim General Counsel
Jenny Starr, Director-Finance

RE: **IV. Action Items:**
A. Certify Board Candidates for 2018 Special Election

Action requested: _____ moved, _____ seconded to: Certify the list of candidates and biographical statements, attached as Exhibit A, for use in the 2018 Board special election for a Retiree Board seat, and to instruct staff to place such information on the ballot material.

Background -- Ohio Revised Code Section 145.05 requires that the names of all potential Board candidates who receive a sufficient number of valid signatures be placed upon the ballot as candidates for the Board seats for which they have qualified. Approval of the above action would certify the Board's direction to place the qualifying candidates on the ballot.

The seat up for this special election is a Retiree seat.

After qualifying the submitted petitions, the results of those qualifying are as follows:

Retiree

Ronald C. Alexander
Charlene S. Powell
Timothy C. Steitz

Next Steps –

The election will continue in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 145.05. According to Ohio Admin. Code Section 145-1-02, the Board is required to certify the list of candidates and biographical statements of the candidates as shown on Exhibit A. Ohio Admin. Code Section 145-1-02(C)(2)(b)(i) provides that the biographical statement of each candidate shall provide for the candidate's name and county of residence, and may include an email address, website address, and telephone number.

The biographical statement shall include a brief description of current or prior work and relevant industry knowledge or specific experience. The biographical statement shall not exceed two hundred words. The candidate must provide an affidavit signed by the candidate verifying the accuracy and truthfulness of the statement. The board reserves the right to edit such statement for length or inappropriate content with notice to the candidate.

The names are listed on the attached Exhibit A in alphabetical order, but will be randomly rotated on the ballots.

Voting materials will be mailed to qualified voters at their home address of record on February 27, 2018. OPERS is using Election Services Co. to conduct the election. The election materials will include ballot/voting instructions, candidate statements, and a return envelope. Eligible members can vote either through a return paper ballot via the mail, by internet, or by using the telephone option with the toll-free number listed on the paper ballot. The last day to receive votes is March 30, 2018. The election results will be finalized on April 2, 2018 under the supervision of a representative from the Secretary of State's Office.

Candidates ~ Retiree Representative

Ronald C. Alexander

County of Residence: Fairfield

E-mail and/or website address: ralexan2@insight.rr.com

Telephone number: (614) 205-6661

Ron Alexander is the former chief executive officer and President of the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association, where he was responsible for a multi-million-dollar budget and 93 employees. During that time, he was elected for four terms to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System Board, and served as Chairman for part of that time. On the OPERS Board, he helped lead by bringing a disciplined approach to investments, while being mindful of OPERS' health and solvency into the future. Alexander is also a veteran of the US Army.

Alexander believes that the OPERS pension system is strong and with steady leadership can continue to fulfill its pension obligations into the future. He also supports retention of health care for surviving spouses and keeping retirees Cost of Living adjustment at 3 percent annually.

Alexander is presently running for the vacant retiree OPERS board position and is asking for the opportunity to serve retirees as their representative on the pension board. He will bring many years of experience to the seat as well as a wealth of knowledge about OPERS.

Charlene S. Powell, CPA

County of Residence: Geauga

E-mail and/or website address: powell.peri@gmail.com; Powell4OPERS.org

Telephone number: (440) 834-4325

A career public employee and licensed CPA, I have worked with state, county, and local employers, including eleven years with OPERS. I have extensive experience in finance and the funding strategies that affect the design of the pension and health care plans. As a retiree, I serve as the PERI district representative for northeast Ohio, attending both PERI and OPERS Board meetings to keep my chapters informed about issues affecting their retirement benefits.

As a candidate, I will continue to represent the interests of retired members by supporting program changes that ensure the financial stability of our pension and health care benefits for years to come. I will continue to keep retirees informed of discussions that may affect our benefits, and will seek your input and perspective on pending issues so that I can best represent retiree views.

The world of retirement benefits is constantly changing, and decisions about program design must keep pace to ensure the longevity of defined benefit plans such as OPERS. This election, you have a Choice – to elect a candidate that will provide a New Perspective to look to the future and sustained benefits.

Questions? Contact me at powell.peri@gmail.com, and visit my website at Powell4OPERS.org.

Timothy C. Steitz, CFA

County of Residence: Delaware

E-mail and/or website address: tcsteitz@gmail.com

Telephone number: (614) 433-0037

As a Licensed State Retirement System Investment Officer, I successfully managed Ohio public pension fund investments for more than 25 years. After analyzing investments and managing portfolios at OPERS for 18 years, I served as Senior Investment Officer and the Assistant Director-Investments at Ohio SERS. Earlier in my career I was an assistant auditor with the Auditor of State of Ohio. I am a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and a Chartered Market Technician (CMT). I am Ohio born, raised and educated. I grew up in Lisbon and graduated from Kent State University (BBA) and the University of Akron (MBA).

Both of my parents retired under OPERS, so I have always been acutely aware of the importance and value of our pension system. I will passionately serve our retired members and be a strong advocate for their interests. I am especially interested in protecting COLAs, reducing costs and increasing communication (especially making every eligible worker more aware of the value of Ohio Deferred Compensation).

Currently, I teach accounting and investments at Ohio Wesleyan University, and I am a member of PERI. Also, I am an extremely active volunteer (primarily education, food charities, and professional mentoring).