

Theresa Taylor, President
David Miller, Vice President

Malia M. Cohen
Michael Detoy
Monica Erickson
Troy Johnson
Fiona Ma
Lisa Middleton
Kevin Palkki
Ramon Rubalcava
Yvonne Walker
Mullissa Willette
Dr. Gail Willis



2026 School Member Election

NOTICE OF ELECTION
March 16, 2026

BOARD ELECTION OFFICE

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:
400 Q Street, Room W1570
Sacramento, CA 95811

MAILING ADDRESS:
P. O. Box 942702
Sacramento, CA 94229-2702

(916) 795-3952
(800) 794-2297

board_election_coordinator@calpers.ca.gov
www.calters.ca.gov/boardelection

Eligible active school members of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) will have an opportunity this year to elect the school representative for the CalPERS Board of Administration. The term of the incumbent, Kevin Palkki, will expire on January 15, 2027. The new term of office will begin January 16, 2027 and run through January 15, 2031. The incumbent, Kevin Palkki, has declared his intention to be a candidate for re-election.

PROCESS FOR BECOMING A CANDIDATE

Candidate Eligibility Requirements — An eligible active CalPERS school member may be nominated if the active member is currently employed by a CalPERS-covered school agency on the date of this Notice of Election (Notice), is 18 years of age or older, and is a California resident.

Nomination Information Requirements — Each candidate must submit a [Nomination Petition Form](#) and a [Nomination Acceptance/Ballot Designation Form](#) to the CalPERS Board Election Coordinator at the above physical or mailing address **no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 14, 2026** to be considered for a candidate's eligibility in this election. For all methods of delivery, including by U.S. Mail, candidates must allow sufficient time for transit to ensure that the required nomination information arrives at CalPERS by the deadline. All nomination information received by CalPERS will be date and time-stamped upon receipt in Room W1570. Any nomination information delivered in person must be received by a CalPERS employee. CalPERS is not responsible for nomination information left on the counter in Room W1570 regardless of the time of delivery. Nomination information received by CalPERS after the deadline will be rejected and will not be opened. All forms required to fulfill the nomination information requirements may be requested through the Board Election Office and are available on the [CalPERS Board Election webpage](#).

Required nomination information includes:

- A. Nomination Petition Form** must be endorsed with original signatures by at least 250 eligible active CalPERS school members who meet the Candidate Eligibility Requirements set forth above. Photocopied, faxed, or otherwise reproduced Nomination Petition Forms will not be accepted. The Nomination Petition Form requires the following information that will be used by CalPERS to determine eligibility:
- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Nominee Information | 2. Member Information |
| • Full Name | • Full name |
| • Last four digits of the Social Security number | • Last four digits of the Social Security number |
| • Agency employed by | • Agency employed by |
| • Street address, telephone number, and email | • Original signature of each member endorsing the Nominee |
| • Original signature consenting to nomination | |
- B. Nomination Acceptance/Ballot Designation Form** where the candidate must certify acceptance of the nomination upon CalPERS' determination that the nominee is a qualified candidate, consent to serve if elected, and specify a ballot designation, if desired.

Candidate Statement — A nominee has the option to submit their candidate statement of no more than 300 words separately or at the same time as they submit their other required nomination documents. The candidate statement must be received by the CalPERS Board Election Coordinator at the above physical or mailing address or submitted by email **no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 14, 2026**. Once submitted, candidate statements may not be changed or withdrawn except in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Section 554.6, Subdivision (e).

Nomination Period Extension — In accordance with the Public Employees' Retirement Law, Government Code Section 20096.3, the nomination period will be extended for 10 days if an incumbent who declares the intention to run for re-election does not submit their required nomination information by 5:00 p.m. on May 14, 2026. Under these circumstances, any eligible person other than the incumbent shall have until **5:00 p.m. on May 26, 2026**, to submit the required nomination information. This section is not applicable if there is no incumbent eligible to be elected or if the Notice of Election states that the incumbent does not intend to be a candidate for re-election.

Candidate Statement Addendum — Candidates have the option to submit an addendum of no more than 300 words in addition to their initial candidate statements. The addendum must be received no later than 10 calendar days following the distribution of the initial candidate statements to the candidates. Candidates will have the opportunity to video record their candidate statements and addenda in or around August 2026.

Withdrawal of Candidacy — A candidate who decides to withdraw candidacy after submitting their certified Nomination Acceptance/Ballot Designation Form must notify the CalPERS Board Election Coordinator by phone and follow-up in writing. In order to withdraw their candidate statement and/or name from the ballot, a candidate must withdraw before the submission of the ballot materials for printing.

