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Correspondence Memorandum

Date: May 14, 2018
To: Employee Trust Funds Board
From: Pam Henning, Assistant Deputy Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Subject: Employee Trust Funds Board Member Elections

This memo is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.

The Employee Trust Funds Board (Board) is scheduled to conduct two elections in 2019 to fill expiring four-year terms for the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) annuitant seat and for the educational support personnel seat. These seats are currently held by Bill Ford and Leilani Paul, respectively. Both elections were completed via a new electronic voting process for the first time in 2015.

Due to the lower voter turnout in the 2015 election for both the annuitant and educational support personnel seats and the recent decision by the Teachers Retirement Board to conduct a paper election in 2018 for the annuitant teacher participant, ETF will conduct a paper-based election process for the two ETF Board elections in 2019.

As background, in 2013, ETF made several changes in administrative code to allow flexibility to expand from paper elections to electronic voting options (both phone and online) to mitigate a trend in declining nominations and voter participation across all of ETF's governing boards. Research also demonstrated that trends in technology usage showed a substantial increase, even among older adults, with use of electronic elections. In 2015, ETF held its first electronic election. Even with both online and telephone voting options and additional mass-marketing communications, voter participation noticeably declined from previous paper ballot elections, resulting in 1% or less turnout for both ETF Board elections. Considering the best interest of the Board and WRS members, ETF is returning to a paper-based election process, including mailing ballots and candidate information, for all board elections. ETF will re-evaluate the use of electronic means and its appropriateness in future elections.

Staff will be at the Board meeting to answer any questions.

Attachment: Election and Voting History

Reviewed and approved by Robert J. Conlin, Secretary

Electronically Signed 6/11/18

Board	Mtg Date	Item #
ETF	6.21.18	5C

Election and Voting History

Affected Board	Statutory Authority for elected seat	Past Results
Employee Trust Funds Board	§15.16 (1)(d) Elected by Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) annuitants (4-year term) (Bill Ford) (Approx. 206,000)	2015 —4 Candidates—186,928 Eligible – 2108 Votes Cast – 1.1% 2011—4 Candidates—156,064 Eligible - 42,833 Votes Cast – 27.4% 2007—9 Candidates—135,520 Eligible – 45,748 Votes Cast – 33.8% 2003 – 1 Candidate – No Election 1999 – 7 Candidates 1995 – 5 Candidates 1993 – 14 Candidates – 1 st Seat – 2-year term to stagger seats
Employee Trust Funds Board	§15.16 (1)(f) Elected by educational support personnel (4-year term) (Leilani Paul) (Approx. 42,000)	2015 – 3 Candidates 40,728 Eligible 242 Votes Cast 0.59% 2011 - 2 Candidates 44,381 Eligible 4,454 Votes Cast 10% 2007 – 2 Candidates 40,481 Eligible 5,779 Votes Cast 14.3% 2003 – 2 candidates – 40,824 Eligible – 7,007 Votes Cast 17.2%
Teachers Retirement Board	§ 15.165 (3)(a)1 Elected by public school teachers (5-year term) 2019 (Brent Grochowski / Allison Pratt) 2021 (Robin Starck / Chris Heller) (Approx. 73,000)	2017 – 3 Candidates 67,271 Eligible – 563 votes cast 0.84% 2016 – 4 Candidates 67,286 Eligible – 481 Votes Cast 0.71% (+1 additional seat due to resignation) Jeff Zore (resigned in July 2015) 2014 – 2 Candidates – No Election 1 Candidate resigned – added to 2016 election 2012 – 3 Candidates 68,856 Eligible – 5,323 votes cast – 7.7% 2011 – 1 Candidate - No Election 2009 –3 Candidates— 71,731 Eligible – 6,132 Votes Cast – 8.5% 2007 – 4 Candidates 69,244 Eligible – 6,750 votes cast – 9.7% 2006 – 5 Candidates 71,755 Eligible – 9,223 votes cast (+1 additional seat) 2004 – 2 calls for nominations – No Election
Teachers Retirement Board	§ 15.165 (3)(a)7 Elected by Milwaukee public school teachers who are participants (5-year term) 2020 (Kim Schroeder) (Approx. 10,000)	2015 –1 Candidate – No Election 2010 - 1 Candidate – No Election 2005 – 1 Candidate – No Election 2000 – 2 Candidates - 8,052 Eligible – 17.2%

Green = Electronic Elections

Red = No Election

Blue = Additional Seat Due to Vacancy

Black = Paper Elections

Election and Voting History

Affected Board	Statutory Authority for elected seat	Past Results
Teachers Retirement Board	§ 15.165 (3)(a)6 Elected by annuitants who were teacher participants (5-year term) 2023 (Esther Ancel) (Approx. 80,000)	2018 – 7 Candidates 78,865 Eligible (235 outside the USA) – 21,499 Votes Cast – 27.2% 2013 –3 Candidates– 68,189 Eligible – 20,954 Votes Cast – 30.7% 2008 – 6 Candidates 60,033 Eligible – 18,988 ballots cast – 31.6% 2003 – 4 Candidates
Teachers Retirement Board	§ 15.165 (3)(a)2 Elected by participating Wisconsin Technical College teachers (5-year term) 2023 (Anton “Tony” Przybylski Jr) (Approx. 5,500)	2018 – 2 calls for nominations – 1 Candidate - No Election 2013 –1 Candidate – No Election 2008 –2 Candidates– 5553 Eligible-718 Votes Cast - 12.9% 2003 – 2 Candidates – 5364 Eligible – 1,256 Votes Cast – 23.4%

- When the number of nominated candidates exceeds the seats available, ETF holds an election to determine which candidate(s) will fill the available seat(s). When the number of nominated candidates is less than the open number of seats, ETF will reannouce the vacancy. If the number of successfully nominated candidates exceeds the seats available after the reannoucement, an election can be held off schedule.
- Different Board member seats hold different membership requirements. Some seats are held due to appointment by the Governor, appointment by another Board, election, or Ex Officio based on a position held. The Deferred Compensation Board, the Group Insurance Board, and the Wisconsin Retirement Board do not have any elected seats.

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