



Finance and Administration Committee

Agenda Item 7a

February 13, 2023

Item Name: 2022 CalPERS Board of Administration State, School, and Special Retired Member Elections Results

Program: Board of Administration Election

Item Type: Information

Executive Summary

CalPERS team members from the Operations Support Services Division (OSSD), in conjunction with the Office of Public Affairs (PAOF), Stakeholder Relations (STRL), Information Technology Services Branch (ITSB), and the Legal Office (LEGO), completed the 2022 CalPERS Board of Administration State, School, and Special Retired Member Elections.

The results include the re-election of Theresa Taylor to the State member seat and the election of Kevin Palkki to the School member seat. The term of office for both seats began January 16, 2023, and ends January 15, 2027.

The results also include the election of Yvonne Walker to fill the board's vacant Retired member seat. The term of office for this seat began immediately upon certification of the official election results by the Secretary of State on December 21, 2022, and ends January 15, 2028.

Strategic Plan

This agenda item is not a product of the Strategic Plan but is part of the regular and ongoing workload of OSSD.

Background

The CalPERS Board of Administration consists of 13 members; six (6) of the members are elected by their represented membership. In accordance with the Public Employees' Retirement Law (PERL), Section 554.8(d), the candidate receiving the majority vote for each position shall be certified by the Secretary of State as being elected. In the event that no candidate for any position receives a majority of votes, a runoff election will be conducted involving the two (2) candidates who receive the highest number of votes.

The following is a summary of the election results:

State Member Election

- Theresa Taylor was re-elected unopposed to the State member seat on the board. The remaining election procedures were cancelled, and the election was officially certified by the Secretary of State on June 20, 2022.

School Member Election

- Kevin Palkki was elected unopposed to the School member seat on the board. The remaining election procedures were cancelled, and the election was officially certified by the Secretary of State on June 20, 2022.

Special Retired Member Election

Primary Election

- The primary election for the board's Retired member seat in which there were three (3) candidates – Tim Behrens, Yvonne Walker, and Randall Cheek – was held between August 26, 2022, and September 26, 2022. A total of 110,140 valid votes were cast. Walker received 54,865 votes, or 49.81%, Cheek received 28,445 votes, or 25.83%, and Behrens received 26,830 votes, or 24.36%.
- Voter turnout for the primary election was 17.21% based on 656,151 total eligible voters and 112,925 total vote submissions received.
- In Attachment 1, 2022 Special Retired Member Primary Election Voter Information, Sacramento had the highest participation for the Top 10 Cities with the highest number of votes (5,621 or 4.98%). Paper ballot or mail-in voting was the most popular voting method (85,854 or 76.03%).
- The cost for the primary election was approximately \$2.44 per voter based on 656,151 total eligible voters. The cost based on total vote submissions received (\$1,603,890.27 /112,925) was approximately \$14.20 per voter.
- OSSD partnered with PAOF, STRL, and ITSB to increase voter awareness of the election. Some of the outreach efforts included:
 - Candidate Statement Videos
 - Toolkit for Retiree Stakeholder Organizations
 - Press Releases
 - Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram) Messages
 - Hosting a virtual candidate forum, streaming live, and placing it on the CalPERS website for future viewing

Runoff Election

- Since none of the candidates received a majority vote, a runoff election between Cheek and Walker, the two (2) candidates with the highest number of votes in the primary election, was initiated.
- The runoff election was held between November 4, 2022, and December 5, 2022. A total of 113,453 valid votes were cast. Walker was elected by a majority vote of 64,553, or 56.90%. Cheek received 48,900 votes, or 43.10%.
- The election result was officially certified by the Secretary of State on December 21, 2022.
- Voter turnout for the runoff election was 17.51% based on 661,033 total eligible voters and 115,751 total vote submissions received.
- In Attachment 2, 2022 Special Retired Member Runoff Election Voter Information, Sacramento had the highest participation for the Top 10 Cities with the highest number of votes (5,796 or 5.01%). Paper ballot or mail-in voting was the most popular voting method (88,459 or 76.42%).
- The cost for the runoff election was approximately \$1.35 per voter based on 661,033 total eligible voters. The cost based on total vote submissions received (\$889,093.20/115,751) was approximately \$7.68.
- OSSD partnered with PAOF, STRL, and ITSB to increase voter awareness of the election. Some of the outreach efforts included:
 - Candidate Statement Videos
 - Toolkit for Retiree Stakeholder Organizations
 - Press Releases
 - Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram) Messages

Budget and Fiscal Impacts

There were no costs associated with the State and School Member elections since the candidates ran unopposed.

The cost to conduct the Special Retired Member Primary Election in fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23 was approximately \$1,603,890.27. The cost to conduct the Special Retired Member Runoff Election in fiscal year 2022-23 was approximately \$889,093.20. Details for both the primary and runoff elections are in Attachment 5, Cost Summary.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – 2022 Special Retired Member Primary Election Voter Information

Attachment 2 – 2022 Special Retired Member Runoff Election Voter Information

Attachment 3 – Primary Election Voter Outreach Statistics

Attachment 4 – Runoff Election Voter Outreach Statistics

Attachment 5 – Cost Summary

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