



**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**Department of Employee Trust Funds**  
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 SECRETARY

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***Correspondence Memorandum***

**Date:** March 20, 2023  
**To:** ETF Board Election Certification Committee  
**From:** Cheryllynn Wilkins, Elections Coordinator  
 Office of the Secretary  
**Subject:** Summary of 2023 ETF Board WRS Annuitant Election Results

**ETF requests the ETF Board Election Certification Committee certify Mr. William Ford as the successful candidate for the WRS annuitant member seat under Wis. Stat. § 15.16 (1)(d) with the term expiring May 1, 2027.**

Attached is the report from the University of Wisconsin Survey Center regarding the results of the 2023 Employee Trust Funds Board Election-WRS annuitant member seat. The report summarizes the number of ballots sent, the votes received and the number of invalid or questionable ballots. Of the 232,633 ballots distributed, 51,478 were received by the deadline with 50,285 votes cast (21.6%). The candidates' vote totals are as follows:

William Ford	29,041
Mark Williams Walters	11,557
Norman A Cummings	5,736
Richard J Brunner	3,951

Of the 51,478 ballots received, 2% were determined to be invalid or questionable ballots, which is not unusual. However, the same lack of diversity concerns from 2019 were again prevalent. Of the 194 "no vote cast" ballots, 39 made a diversity comment, in addition to several more diversity comments on the ballots of those annuitants who also voted.

As you are aware, the WRS annuitant seat plus the other board seats are self-nominating. However, ETF will continue to encourage and promote greater candidate diversity on the boards for future elections.

We would appreciate your feedback regarding how to promote greater candidate diversity on the boards. Please contact Cheryllynn Wilkins at (608) 261-0736 or [Cheryllynn.Wilkins@etf.wi.gov](mailto:Cheryllynn.Wilkins@etf.wi.gov) if you have comments or questions.

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

Attachment: 2023 Summary Results Report to the Election Committee of the Department of Employee Trust Funds Board Election Committee.

*Pamela L Henning*

Reviewed and approved by Pamela Henning, Assistant Deputy Secretary  
 Electronically Signed 3/22/23

Board	Mtg Date	Item #
ECC	3.23.23	2A



REPORT TO THE ELECTION COMMITTEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYEE TRUST FUNDS REGARDING THE RESULTS OF THE 2023 EMPLOYEE TRUST FUNDS BOARD ELECTION – WRS ANNUITANT MEMBER

Report prepared on 02/28/2023 by Leo Schultz

**EMPLOYEE TRUST FUNDS BOARD – WRS Annuitant Seat**

Total ballots sent	232,633
Ballots received by deadline	51,478
Ballots counted	50,285
Invalid or questionable ballots	1,193
Ballots received after deadline	151

**VOTE TOTALS BY CANDIDATE**

<b>William Ford</b>	<b>29,041</b>
Mark Williams Walters	11,557
Norman A Cummings	5,736
Richard J. Brunner	3,951

**INVALID OR QUESTIONABLE BALLOTS**

Ballot is not signed	447
Signature does not match name	14
No vote cast	194
Voted for more than one candidate	498
Deceased	9
Ballot is defective	31
Write-in vote	0
Duplicate ballot	0

The precedents regarding committee decisions determining invalid and/or questionable ballots in previous years were reported to University of Wisconsin Survey Center staff responsible for this tally as the above explanation always ruled invalid under Rule ETF 10.10 (11)

The 51,478 total ballots received were fully counted, verified for accuracy and validity, and recorded.

Ballots will be stored in UWSC locked storage until March 1, 2024 and then shredded unless instructed otherwise by ETF.

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