



State of Wisconsin
Department of Employee Trust Funds
 Robert J. Conlin
 SECRETARY

801 W Badger Road
 PO Box 7931
 Madison WI 53707-7931
 1-877-533-5020 (toll free)
 Fax 608-267-4549
 etf.wi.gov

Correspondence Memorandum

Date: May 24, 2016
To: Teachers Retirement Board
From: Sharon Walk
 Executive Staff Assistant-Supervisor
 Office of the Secretary
Subject: Teachers Retirement Board Election Trends

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

On March 24, 2016, the Elections Certification Committee certified the results of the 2016 Teachers Retirement (TR) Board election for three active teacher member seats on the Board. The results were as follows:

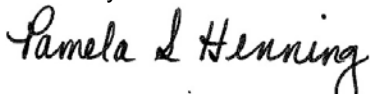
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|--------------------|--------------|
| Chris Heller | 390 |
| Robin Starck | 317 |
| Allison Pratt | 275 |
| Brent Mansky | 152 |
| Total Votes | 1,134 |
| Total Ballots | 481 |

67,286 active teachers were eligible to vote in this election.

Lessons Learned and Applied

While this is the first electronic election for the TR Board, it was the second time the Department used online and telephone technologies for the balloting process. The first electronic elections were held in 2015 for the Employee Trust Funds (ETF) Board annuitant member and educational support personnel member seats. For the annuitant seat, 2,108 votes were cast out of a potential 187,421 voters. For the educational support personnel seat, there were 242 votes cast out of a potential 40,739 voters.

We conducted a post-election “lessons learned” discussion to explore how to improve voter turnout. In this instance, we determined that the registration number members were required to use in order to vote may have caused problems.

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| Reviewed and approved by Pam Henning, Assistant Deputy Secretary  Electronically Signed 6/8/16 |
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| Board | Mtg Date | Item # |
|-------|----------|--------|
| TR | 6.23.16 | 4A |

For the TR Board election, the decision was made to use the ETF Member ID. The Member ID is available on the Statement of Benefits; voters could also obtain their Member ID online.

In addition, we expanded our communication efforts, including:

- Prominently displaying information on ETF's website before and during the balloting period;
- Providing significant coverage in the January edition of *WRS News Online*;
- Sending 22 e-mails promoting the election to school districts, union organizations (AFT, WEAC), candidates, and via ETF E-mail Updates; and
- Distributing GovDelivery (ETF's free email service that members can subscribe to) with information on voting.

Unfortunately, we were unable to send e-mails directly to active teachers due to lack of addresses.

Steady Declines in Voter Turnout, Serving on Board

In reviewing elections over the past 10 years, we note that there has been a steady decline in both voter turnout and interest in serving on the TR Board. See the chart below.

TR Board / Public School Teacher Elections

| Year | No. of Votes | % of 67,000 | Comments |
|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 2006 | 9,223 | 13.75 | |
| 2007 | 6,745 | 10.02 | |
| 2009 | 6,212 | 9.27 | |
| 2011 | No election | | 2 candidates for 2 seats (Phair & Starck) |
| 2012 | 5,323 | 7.94 | |
| 2014 | No election | | 2 candidates for 2 seats (Grochowski & Zore) |
| 2016 | 1,134 | 1.69 | |

Costs

ETF paid the election services vendor \$35,000 to conduct the election, both online and telephone; 50 cents per eligible voter. By comparison, the 2012 TR Board election (using paper ballots) cost approximately \$28,000.

Future Board Elections

At this time we are in the process of determining how to proceed with future Board elections. Two TR Board seats will expire in 2017 (Jon Joslin and David Wiltgen). The call for nominations will be published in September 2016, with nomination papers due in early November. At that time, we will know if an election will be held in the spring of 2017.

Staff will be available at the TR Board meeting to discuss this topic further. We look forward to your input on the Board elections.