



Finance and Administration Committee

Agenda Item 9a

November 14, 2018

Item Name: 2018 CalPERS Board of Administration State, School, and Public Agency Election Results

Program: Board of Administration Election

Item Type: Information

Executive Summary

CalPERS team members from the Operations Support Services Division, in conjunction with the Office of Public Affairs, Stakeholder Relations, Information Technology Services Branch and the Legal Office completed the 2018 CalPERS Board of Administration State, School, and Public Agency Member elections. In addition, the Office of Audit Services provided oversight throughout the election process with an auditor present during the random drawing for the order of candidate names to appear on the ballot, logic & accuracy ballot testing prior to the start of the election, paper ballot intake process, and the electronic tabulation process.

Theresa Taylor and Rob Feckner were re-elected to their respective State and School member positions, and the election of Jason Perez to the Public Agency member position. The term of office for all three positions is January 16, 2019 through January 15, 2023.

Strategic Plan

The Agenda Item supports the CalPERS 2017-22 Strategic Plan, which is to strengthen the long-term stability of the pension fund.

Background

The CalPERS Board of Administration consists of 13 members; six of the members are elected by their represented membership. In accordance with the Public Employees' Retirement Law (PERL) California Code of Regulations, Section 554.8(d), the candidate receiving the majority vote for each position shall be certified by the Secretary of State as being elected.

Analysis

The following is a summary of the 2018 State, School, and Public Agency election results:

- The State Member position, Theresa Taylor, and School Member position, Rob Feckner, ran unopposed so an election was not conducted. Their elections were officially certified by the Secretary of State on June 8, 2018.

- The Public Agency Member position was decided by a majority vote in the primary election and Jason Perez was elected with 56.78% of the votes.
- Voter turnout for the 2018 Public Agency Member election was 6.4%. There were 258,899 eligible voters and 16,586 votes were submitted. In comparison, the voter turnout for the 2014 Public Agency Member election was 6.8%. There were 247,494 eligible voters and 16,875 votes were submitted.
- The Public Agency Member election certification package was submitted to the Secretary of State on October 17, 2018. The Secretary of State has 30 days to certify the election.
- The City of Corona had the highest voter participation (48.29%), but the County of Santa Clara had the highest number of employees that voted (1,419). The Top 20 Employers with the highest voting percentage and additional voter demographics for the Public Agency Member election can be found in Attachment 1.

Marketing Efforts

The Operations Support Services Division partnered with the Office of Public Affairs and Stakeholder Relations to increase voter awareness of the 2018 Board election. Some of the outreach efforts included:

- Partnered with the top 10 largest Public Agency employers to market the election
- Toolkit for the employers (see Attachment 2)
- Election reminder email blasts (see Attachment 2)
- Press Releases
- Facebook and Twitter messages
- Candidate Statement videos
- Hosted a candidate forum, streamed live and placed it on the CalPERS website for future viewing (see Attachment 2)

Electronic Tabulation Incident

During the May 15, 2018 Finance and Administration Committee meeting, the Board approved changes to the paper ballot intake process. This included keeping the returned paper ballot envelopes securely stored and not opened until after the voting period for the Public Agency Member election officially closed. When the official tabulation process began on October 2, 2018, the returned paper ballot envelopes were opened and the paper ballots were scanned into the voting system. On October 4, 2018, the paper, online, and phone ballots were tabulated. As discussed in detail in the attached incident report, the tabulation program experienced technical difficulties that resulted in a brief delay in tabulation. For future elections, modifications will be made to the tabulation program to avoid a recurrence of this incident. Please see Attachment 3 for the full incident report.

Budget and Fiscal Impacts

The total cost to conduct the 2018 Public Agency Member election for Fiscal Year 2018-19 was \$474,688.14. The cost per vote received was approximately \$29.22. In comparison, the 2014 Public Agency cost per vote received was \$26.87, and in the 2017 Member-at-Large election it

was \$25.82 for the primary election, and \$17.11 for the runoff election. The 2018 Public Agency Member election detailed Cost Summary is shown in Attachment 4.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Public Agency Member Election Voter Information

Attachment 2 – Voter Outreach Statistics

Attachment 3 – Tabulation Incident Report

Attachment 4 – Cost Summary

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