

Revision Date: August 2016 – State Reference Guide
Chapter: General Membership Information

Section: Optional Members of CalPERS
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Legend: Deleted/Replaced – Added/Revised

The Government Code provides “optional” membership rights for certain elected and appointed officers. Optional members are excluded from CalPERS membership unless an election to participate in CalPERS is filed with CalPERS.

If membership is elected and established:

1. Other than the choice whether or not to elect CalPERS membership, “optional” members are subject to the standard CalPERS laws and regulations that apply to non-optional members.
 2. Membership becomes effective the date the election form is received and filed with CalPERS.
 3. There is no Government Code provision to opt out of membership prior to separation from office. Once elected, membership must be continued for all future consecutive “optional” member positions with the same employer as long as the future positions are not excluded by law.
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