



Finance and Administration Committee Agenda Item 10a

February 13, 2018

Item Name: 2017 CalPERS Board of Administration Member At Large 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 2017 CalPERS Board of Administration Member-at-Large election. The results include the election of David Miller to Position A, and Margaret Brown to Position B. The term of office for both elected candidates is January 16, 2018 through January 15, 2022.

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), 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 candidates who receive the highest number of votes.

At the March 2016 Finance & Administrative Committee meeting, the Board approved regulatory changes that allowed online and telephone voting. These voting methods were used for the first time in the 2017 Member-at-Large election. These new systems provided members a state-of-the-art option for casting their vote to compliment the traditional mail-in ballot. The new systems were easily accessible, user-friendly, and flexible. Online voters could access the voting system through their personal smart phone, computer or tablet all while protecting the security of their personal information.

Analysis

The following is a summary of the 2017 Member-at-Large election results:

- The Position A seat was decided by a majority vote in the primary election and David Miller was elected with 63.7% of the votes. No runoff election was conducted.
- The Position B seat was decided by a majority vote in the runoff election and Margaret Brown was elected with 53% of the votes.

- Voter turnout for the 2017 Member-at-Large election was 9.14% for the primary election and 10.66% for the runoff election. In comparison, the voting turnout for the 2013 Member-at-Large election was 11.5%, the 2014 State election was 9.4%, and the 2014 Public Agency election was 6.8%.
- In Attachment 1, Member-at-Large Primary Election Voter Information, of the Top 20 Employers with the highest voting percentage, CalPERS had the highest percentage of voter participation (over 20 percent) for the primary election and Sacramento had the highest participation for the Top 20 Cities with the highest number of votes. The retired members were the highest voting population and mail-in voting was the most popular voting method. In Attachment 2, Member-at-Large Runoff, the statistics were similar.
- Operations Support Services Division partnered with the Office of Public Affairs and Stakeholder Relations to increase voter awareness of the 2017 Board election and participation in using the new online and telephone voting systems. Some of the outreach efforts included:
 - Online voting presentations to members and stakeholder groups
 - Candidate Statement videos
 - Toolkits for the employers
 - Spotlight Ads/Banners on Inside CalPERS
 - Press Releases
 - Facebook, Twitter and Spark messages
 - Hosted a candidate forum, streamed live and placed it on the CalPERS website for future viewing

Budget and Fiscal Impacts

The total cost to conduct the 2017 Member-at-Large election for Fiscal Years 2016-17 and 2017-18 was \$5,706,355. The detailed Cost Summary is shown in Attachment 3.

Frequently Asked Questions

Due to some questions being raised during the 2017 CalPERS Member-at-Large Board election, CalPERS developed a Frequently Asked Questions document for both the Primary election and the Runoff election. These documents were shared with the constituents and posted on the external CalPERS website (Attachments 4 and 5).

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Member-at-Large Primary Election Voter Information

Attachment 2 – Member-at-Large Runoff Election Voter Information

Attachment 3 – Cost Summary

Attachment 4 – The CalPERS Board of Administration Election Process Primary Election FAQ

Attachment 5 – The CalPERS Board of Administration Election Process Runoff Election FAQ

Kimberly A. Malm, Chief
Operations Support Services Division

Douglas Hoffner
Deputy Executive Officer
Operations and Technology

Charles Asubonten
Chief Financial Officer