

VOTING BEGINS

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Your ballot will arrive by mail

RETURN BALLOT TO REGISTRAR
OF VOTERS NO LATER THAN

Wednesday, December 21, 2022, 5:00pm

ACERA has produced this What's Up? Election Edition Newsletter as a courtesy and service for the candidates and ACERA's members to provide an opportunity for the candidates to communicate with voters. ACERA assumes no liability for the contents of the submitted materials.

ACERA will be conducting an election to fill three elected positions on the Board of Retirement. In November, active and deferred safety members and retired members will receive a ballot in the mail to vote for their representatives on the Board of Retirement. Enclosed you will find a campaign statement from each of the candidates. These statements are in addition to the material contained in the official ballot and may provide supplementary and different information. Please review this material carefully.

In the safety member election, the candidate with the most votes will be elected 7th Member Representing Safety Members, and the candidate with the second most votes will be elected Alternate 7th Member Representing Safety Members. In the retired member election, the candidate with the most votes will be elected 8th Member Representing Retired Members.

What Important Work Does ACERA's Board Do for You?

- Sets and governs your retiree healthcare benefits
- Sets investment strategy for your retirement fund
- Approves new investments
- Keeps ACERA's portfolio managers on track
- Oversees ACERA's administration
- More at www.acera.org/board

THREE BOARD SEATS UP FOR ELECTION

WHO VOTES?

**7th Member Representing Safety
Members**

**Active and Deferred Safety
Members**

**Alternate 7th Member
Representing Safety Members**

**8th Member Representing Retired
Members**

Retirees

More Information at
www.acera.org/election



How to Get a Replacement Ballot

Call the Registrar of Voters at 510-272-6973



Ross Clippinger

Captain, Sheriff's Office

I am a candidate for election as the Safety Members' Representative to the Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association (ACERA) Board of Retirement.

I am a Captain with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, with over 17 years of service, currently assigned to Santa Rita Jail. Of the Sheriff's Office \$595 million budget, I am one of three Captains responsible for \$299 million allocated to the Jail. I oversee multiple high-liability areas within the Jail, including the use of force review process, litigation and policy revisions. I have previous experience in contract management and compliance, making sure the Sheriff's Office receives the services paid for, within the

agreed upon terms. Also, I hold a B.A. in Mathematics from U.C. Berkeley. If elected to the Board, I would acquire additional relevant education and apply my skillset to the benefit of the membership, active and retired.

I am running to ensure our members receive the retirement benefits they are due. The only way to accomplish this is through sound investment decisions. I promise to work on behalf of our members to maintain the financial health of our retirement funds, and to protect and improve our benefits. As an ACERA Board member, I would be responsible for investment decisions as well as disability retirement hearings and other appeals. I will always respect your privacy and confidentiality. I appreciate the gravity of the financial well-being of our members and their families. I pledge to make decisions in the best interest of the membership, to do what is fair and right for those affected by my actions.

If elected to the Board, I would be a fiduciary first and foremost. I will act in the best interest of the membership, within the law and established policies, and free from political or social pressures. I am proud to have the following endorsements:

- Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Association
- Alameda County Management Employees' Association
- Sheriff Gregory J. Ahern
- Sheriff-Elect Yesenia Sanchez
- ACERA Trustee George Wood
- ACERA Trustee Dale Amaral, who has served the Board honorably since 2005

This statement solely presents the views of the Candidate and does not represent an official statement of ACERA or its Board of Trustees. ACERA has neither approved nor confirmed the accuracy or the contents of this statement.



Kevin Bryant

Probation Officer

I am Kevin Bryant, and I am running for election to the Board of Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association (ACERA).

I believe the Safety Members of ACERA deserve a Retirement Board Representative who:

- is passionate about protecting members' rights and interests
- is willing to devote the necessary time and energy the position requires
- will consider and adhere to their fiduciary responsibility when making decisions, and
- truly embodies the members' values and needs

I am that person, and I am confident that my previous experience of representing my fellow colleagues, coupled with my desire for helping to ensure a firm financial future for all of us, makes me the ideal candidate for this position.

I have worked as an Alameda County Probation Officer for over 22 years. During that time, I have dedicated myself to serving and protecting Alameda County in a concerted effort to make this community as safe as possible. I have served on various strategic committees, such as the Labor Management Committee, the Building Safety Committee, and the Officers' Safety Committee. Since 2001, I have had the honor of representing my fellow co-workers as a shop steward. In this capacity, I have been a contributing member of the contract negotiation team since 2002 and as such has participated in four contract renegotiations. I am very proud of the fact that our team was instrumental in securing the following for our members:

- > a guaranteed 3% at age 50
- > an 11% salary increase effective at the ratification of the 2019 contract, and
- > substantial increases to our retirement benefits

I am passionate about running for this office because, like you, I am concerned about continued pension reform and the effects on the future financial security of our members. Rest assured I will be committed to the financial security of not only ACERA's long-term financial stability but also the protection of members' promised benefits. I am also dedicated to maintaining the important added benefit of the Supplemental Retirees Benefits (SRBR), which needs to be preserved in order to provide medical coverage for retired members.

This November and December, I would appreciate your support and your vote.

Endorsements:

Peter Finn, Vice President Teamster Western Region

Darryl Walker, Alternat Safety Member

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Elizabeth F. Rogers

Retired, Office of the Public Defender

I am seeking election to the ACERA Board of Retirement as the retiree representative and am pleased to have received the endorsements of both REAC and ACRE.

