PERS of MISSISSIPPI

Providing Benefits for Life

October 26, 2016

Dear PERS Retiree:

The Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS) is seeking petitions for candidates to fill one of two retiree representative positions on the PERS Board of Trustees. The six-year term for this position will run from May 1, 2017, to April 30, 2023. Candidates must be a retired member receiving a retirement allowance from PERS.

The Board of Trustees Candidate Nomination and Petition can be downloaded at www.pers.ms.gov.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Election schedule:** | November 29, 2016 | Deadline for receipt of nominations and petitions by PERS (5 p.m.) |
| | December 13, 2016 | PERS Board certifies ballot at regularly scheduled meeting |
| | January 6, 2017 | PERS mails ballots |
| | February 6, 2017 | Deadline for receipt of ballots by PERS (5 p.m.) |
| | February 28, 2017 | PERS Board certifies election results at regularly scheduled meeting |
| **Runoff Schedule:** | March 6, 2017 | PERS mails ballots for runoff |
| *If necessary* | April 6, 2017 | Deadline for receipt of ballots by PERS (5 p.m.) |
| | April 25, 2017 | PERS Board certifies election results at regularly scheduled meeting |

For further details about the election process, see PERS Board Regulation 17, *Election of Members of the Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi* (www.pers.ms.gov). For questions, contact PERS Counsel and Policy Advisor Davetta Lee at 601-359-9516, 800-444-7377 ext. 9516, or dlee@pers.ms.gov.

Sincerely,

Pat Robertson
*Executive Director*

Pat Robertson
*Executive Director*

*Board of Trustees:*

Randy D. McCoy, *Retirees Chairman*
Lynn Fitch, *State Treasurer Vice Chairman*
Bill Benson, *County Employees*
Kelly Breland, *State Employees*
Stephen Benson, *Municipal Employees*
Lee Childress, *Public Schools, Community/Jr. Colleges*
Chris Howard, *State Employees*
Richard C. Miller, *Retirees*
Drew Snyder, *Gubernatorial Appointee*
Vacant, *Institutions of Higher Learning*

Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi
429 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201-1005 601.359.3589 800.444.PERS www.pers.ms.gov

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# PERS Board of Trustees 2016 Election Schedule

*Retiree Representative Election*

*Term runs 05/01/17 - 04/30/23*

The following schedule complies with the Board of Trustees Policies and Procedures and is in compliance with State Statutes.

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c/o Election-America
PO Box 448
Mineola, NY 11501

FirstName LastName
Address1
Address2
Address3
City, State, Postal Code
Country

## To Vote Online:

1. To vote online, please go to: **https://vote.election-america.com/MSPERS**
2. Enter the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number and Voting PIN (below).
3. Follow the on-screen instructions.

## To Vote By Mail:

1. Fill in the bubble to the left of the candidate of your choice.
2. Detach the ballot on the perforated line and insert into the prepaid envelope provided.
3. All ballots must be received by Election-America by 5:00 PM on February 6th 2017.

## To Vote By Phone:

1. Call (**844) 357-8804**
2. Follow the prompts to enter the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number and Voting PIN (below).

Voting PIN 000000

## Retiree Representative

Your vote is vital to ensure your interests are represented on the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi Board of Trustees.

Please, cast your vote for one of the candidates listed on the ballot below to serve on the PERS Board of Trustees.

Submit your vote by 5 p.m., February 6, 2017.

For a replacement ballot or to ask a question contact: help+mspers@election-america.com or (866) 384-9978.

## Official Mail-in Ballot

Mark your selection by completely filling in the circle as shown.

| Good | Bad | Bad |
|---|---|---|
| ● John Doe | ✓ John Doe | ⊗ John Doe |

*(Fold and detach along the perforated line)*

**Retiree Representative**
Vote for no more than one.

- ○ Stephen Bailey
- ○ Fransenna Chambers Camper
- ○ Dr. William "Steve" Coker
- ○ Shirley Cox-Gordon
- ○ George Dale
- ○ Dr. Cornelis "Kees" Gispen
- ○ Ella Green
- ○ Kathy Harvey
- ○ Rickey Hill
- ○ Janet King
- ○ Albert "Mike" Marsh
- ○ James Mason
- ○ Charles McCurdy
- ○ Ann McLaurin
- ○ Casey Mercier
- ○ Wayne Myrick
- ○ Dr. Linda Norwood
- ○ Johnnie Patton
- ○ Edward Peacock III
- ○ Dr. Philip Pepper
- ○ Alfred Sexton
- ○ Dr. James Shaffer
- ○ Roger Speed