The Political Reform Act — The Political Reform Act (at Government Code Section 81000 et seq.) requires candidates (as that term is used in the Political Reform Act) for the position of elective CalPERS Board Member to file, among other things, campaign statements of contributions and expenditures with the Secretary of State. A list of the required forms can be found on the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) filing schedule located on the [CalPERS Board Election webpage](#). Nominees are strongly encouraged to contact the FPPC for information on their legal obligations under the Political Reform Act.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

CalPERS school members active as of July 1, 2026 are eligible to vote in this election. If a runoff election is needed, CalPERS school members active as of October 1, 2026 are eligible to vote in the runoff election.

PRIMARY ELECTION SCHEDULE	
DATE	ACTION
March 16, 2026	Notice of Election will be sent electronically to school employers for distribution to active school members and will be posted on the CalPERS website.
May 14, 2026*	Nomination Petition Form, Nomination Acceptance/Ballot Designation Form, and optional Candidate Statement are due by 5:00 p.m.
*May 26, 2026	If the nomination period is extended because an incumbent declares candidacy but does not submit complete nomination papers by May 14, the deadline for CalPERS receipt of the Nomination Petition Form, Nomination Acceptance/Ballot Designation Form, and optional Candidate Statement will be extended to this date with required nomination information due by 5:00 p.m.
June 1, 2026*	Optional Candidate Statement Addendum is due by 5:00 p.m.
June 4, 2026*	Random drawing for the order of candidate names to appear on the ballot.
*June 12, 2026	If the nomination period is extended because an incumbent declares candidacy but does not submit complete nomination papers by May 14, the deadline for CalPERS receipt of the Candidate Statement Addendum will be extended to this date.
*June 16, 2026	If the Candidate Statement Addendum is extended to June 12, 2025, the random drawing will be extended to this date.
August 28, 2026	Ballots will be mailed directly to eligible voters. Eligible voters will have the opportunity to submit their vote either by paper ballot, by telephone, or online in accordance with the instructions provided in the ballot package.
August 28, 2026 – September 28, 2026	Returned envelopes will be scanned and secured at 7720 Hardeson Road, Suite B, Everett, Washington 98203.
September 4, 2026	Eligible voters who have not received a ballot by this date should contact the customer service center for a replacement ballot at 1-877-610-8637.
September 28, 2026	Voted ballots must be received on or before this date.
September 29, 2026 through completion	Beginning at 9:00 a.m., on September 29, 2026, the sealed, signed, returned envelopes containing the voted ballots will be opened, the ballots removed, and processed at 7720 Hardeson Road, Suite B, Everett, Washington 98203. Public viewing will be allowed. Upon completion of the paper ballot process, the electronic tabulation will be held at the Embassy Suites, 100 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814. The time for the public viewing will be announced promptly following the completion of the paper ballot process.

RUNOFF ELECTION SCHEDULE (IF NECESSARY)	
DATE	ACTION
October 6, 2026	Random drawing for the order of candidate names to appear on the ballot.
November 6, 2026	Runoff ballots will be mailed directly to eligible voters. Eligible voters will have the opportunity to submit their vote either by paper ballot, by telephone, or online in accordance with the instructions provided in the ballot package.
November 6, 2026 – December 7, 2026	Returned envelopes will be scanned and secured at 7720 Hardeson Road, Suite B, Everett, Washington 98203.
November 13, 2026	Eligible voters who have not received a ballot by this date should contact the customer service center for a replacement ballot at 1-877-610-8637.
December 7, 2026	Voted runoff ballots must be received on or before this date.
December 8, 2026 through completion	Beginning at 9:00 a.m., on December 8, 2026, the sealed, signed envelopes containing the voted ballots will be opened, the ballots removed, and processed at 7720 Hardeson Road, Suite B, Everett, Washington 98203. Public viewing will be allowed. Upon completion of the paper ballot process, the electronic tabulation will be held at the Embassy Suites, 100 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814. The time for the public viewing will be announced promptly following the completion of the paper ballot process.

SEATING OF BOARD MEMBER ELECT	
DATE	ACTION
January 16, 2027	The newly elected Board Members will be seated on the CalPERS Board of Administration in accordance with the Public Employees’ Retirement Law, Government Code Section 20095. The new term of office begins January 16, 2027 and ends January 15, 2031.

For questions regarding the election process, contact the Board Election Office by mail, phone, or email.