From 2007-2021, I served as Trustee representing the active members and it would be an honor to serve again.

During my tenure I served as:

Board Chair

Chair of the Investment Committee

Chair of the Operations Committee

Chair of the Actuarial Committee

Chair of the Governance Committee

I also served as Vice-Chair and/or as a member of every Board committee. While I served as an active member representative, the fund grew from approximately \$3 billion to about \$11 billion. However, during the same period, ACERA weathered some serious challenges, notably the 2008-2009 GFC. Nevertheless, with the guidance of the ACERA investment staff and consultants, we emerged from the crisis largely intact. In addition to solid investment returns, ACERA made some important advancements including the hiring of an internal auditor, modifying the pension gold system, prioritizing cybersecurity, and launching a new website.

I was employed as an attorney in the Public Defender's office for over 30 years and understand the legal responsibilities of an ACERA trustee. Throughout the years I served on the Board of Retirement, I remained faithful to my fiduciary duty; I made every decision with the utmost care and with undivided loyalty to the health and welfare of the fund.

If elected, I look forward to representing the very knowledgeable retiree members. I have always been impressed with the level of engagement the retirees have with ACERA. I am very aware that the health of the Supplemental Retirees Benefits Reserve (SRBR) is of the utmost importance to retirees along with the overall performance of the fund.

We need the SRBR to ensure Alameda County retirees maintain their standard of living. It should protect the retirees, especially the vulnerable elderly retirees, from any decline in their economic wellbeing. To that end, the two most important benefits provided by the SRBR are the Monthly Medical Allowance and the Supplemental COLA. If additional benefits are granted, we first need to be certain the SRBR will last for the benefit of all current and future Alameda County retirees and their beneficiaries.

If elected, I look forward to working diligently both with my fellow trustees to promote the continued success of ACERA, and with the retirees of Alameda County to ensure they continue to receive the excellent service they deserve.

I would appreciate your support and am available to answer any questions or concerns you may have at efrogers1@icloud.com.

Endorsements:

Retired Employees of Alameda County (REAC)

Alameda County Retired Employees (ACRE)

Current ACERA Trustees:

Dale Amaral

Kellie Blumin Simon

Liz Koppenhaver

Nancy Reilly

George Wood

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Darryl Walker, Candidate for Retiree Trustee

Retired Unit Supervisor, Alameda County
Probation Department

Former ACERA Trustee

It has been an honor being elected to six consecutive terms to represent Safety members as the Alternate Safety Trustee on the Alameda County Employees Retirement Association Board (ACERA). Now that I am a retiree, I am eager to bring my experience and staunch advocacy to the representation of retired employees.

The annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), healthcare for our retirees through the Monthly Medical Allowance (MMA), and the strength of the fund are of utmost importance to me as a trustee. Previously, ACERA invested primarily in stocks and bonds with minimal exposure to real estate. We now target more than 15% of our assets toward Private Equity and Alternative investments, resulting in higher returns. During my tenure, our fund has grown to \$11 billion and we have increased the value of the Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve (SRBR) to over \$1 billion. We have also created a successful emerging managers program to include high performing women and minorities in our pool of fund managers.

During my 18 years as a trustee, I have served on the Investment, Operations, Governance, Actuarial, Audit and Retiree committees. I have completed certificate programs in Institutional Investing and Pension Fund Management at Harvard University, University of California Berkeley, University of Pennsylvania (Wharton School Of Business), and Stanford University. These institutional and educational experiences have empowered me to be an effective and impactful trustee. In 2008, I was elected to the Board of Directors of the State Association of California Retirement Systems (SACRS), where I have served as Secretary and Vice-President. My involvement in county retirement systems on the state level has enhanced my understanding of the issues surrounding public pension funds and enabled me to keep my colleagues from Alameda County better informed on state and national issues, including legislative developments. I have earned the respect of trustees statewide who have twice elected me to the executive board, and as a result was able to give Alameda County representation at the state level. I am currently on the Advisory Council for the National Association of Securities Professionals (NASP), as well as a USAID delegate, where I represent the US State Department in seeking investment opportunities in Africa.

As an elected ACERA Trustee, I made it a priority to always be accessible, and have enjoyed participating in ACRE and REAC luncheons and events. I appreciate the support I have received and look forward to serving as the Retiree Trustee. I am asking members to support my candidacy to be the retiree representative by voting for me in the upcoming election, and to feel free to contact me if they have any questions or concerns regarding ACERA.

Endorsements:

Keith Carson, President, Alameda County Board of Supervisors/ACERA Trustee

Tarrell Gamble, Chair, ACERA

Donald White, retired Treasurer/Tax Collector, Alameda County/ former ACERA Trustee

Andrew Walker, Senior Investigator, Alameda County Public Defender's Office

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2022

Retirement Board Election

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(510) 628-3000 • 1-800-838-1932

Vacant, Alternate Safety

Nancy Reilly, Alternate Retired

George Wood

Kellie Simon

Henry C. Levy

Tarrell V. Gamble

Keith Carson

Dale E. Amaral

Ophelia B. Basgal, 2nd Vice Chair

Liz Koppenhaver, 1st Vice Chair

Jaime Godfrey, Chair

Board of Retirement

Dave Nelsen

Chief Executive Officer

Oakland, CA 94612

475 14th Street, Suite 1000



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