

Teachers Retirement Board Elections

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Agenda

- History
- Voting Trends
- Communication
- Costs & Value
- Going Forward



History

History of the TR Board

- Created in 1981 by legislation merging State Teachers Retirement Board and the Milwaukee Teachers Retirement Board.
- 13 members board (5 year terms)
- (4) Governor appointed seats
- (9) Elected seats
 - (6) Public School Teacher
 - (1) WI Technical College Teacher
 - (1) Milwaukee Public School Teacher
 - (1) Annuitant who was a Teacher participant

How We Got Here

- June 2012--the ETF and TR Boards approved changes to administrative rule ETF 10.10 to permit electronic voting
- September 2013 – ETF issued a Request for Bid for an elections vendor
- January 2014 – ETF signed a contract with “Everyone Counts”
- 2015 - Changed from paper ballots to electronic voting





Voting Trends

Voting Trends

Other Pension Systems

- Do not elect board members - appointed by the Governor
- Members can vote via paper, phone or online
- Individual running not contested
- ALL have seen a decrease in voter participation in elections

WRS Teachers Retirement Board

- Milwaukee Public School Teacher Seat
- Not Contested - No Election since 2000
- WI Technical College Teacher Seat
- Limited Interest – No Election in 2013
- Annuitant – Teacher Participant Seat
- Decreasing candidate interest
- Public School Active Teacher Seat
- Candidate interest declining

Public School Teacher Seat Trends

Paper

Steady decline in voter participation

Year	No. of Votes	% of 67,000
2006	9,223	13.75
2007	6,745	10.02
2009	6,212	9.27
2011	No election	
2012	5,323	7.94
2014	No election	

Electronic

Declining voter participation interest
Population shift / New way of voting

Year	No. of Ballots	% of 67,000	Comments
2016	481	.71	(475 online ballots / 6 phone ballots)
2017	563	.84	Online only



Communication

Communicate! Communicate!

- Main Feature in WRS News *Online*
- Prominently displayed on ETF's website during election period
- Email blasts to school districts and annuitant teacher groups
- Voting promoted through GovDelivery and Twitter – weekly
- Full-Color Postcard with QR code scanning distributed through districts



Cost & Value

Costs that add up

- **Increased costs of providing paper ballots**
 - In 2011, the cost per voter was 49¢ (ballot & postage)
 - Since 2011, postage has increased 5¢
- **Electronic voting vendor contract was 50¢ per eligible voter**
- **2016 Costs (\$0.50 X 67,286) = \$33,643 – Online and Phone Voting**
- **2017 Costs (\$0.50 X 67,271) = \$33,635 – Online Voting Only**
 - Negotiated vendor contract reduction to a flat \$25,000
 - Full color postcard printed and distributed \$3,218
- **Staff Resources - Costs and Time**



Cost vs Value

- Rising costs for mailing via United States Postal Service (USPS)
- ETF communications are increasingly being done online
- Electronic communications are cheaper and can be done more often than traditional USPS mail
- More convenient for members to take action from online communications



- Younger members want more web-based, app-friendly communications
- Each additional service ETF provides (mailing\electronic\phones) cost more and requires more staff time to prepare



Going Forward

Upcoming Potential Elections

❖ 2018 – Potential of 2 Elections

Annuitant – Teacher Participant Seat
(Approximately 65,000)

Usually a large qualified candidate interest

**Wisconsin Technical College
Teacher Seat** (Approximately 8,000)

Current Board Member does not meet qualifications of the seat

Usually a low qualified candidate interest

❖ 2019 – Potential of 3 Elections

Public School Active Teacher Seat
(Approximately 70,000)

Candidate interest declining

- ETF Board – WRS Annuitant
(Approximately 170,000)
- ETF Board – Educational Support
(Approximately 50,000)



Questions?