ControlNumber

## Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi – Candidates (all live in Mississippi)

**Stephen Bailey,** *Jackson*..... former Holmes County School District superintendent, *retired 2008*

**Fransenna Chambers Camper,** *Jackson*.. former Jackson Public Schools teacher, *retired 2010*

**Dr. William "Steve" Coker,** *Houston*..... former Houston Public School System superintendent, *retired 2015*

**Shirley Cox-Gordon,** *Pearl* ..... former MS State Hospital institutional social worker, *retired 2010*

**George Dale,** *Clinton* ..... former MS Department of Insurance commissioner, *retired 2008*

**Dr. Cornelis "Kees" Gispen,** *Oxford*..... former University of MS Croft Institute for International Studies executive director, *retired 2013*

**Ella Green,** *Utica*..... former MS Department of Human Services program administrator, *retired 2013*

**Kathy Harvey,** *Columbia*..... former Marion County School District director of curriculum, instruction, assessment & technology, *retired 2016*

**Rickey Hill,** *Jackson* ..... former City of Jackson director of administration, retired 2014

**Janet King,** *Pearl*..... former Department of Mental Health, North MS Regional Center speech/language pathologist and evaluation team coordinator, *retired 2014*

**Albert "Mike" Marsh,** *Brandon*..... former MS Department of Employment Security chief fiscal officer, *retired 2013*

**James Mason,** *Flora*..... former MS Department of Education associate state superintendent, *retired 2014*

**Charles McCurdy,** *Richland* ..... former MS Public Service Commission finance division director, *retired 2006*

**Ann McLaurin,** *Hattiesburg*..... former Ellisville State School community group home director, *retired 2012*

**Casey Mercier,** *Hattiesburg* ..... former Jones County Junior College vice president of information technology, *retired 2014*

**Wayne Myrick,** *Laurel*..... former MS State Auditor's Office auditor, *retired 2004*

**Dr. Linda Norwood,** *Oxford*..... former Grenada School District migrant director, *retired 2005*

**Johnnie Patton,** *Jackson*..... former University of MS Medical Center clinical pharmacist, *retired 1995*

**Edward Peacock III,** *Clarksdale* ..... former Coahoma County chancery clerk, *retired 2016*

**Dr. Philip Pepper,** *Canton* ..... former MS Institutions of Higher Learning state economist, *retired 2010*

**Alfred Sexton,** *Gulfport*..... former Gulfport Police Department deputy chief, *retired 2009*

**Dr. James Shaffer,** *Batesville*..... former South Panola School District superintendent, *retired 2013*

**Roger Speed,** *Collins*..... former Covington County sheriff, *retired 2012*

Detailed biographies and candidate statements may be found at

http://www.pers.ms.gov/Content/General/Retiree_Rep_Election_Letter_Schedule_Packet.pdf

**FPO BRM Placeholder**

**Stephen Bailey** **Jackson, MS**
Former Holmes County School District superintendent
District Vocational Director
Assistant Principal
MS Association of Educators
MS State University, M.Ed.
Alcorn State University, B.S.

**Candidate Statement**
As a retiree and as a man of integrity who has served for 27 years on various boards, I am asking for your vote for Retiree Representative Candidate. My 27 years of knowledge and experience in both administration and carrying out local/state policies will assist me if I am elected to be the collective voice for retired citizens of Mississippi. I have served as Superintendent of Education for Holmes County School district. During my term I secured a $2.5 million dollar interest free loan to renovate the schools. This experience involved an understanding of investments, grants, and state policies.

**Fransenna Chambers Camper** **Jackson, MS**
Former Jackson Public School System gifted teacher
Delta Sigma Theta Diamond Life Member
JSU Life Local/National Member
MAE Life National Member
Jackson State University, education specialist

**Candidate Statement**
Retired Mississippi Educator 2010. It is with great passion and enthusiasm that I respectfully submit my application to serve on the PERS Board of Trustees. I have given 35 years of service to the Mississippi Educational System. I earned my degrees from Jackson State University of which the highest is Educational Specialist. I feel if the voters should elect me as part of the board, I will bring a wealth of knowledge as well as the skill of fair choices and good communication skills.

