



Retirement Board 2013 Election



A message from the Chief Executive Officer

ACERA will be conducting an election to fill three elected positions on the Board of Retirement. Active and Deferred ACERA members will receive a ballot in the mail in November to select a candidate for the following positions: General Members will select a candidate for **Third Member to Represent the General Members**; Safety Members will select a candidate for **Seventh Member to Represent the Safety Members**; and the candidate belonging to a statutory group not otherwise represented by the elected Seventh Member who receives the second most votes will be elected as the **Alternate Seventh Member to Represent the Safety Members**.



As an ACERA member, this is your opportunity to vote for the member of the Board who represents you. ACERA's Board meets monthly through the year, making decisions that affect your retirement system. 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. Return your ballot by 12/18/13.

Chief Executive Officer
Vincent P. Brown

VOTING PERIOD | Voting will begin on Wednesday, November 20, 2013. You must return your ballot to the Registrar of Voters no later than Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. for your vote to be counted.

SIGN YOUR BALLOT | For your vote to count, you MUST sign your name on the outside of the return envelope before returning your ballot to the Registrar of Voters. To protect your privacy, the return envelopes feature a privacy flap that covers your signature.

Chief Executive Officer

Vincent P. Brown

Board of Retirement

Dale E. Amaral, *Chair*

Keith Carson, *1st Vice Chair*

Elizabeth Rogers, *2nd Vice Chair*

Ophelia B. Basgal

Annette Cain-Darnes

George Dewey

Liz Koppenhaver

David M. Safer, *Alternate Retiree*

Darryl L. Walker Sr., *Alternate Safety*

Donald R. White

George Wood



Alameda County Employees'
Retirement Association
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Dale E. Amaral

Trustee

My name is Dale E. Amaral and I am a candidate for re-election as the Safety Classification Representative to the Alameda County Employee Retirement Association Board of Directors. I have been a Trustee on the Retirement Board since January 1, 2005. I am Chairman of the Board for ACERA and I have the fiduciary responsibility for overseeing \$6.1 billion in ACERA assets.

I am running for re-election to ensure that our retirement system remains solvent so that each and every retirement benefit that is due to a member will be delivered in a timely fashion. I pledge to work hard on your behalf to secure sound investment policies, improve member services, protect our health benefits, and support benefit improvements.

As a Captain with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, I am currently assigned as the Commanding Officer of the Eden Township Substation and provide law enforcement services for 140,000 citizens. I have a total of 47 years of law enforcement experience, 31 years with the City of Newark and 16 years with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. My tenure in law enforcement has provided me with a unique perspective and a distinct vision of your needs as a safety member. As a vested safety member I have a personal commitment to remain YOUR representative.

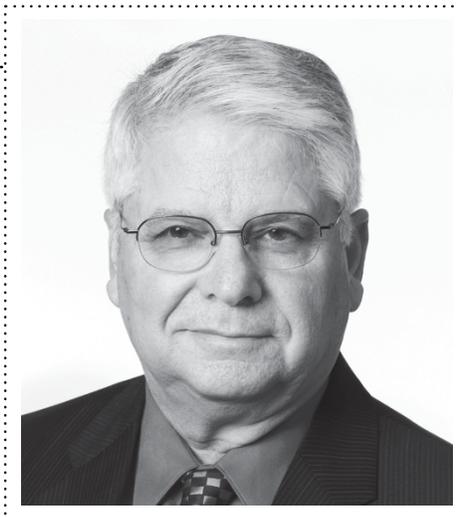
In addition, I have served as a member of the Deputy Sheriff's Association contract negotiating team for three years helping to implement 3% at 50 for all safety members. I have over thirty-years of investment experience in the purchasing and managing of commercial properties throughout the bay area. In October 2007, I was named Outstanding Manager of the Year for Public Protection by the Alameda County Managers Affiliation.

My endorsements are:

- Gregory J. Ahern, Sheriff, Alameda County
- Nancy E. O'Malley, District Attorney, Alameda County
- The Alameda County Management Employee Association (ACMEA)
- Annette Cain-Darnes, President, ACERA Retirement Board
- Liz Koppenhaver, Trustee, ACERA Retirement Board
- Elizabeth Rogers, Trustee, ACERA Retirement Board
- George Woods, Trustee, ACERA Retirement Board

Please support me with your vote and I will ensure that our retirement system will be strongly maintained, fully funded, and properly administered.

Thank you for your vote!



The candidate for the Seventh Member seat who receives the most votes will be elected as the Seventh Member. The candidate belonging to a statutory group not otherwise represented by the elected Seventh Member who receives the second most votes will be elected as the Alternate Seventh Member.

Tojo Thomas

Deputy Probation Officer

Education: BS in Criminal Justice
MA in Counseling Psychology.

