Ohio Public Employees Retirement System
Questions and Answers

Project Name: Proxy Services & Voting Platform
Q&A Period: July 29 – August 6, 2026

	Question	OPERS Response
1.	What is the anticipated start date for services under a resulting contract, and is there a target go-live date OPERS is working toward?	1/1/2027
2.	What is the expected initial contract term, including any renewal options?	Initial contract term 1/1/2027 – 12/31/2029 with an option for two additional 1 year extensions
3.	Section C of the RFP indicates that vendors may respond to Component A (Proxy Voting Research Services), Component B (Proxy Voting Platform), or both, and should clearly indicate if a proposal covers only one component. Could OPERS confirm the preferred method for a vendor to indicate in its proposal that it is responding only to Component A?	Please clearly indicate in both your proposal and in your cover email that your response is only in response to Component A.
4.	Could OPERS provide a more detailed breakdown of the specific services and functionality included under Component A (Proxy Voting Research Services) and Component B (Proxy Voting Platform), respectively? This would help ensure our response addresses the correct scope for each component.	See Attachment 3 - OPERS is seeking ways to streamline voting without compromising quality or accuracy. OPERS is not looking for solutions that would require staff to manually vote all meetings. Vendors should respond in a manner that would enable OPERS to leverage research to have its custom Corporate Governance Policy & Proxy Voting Guidelines applied to execute voting in a vote platform.

5.	For a vendor proposing only Component A, how would ballot and holdings data flow from OPERS' custodians (BNY Mellon and Fifth Third Bank) to that vendor? Would this occur directly, or would it be routed through the Component B platform vendor?	See Attachment 3 - OPERS is seeking ways to streamline voting without compromising quality or accuracy. OPERS is not looking for solutions that would require staff to manually vote all meetings. Vendors should respond in a manner that would enable OPERS to leverage research to have its custom Corporate Governance Policy & Proxy Voting Guidelines applied to execute voting in a vote platform.
6.	If a vendor proposes only Component A, is that vendor expected to execute votes based on its research and recommendations, or would vote execution be handled by the Component B vendor or by OPERS staff directly?	OPERS is seeking ways to streamline voting without compromising quality or accuracy. OPERS is not looking for solutions that would require staff to manually vote all meetings. Vendors should respond in a manner that would enable OPERS to leverage research to have its custom Corporate Governance Policy & Proxy Voting Guidelines applied to execute voting in a vote platform.
7.	Does OPERS intend to award Components A and B to a single vendor, or is OPERS open to awarding the two components to two different vendors?	OPERS is open to evaluating each component separately
8.	For a vendor submitting a proposal for Component A only, is a modified Cost Proposal format expected, or should that vendor complete the same not-to-exceed cost format described in Section D.8, scoped only to Component A?	Vendors should submit a not-to-exceed, fixed-cost price quote regardless of whether both or one component is being proposed.
9.	(Section C; Attachment 3) For a proposal covering Component A, Proxy Voting Research Services, only: should Section B of Attachment 3 be marked not applicable, or are there platform requirements that research-only vendors are expected to address?	Research-only vendors should respond to all sections of the RFP necessary to enable OPERS to leverage research to have its custom Corporate Governance Policy & Proxy Voting Guidelines applied to execute voting in a vote platform.
10.	(Section C) How should research ideally reach the voting platform: is the research vendor expected to deliver recommendations into the platform vendor's system (and if so, through which formats or interfaces, for example APIs), or will OPERS staff apply the research? We can work with either option and want to target our proposal accordingly.	Ideally research would be delivered into the platform. OPERS is seeking ways to streamline voting without compromising quality or accuracy. OPERS is not looking for solutions that would require staff to manually vote all meetings.
11.	(Section D.8.1) What contract term should the not-to-exceed, fixed-cost quote cover (initial term and any renewal options)? This is needed to compute the total cost requested in 8.1.	Your response should clearly indicate separately both the fee for the initial term and any renewal options being offered.
12.	(Section E) Are there minimum vendor qualifications, such as years of operation, insurance types and limits, or required audit certifications, that would disqualify a proposal outright? Put differently, will proposals from younger companies be given serious consideration?	All vendor proposals meeting the submission requirements will receive the same consideration.

13.	(Section B) The overview states that proxy voting research is required for "approx." without a completed figure; could OPERS confirm the expected research volume? In addition, would OPERS consider phased international market coverage in the first season or is full international / global coverage a prerequisite from the beginning?	Approximate numbers were used because the data is historic and is subject to change for upcoming proxy seasons. Approx is the best estimate. Full integration is a prerequisite from the beginning.
14.	(Sections B and C) Beyond the published Corporate Governance Policy & Proxy Voting Guidelines (January 2026), does OPERS maintain more granular operational voting instructions that would be shared with the selected vendor during onboarding, and would OPERS staff participate in calibration reviews of the codified policy?	Yes. More granular instructions will be discussed during onboarding. Staff would participate in calibration reviews of the policy.
15.	(Section B; Attachment 3, requirement 26) For Component A, is the research vendor expected to supply N-PX-ready vote-level data or reporting support, or does that responsibility sit with the voting platform vendor?	Would look to the vote platform vendor to provide N-PX ready vote level data and reporting support.
16.	(Attachment 3, requirement 12) Should the logic for applying an Against vote when information necessary for an informed vote is missing at the deadline reside in the research recommendations, in the voting platform, or in both?	It should reside in both.
17.	(Section B) Which performance metrics and monetary penalty structures apply to Component A vendors, if any?	Performance metrics will be mutually agreed upon with the vendor awarded the contract. Research will include but may not be limited to performance guarantees regarding timely research, accuracy of research, and correct application of OPERS' custom vote recommendations.
18.	(Attachment 4) Where a vendor does not yet hold a SOC 2 or ISO 27001 report, will documented security controls together with an audit roadmap be evaluated? Attachment 4, questions 8 and 9, appear to contemplate this path.	If a vendor does not have a SOC2 report to provide, an equivalent will be accepted for consideration.
19.	(Attachment 3, requirement 16) Does market research reports refer to market-level policy and season updates, or to company-specific research beyond ballot items? Examples of the types of reports OPERS expects would be helpful.	Market level policy and season updates.