**Dr. William "Steve" Coker** **Houston, MS**
Former Houston Public School System superintendent
40 years as a teacher, principal, superintendent, post-secondary administrator and elected official
University of Alabama, doctorate

**Candidate Biography**
Dr. Coker is a resident of Houston, Mississippi in Chickasaw County where he was superintendent of schools for fourteen years. Over a forty year career, he has been a successful teacher, principal, and superintendent. He has also served as a post-secondary administrator and a three year elected official. Evolving as a strong advocate and fierce guardian of employee benefits and retirement options, he has the greatest respect for those whose lives have been dedicated to serving the public constituency in safety, education, security, and health.

**Shirley Cox – Gordon** **Pearl, MS**
Former State Hospital institutional social worker
Board of Community Action Agency, member
Tougaloo College, B.S. in Political Science
Jackson State University, master's in guidance counseling

**Candidate Biography**
Like you, I, too, have a vested interest in PERS. Your support and vote are solicited so that I may have positive input on its future. I am motivated, willing to face challenges and do not take the responsibilities/duties of Retirement Representative lightly. My commitment is to expend the time and energy required of a Board Member in order to ensure that PERS carries out its purpose for retiree benefit. If elected, I pledge to: be actively involved, work well with others, respect diverse opinions, be supportive of group decisions, and work toward a stronger relationship between PERS and retirees.

**George Dale** **Clinton, MS**
Former MS Department of Insurance commissioner
Teacher, Coach, and Principal in Moss Point
Governor's Office Chief of Staff
MS College, B.S. and M.S. in education

**Candidate Biography**
As a retired state employee with over 50 years of state service I feel that my experiences in government provide me the necessary experiences to serve on the PERS Board. As a former school teacher, Chief of Staff for a Governor and 32 years as the elected Commissioner of Insurance, I believe I have a good understanding of the concerns of members of PERS. In addition, during my government employment I also managed multi-million dollar budgets. I want to not only make sure that the Plan is solvent for me, current retirees and all future retirees.

**Dr. Cornelis "Kees" Gispen** **Oxford, MS**
Former University of MS Croft Institute for International Studies executive director
Private investor for more than 30 years
University of California, Berkeley, B.A. and Ph.D.

**Candidate Statement**
I am interested in serving on the Board to help strengthen the financial condition of PERS and protect the retirement benefits of current and future retirees. This is especially important today, when many retirement systems, including PERS, are to a greater or lesser extent underfunded. I will work with other members of the Board, the Executive Director, and professional advisers and consultants to look for ways to lower expenses, increase investment returns, and enhance existing communication with contributors and beneficiaries. I have more than 30 years of private investment experience and will fight to improve the system's health.

**Ella Green** **Utica, MS**
Former MS Department of Human Services program administrator
38 years of experience, federal and state government
Delta Mu Delta, member
Jackson State University, bachelor's and master's

**Candidate Statement**
Mrs. Beecham-Green has worked for the federal and state government; Internal Revenue Services, The Institute of Higher Learning, The Secretary of State, and The Department of Human Services for a total of 38 plus years. Mrs. Beecham-Green is your nominee for PERS as a board member. Mrs. Beecham-Green has met all requirements by attending public school, community/junior college, and a state university in Mississippi. She has worked as a taxpayer service representative, and some of her major accomplishments were the acquisition of compiling a data base for the elections division of predominantly black Delta voting areas in Mississippi.

**Kathy Harvey** **Columbia, MS**
Former Marion County School District director of curriculum, instruction, assessment & technology
MS State University, bachelor's
William Carey University, master's
University of Southern MS, specialist

**Candidate Biography**
Qualifications: 38 years experience in education, business and administration; taught accounting and technology 29 years (high school and adults); administrator over numerous major federal and state budgets and grants for the past 10 years; prepared for and managed district audits and grant financial audits; worked closely with state auditors and attorneys; active with local legislative representatives and organizations; and maintained county district board policies according to policies and laws. As a recent retiree, my knowledge base is current and up-to-date. Most importantly, I am hard-working and tenacious and will work diligently to ensure our investments are secure.

**Rickey Hill** **Jackson, MS**
Former City of Jackson, director of administration
Jackson Area Federal Credit Union, board of directors
CGFM, GFOA, AGA
MS State University, B.S.
MS College, M.B.A.

**Candidate Biography**
I am requesting your approval to allow me to represent you on the PERS Board. I am hoping you would agree that my educational background and work experience would qualify me to serve on the PERS Board. I retired from the city after 41 years of service. I held various financial and management positions during my career with the city. Over my working career, I was one of the city's contact persons for PERS which allowed me the opportunity to learn and understand the PERS rules and regulations. Thank you for your consideration.