Experience: I have been an Alameda County Deputy Probation Officer for the past 12 years. I worked as a Juvenile Probation Officer for 7 years and in the adult division for the past 5 years.

From 2009-2011, I was the President of a large South Indian non-profit association (MANCA) based in the Bay area. During my tenure as the President of MANCA, I was able to add more life members and activities, which added about 20k to the association's funds.

In January'2013, I was elected to the Director Board of St. Thomas Catholic Church in Milpitas where the director board oversees the everyday activities of the Church. The Church's assets totals to about 2.6 million dollars.

STATEMENT

If elected to the Alameda County Retirement Association, I understand the importance of representing you with high integrity, ethics and morale in dealing with our retirement funds. I promise you to make sound judgments in what is good for our retirement.

As a husband and father of three young children, I understand the importance of a stable and secure retirement.

Tojo Thomas



The candidate for the Seventh Member seat who receives the most votes will be elected as the Seventh Member. The candidate belonging to a statutory group not otherwise represented by the elected Seventh Member who receives the second most votes will be elected as the Alternate Seventh Member.

Kevin Bryant

Deputy Probation Officer

I, Kevin Bryant, am seeking your support as I pursue a position on the Board of Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association (ACERA).

I have worked as an Alameda County Probation Officer for the past 13 years. Like you, 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 was a contributing member of the contract negotiation team for 2002 and 2009. One of our proudest achievements was securing a contract that guaranteed 3% at 50 for our members.



I am passionate about running for this office because, like you, I am concerned about pension reform and the effects of 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 Reserve (SRBR), which needs to be preserved in order to provide medical coverage for retired members.

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.

On this we can agree, the Safety Members of ACERA deserve a Retirement Board Representative:

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

I am that person, and I would be honored to have your support and your vote.

Thank you

Kevin Bryant

The candidate for the Seventh Member seat who receives the most votes will be elected as the Seventh Member. The candidate belonging to a statutory group not otherwise represented by the elected Seventh Member who receives the second most votes will be elected as the Alternate Seventh Member.

Darryl Walker

**Deputy Probation Officer
Incumbent Alternate Safety Member**



I have been elected to three terms representing Juvenile Institutional Officers, Deputy Probation Officers, Probation Management, the Alameda County Sherriff’s Office, and Safety Members from the District Attorney’s office as the Inaugural Alternate Safety Trustee on the Alameda County Employees Retirement Association Board (ACERA).

When I receive calls from Safety members who have a question or concern about ACERA, I take pride in not only answering questions, but also in directing my constituents to the staff member who will best assist them. I have become known as a staunch advocate for the rights and benefits of safety members and retirees.

I understand the importance of our fund remaining strong. Prior to the stock market downturn in 2008, ACERA invested primarily in stocks and bonds with a little exposure to real estate. Since then we have targeted ten percent of our assets toward Private Equity and Alternative investments. I am happy to report that our fund has almost completely recovered. Our fund is currently in excess of \$6.2 billion. I am also very proud to say we have created a successful emerging managers program to include top quality women and minorities in our pool of fund managers.

During my tenure on the ACERA Board, I have sought out educational opportunities to enhance my knowledge. 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 educational experiences have been critical in preparing me to carry out my responsibilities as a trustee.

I have also served as Vice President on the Executive Board of the State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS). SACRS is composed of twenty 1937 Act counties in California and represents over \$100 billion in pension fund assets. My involvement in county retirement systems on the state level has enhanced my understanding of the issues surrounding public pension funds and enables me to keep my colleagues from Alameda County better informed on statewide issues, including legislative and judicial developments. I am proud to have earned the respect of trustees statewide who have twice elected me to this position, and equally proud to be able to give Alameda County representation on the SACRS executive board.

I continue to appreciate the support I receive from my fellow Safety Members. I look forward to continuing to serve you in my next term. I strongly encourage members to vote for me in the upcoming election and to contact me if they have any questions or concerns regarding ACERA.

ENDORSEMENTS:

DONALD WHITE, ALAMEDA COUNTY TREASURER TAX COLLECTOR, TRUSTEE
ALAMEDA COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

GEORGE DEWEY, TRUSTEE ALAMEDA COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT
ASSOCIATION

GEORGE HOLLAND, PRESIDENT OAKLAND CHAPTER NAACP

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George Wood

Incumbent

A Healthy System

My name is George Wood and I am seeking your vote to be re-elected to the Board of ACERA

Briefly, ACERA is the organization that administers the retirement benefits for County employees, and facilitates that administration through the investment of retirement contributions. Both the Board Trustees and the staff at ACERA work diligently to administer benefits and maintain the health of the investment fund.



