



EMPLOYER NOTICE

2026 Elections for OPERS Board of Trustees

WHO SHOULD READ THIS NOTICE

Those responsible for communicating information to employees.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Work on the 2026 Board of Trustees election has begun. The final day to receive votes for the four positions up for election on OPERS Board of Trustees will be Oct. 2, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. EDT. The election will be certified Oct. 5 2026, by the Ohio Secretary of State. Those elected will serve four-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2027.

The four seats up for election in 2026 include one representative for each of the following groups:

State Employees – Representing approximately 47,000 employees working at a job for the State of Ohio.

Municipal Employees – Representing approximately 59,100 employees working for one of Ohio's municipalities.

College/University Employees – Representing approximately 56,300 non-teaching employees at state colleges and universities in Ohio.

Retiree – One of two seats representing approximately 190,800 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 (State, Municipal or College/University 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 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 2026 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 opers.org/elections. We ask employers to display election materials prominently.
- **August 3, 4:30 p.m. EDT**—Completed petitions, forms and biographical statements must be received by OPERS. (Note: This is an *actual receipt* date, not a postmark date.)
- **August 25**—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.
- **October 2, 11:59 p.m. EDT**—Last day to receive votes (again, actual date, not postmark date).
- **October 5**—Election results certified 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 2026 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.

TALKING POINTS

Click here for the *2026 OPERS Board Election Talking Points for Employers*. 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.

For a current listing of OPERS Board members, please visit 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.