**Janet King** **Pearl, MS**
Former Dept. of Mental Health, North MS Regional Center speech/language pathologist, evaluation team coordinator
ASHA, member
University of MS, M.S., Speech/Language Pathology

**Candidate Biography**
I am a grateful Mississippi retiree. I am grateful that the State of Mississippi took a portion of my earnings every month for 25 years, invested the sum wisely, and returned to me a pension upon which I can live out my retirement. In these uncertain political and fiscal times, it is important that every retiree has an advocate who is dedicated to maintaining our benefits and the benefits of future retirees. Many of us became public servants due, in part, to the excellent benefits we knew we would receive in retirement. I humbly as for your vote.

**Albert "Mike" Marsh** **Brandon, MS**
Former MS Department of Employment Security chief fiscal officer
MS Memorial Stadium/Jackson State University, manager
Southern Methodist University, B.S. in business administration

**Candidate Statement**
Prior to moving to and starting two new companies in Mississippi, Coors of Central MS and Southport Apparel, Inc., I was an officer in three Fortune 500 companies. Two MS Governors appointed me to Chairman of MS Workers' Compensation Commission, CFO of MDES and Manager of MS Veterans Memorial Stadium. My experience in the private sector, as both an employee and an employer, coupled with that in the public sector, being responsible for hundreds of associates, millions in assets and budgeting thereof, provides me with a level of experience that will be most useful to the PERS Board of Trustees.

**James Mason** **Flora, MS**
Former MS Department of Education associate state superintendent
U.S. Army War College, graduate
Jackson Public Schools
Hinds County Schools
MS College, education specialist

**Candidate Biography**
As the son of a retired teacher and whose father is still dependent upon PERS at age 85, I understand the importance of honoring commitments. As a thirty-year Army veteran, I understand the importance of service. Having built budgets for a non-profit, church, school district, state agency directorate and major Army command raging in size from $25,000-$50,000,000, I am ready to represent our retirees now. Focused on the future viability of PRES and more extensive and improved online member services, I thank you for your consideration of my candidacy. For more information on my professional background, please visit http://tiny.cc/jamesmason4pers

**Charles McCurdy** **Richland, MS**
Former MS Public Service Commission finance division director
High school teacher
Deputy Investigator
Police officer
City administrative officer
State Budget Commission
Delta State College, B.S.E.

**Candidate Biography**
As a fellow retiree, I share your concerns, expectations and dreams of a secure and viable retirement. My more than forty (40) years of invaluable experience with City, County, & State Government equipped me with relevant and practicable skills, tools and contacts to provide action-oriented representation of retirees on the PERS Board. I obtained unique knowledge of PERS while I served as PERS, Chief of Wage & Contributions. During that time, I was instrumental in creating the innovative funding vehicle for inclusion of Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics agents in the Mississippi Highway Patrol Retirement System.

**Ann McLaurin** **Hattiesburg, MS**
Former Ellisville State School community group home director
IDDO Mental Health Therapist
Walden University, education specialist degree adult education
William Carey University, M.Ed. education leadership

**Candidate Biography**
I am responding to the vacancy announcement where you are seeking to fill as a retiree representative to serve on the PERS Board of Trustees. I have a combination of experience and skills that could become an asset to the Organization. I would like to highlight my qualities and Credentials I believe are most relevant to the position. I have extensive managerial, supervisory, and leadership experience in the non-profit sector along with a record of helping the Organization effectively succeed. From your description of what is needed, I believe my credentials align well with what you are seeking. Thank you.

**Casey Mercier** **Hattiesburg, MS**
Former Jones County Junior College vice president of information technology
U.S. Military Veteran
Retired Education Personnel of MS
University of Southern MS, business administration/information technology

**Candidate Biography**
My name is Casey Mercier, I am asking for your vote as a Retiree Representative on the PERS board. I am active in the MS deferred compensation plan and have managed several private and partnership investment accounts for over 25 years. PERS benefits are essential to the financial security of state retirees. I believe in the preservation of these benefits both short and long term. PERS benefits must be protected against political and outside financial influences, always putting the retiree first. As a retiree myself I will represent you knowing the retirement system is vital to our livelihood.

**Wayne Myrick** **Laurel, MS**
Former MS State Auditor's Office auditor
Elected Circuit, Chancery Clerk
Army/Air National Guard
JCJC, USM, University of Mississippi, accounting degree

**Candidate Biography**
My friends: Having a great state, blessed with a Retirement System nationally ranked as one of the best; assets totaling over $24 billion, I will utilize my Accounting/Auditing/Finance knowledge to continue protection of assets and integrity of the System. As an Accountant, I believe in conservative, wise management – keeping retirement funds fiscally sound and secure, so; Retirement Benefits you worked so-hard-for, and-deserve, will always be there for your enjoyment. Would seek to secure paid retiree health insurance. I'll do everything in my power to protect your 13th check. We need your Vote.
Sincerely, Wayne Myrick

**Dr. Linda Norwood** **Oxford, MS**
Former Grenada School District migrant director
Former State President of Retired Education Personnel of MS
University of MS, education leadership Ph.D.