In an admittedly difficult economic climate since 2008, ACERA has stood out as an example of how a retirement fund should be administered. ACERA's net fund has a current market value in excess of \$6 billion with millions in earnings still to be recognized. Like all retirement systems, ACERA was affected by the economic crisis of 2008-2009. Subsequent hard work by all of the ACERA trustees and staff has resulted in gains in excess of \$2 billion in assets in four short years, putting ACERA in the top 4% of its peer group in the country, with returns in the top 1% in 2012.

I have had the privilege to have been one of the two trustees representing the general membership during the last four years and was Board Chairman of ACERA in 2011. Having attended Public Pension programs at U.C. Berkeley Haas School of Business and Stanford University, I carry the qualifications that are needed in order to perform the functions of an ACERA Board member. I am also a Deputy District Attorney in Alameda County with close to 25 years of experience, where my duties of representing the public at large compliment the fiduciary obligations inherent as a board trustee.

As well as the investment accomplishments listed above, I have also worked with the other trustees to preserve the Supplemental Retiree Benefits Reserve which pays for much of the health care premiums for retired employees. And I have labored together with the other trustees to preserve the current standard of retirement benefits against any negative impact from new pension legislation. Importantly, as evidenced by the endorsements below, I have worked with the other trustees and the ACERA staff in a manner that is cognizant of what is demanded of an ACERA Board member.

I wish to continue to commit myself to working on your behalf. ACERA's performance during my time on the Board has been outstanding, and in order to keep our retirement fund strong ask that you re-elect me as the general member trustee.

Endorsements:

Retired Employees of Alameda County *Dale Amaral ACERA Board Chairman*

Annette Cain-Darnes ACERA Board Trustee *Elizabeth Rogers ACERA Board Trustee*

Ophelia Basgal ACERA Board Trustee *Liz Koppenhaver ACERA Board Trustee*

Darryl Walker ACERA Board Trustee *Dave Safer ACERA Board Trustee*

Donald White Treasurer Alameda County/ACERA Board Trustee

Nancy O'Malley District Attorney Alameda County

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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. These statements present solely the views of the candidates and do not represent an official statement of ACERA or its Board of Trustees. The content of these statements is presented exactly as the candidates submitted it. ACERA has neither approved nor confirmed the accuracy or content of these statements.

Darryl Gray

Alameda County Community Development Agency

Friends and fellow ACERA members, I'm seeking your support to serve on the Board of Retirement as your elected General Member representative. From 1989 to 1996 and again from 2004 to 2006, it was my privilege to serve on the Board of Retirement. While a member of the ACERA Board, it was my fiduciary duty to safeguard the assets of our pension fund by overseeing plan benefits and making reasoned financial investment decisions utilizing the expertise of ACERA staff and consultants. As a Board member, I served on the Investment, Retiree, Actuarial, Adhoc Health Care, and Compensation committees, and as Board Chair (2006).



During my tenure on the Board, I earned Certificates of Achievement in Public Plan Policy: Employee Pensions and Employee Health; completed the Pension Funds and Money Management Program at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and served on the Trustee Committee of International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans. I also served on the Education (Chair) and Nominating Committees to the State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS), and regularly attended trustee roundtables and educational conferences. Given recent changes to our vested and non-vested retiree benefits, once again I'm asking for your support.

LEADERSHIP GOALS

Receiving timely information is important to all active and deferred employees, particularly changes that impact planning and enjoyment of our earned retirement. But the **Public Employees Pension Reform Act (PEPRA)** could take-away a basic retirement protection for current (vested) ACERA members. If elected, I will be an advocate for a more secure retirement, not less secure. Personnel policies should not be revised to take away benefits earned by County employees.

OTHER NEW CHALLENGES

It's easy to get fooled by retirement planning myths. Most Internet sites give advice towards purchasing a product and unwittingly well-meaning friends pass this information onto work colleagues. But apathy towards the health care **chargemaster** is the NEW problem in American medicine. As your trustee, I will work with industry leaders, ACERA staff, and my Board colleagues to make sure you have the best information available to make the prudent retirement choices.

NOTE: Time Special Report by Steven Brill – the “Bitter Pill, why Medical Bills are Killing Us” is the best information on the perils of the health care **chargemaster**.”

PEPRA UPDATE

This lawsuit is about including compensation for retirement purposes in payments for all our Paid Leave. If we win, we keep these benefits. The case is pending. Alameda County's case has been consolidated with similar lawsuits from other counties. On July 9, 2013, the Court set a briefing schedule for “first phase” issues raised in the consolidated **AB 197 lawsuits**. As of this writing, the next hearings are TBA in late October 2013.

Note: The “stay” order requires ACERA to hold off on implementing **AB 197**. But the order is subject to change by the Court.

Lastly, I appreciate your trust in me to serve as your representative again. Thank you for your support and your vote in this election.

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