**Candidate Biography**
For the past 20 years my husband and I have been active in the Retired Education Personnel of Mississippi. REPM's main purpose is to support PERS through lobbying and educating and informing retirees. Sometimes we become complacent in our retirement as long as our retirement checks arrive regularly. However, there are movements throughout the country that could negatively affect our present system. It is therefore imperative that our board stays informed and ready to take positive action to protect our retirement system for ourselves and for those who are still working. Presently I serve on the PERS Insurance Committee.

**Johnnie Patton** **Jackson, MS**
Former University of MS Medical Center clinical pharmacist
50 years license pharmacist
Coalition for Women Heart, board member
Xavier University, B.S. pharmacy – chemistry

**Candidate Biography**
I am Johnnie Patton, seeking a position on the Mississippi Pers Board. I have worked for twenty-nine (29) years as a pharmacist at the University Medical Center. I am very familiar of the needs and expectations for membership and I want to insure that impeccable representation exist on this board. My resume' exemplifies my commitment to organizations and various other boards throughout the state and country and details my eagerness to represent. My representation is more than economic reasons, but to assure that the state appreciates your work and dedication while you were employed with the state agency.

**Edward Peacock III** **Clarksdale, MS**
Former Coahoma County chancery clerk
Regions Bank, Clarksdale office president
Chancery Clerk's Association, president
Part-time attorney
University of MS, banking/finance, juris doctorate

**Candidate Biography**
I, Ed Peacock III, businessman, trustee, and part-time attorney, am offering myself for service on the PERS Board after serving two years as a Lieutenant Finance Officer, nine years as President of a bank and twenty years as Chancery Clerk and Treasurer of Coahoma County. When elected, I took a pay cut to serve my Community. I'm married to the former Ann Christopher of Starkville, a retired speech pathologist for the Coahoma County Schools. "It is important that we continue to increase the total of our investments in our portfolio to be actuarially sound while protecting our 13th check."

**Dr. Philip Pepper** **Canton, MS**
Former MS Institutions of Higher Learning state economist
Economic & Employment Impact Analyses
Sales & Income Tax Revenue Analyses
Projections
University of Illinois, Ph.D.

**Candidate Statement**
As a native Mississippian with over 30 years invested in Mississippi public service, I am a strong proponent of the State fulfilling its legal and good faith obligations to all PERS retirees. As state economist for Mississippi, I served on the Revenue Estimating Committee and made presentation on the economy and the revenue outlook to both the full legislature and committees. I've visited across the State making presentations on the local, regional, and State economies. I am uniquely qualified to combine a technical understanding of the economy and the legislative revenue process with the best interests of our retirees.

**Alfred Sexton** **Gulfport, MS**
Former Gulfport Police Department deputy chief of police
Gulfport Citizen of the Year
Nominated Mississippian of the Year
Mountain State University, master's

**Candidate Statement**
If elected as your Retiree Representative I will keep a strong watch on our COLA to take every step to preserve it. I will always focus on keeping our retirement system healthy, stable and secured for our future. I will also be your voice at meetings to address issues as they develop to protect our retirement system! I served with the Gulfport Police Department (Deputy Chief of Police) I am married, a father and grandfather. I am a graduate of the National FBI Academy and also have a BS and Master's Degree. Please vote Alfred Sexton! Thanks

**Dr. James Shaffer** **Batesville, MS**
Former South Panola School District superintendent
29.5 years in public education as a teacher, administrator, and adjunct professor
Delta State University, bachelor's, master's, specialist, and doctorate

**Candidate Statement**
Having grown up in a family of educators, I have always known the importance and value of a strong Public Employee Retirement System. I believe in the system provided in the state of Mississippi, and it is my desire to work diligently to protect that system and to work as part of a board of trustees to provide a continuously strong mission and vision for the direction of PERS to serve all members active and retired.

**Roger Speed** **Collins, MS**

Former Covington County sheriff
Jefferson Davis County, Sheriff's Department
Owned and operated poultry and cattle farm
Covington County Schools, teacher
MS State University, bachelor's