



Providing Benefits for Life

January 6, 2026

Dear PERS Employer:

The Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS) is holding an election for the state employee representative position on the PERS Board of Trustees for the term that runs from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2032.

Please share this letter with your employees and direct them to [www.pers.ms.gov](http://www.pers.ms.gov), where interested employees may download the Board of Trustees Candidate Nomination and Petition. Candidates must be state employees and active PERS members with at least 10 years of creditable service.

**Election Schedule: State Employee Representative Term (July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2032)**

- February 6, 2026 Deadline for receipt of nominations and petitions by PERS (5 p.m.)
- February 25, 2026 PERS Board certifies ballot at regularly scheduled meeting
- March 10, 2026 PERS mails ballots
- April 14, 2026 Deadline for receipt of ballots by PERS (5 p.m.)
- April 22, 2026 PERS Board certifies election results at regularly scheduled meeting

**Runoff Schedule: (If necessary)**

- May 12, 2026 PERS mails ballots for runoff
- June 16, 2026 Deadline for receipt of ballots by PERS (5 p.m.)
- June 24, 2026 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* ([www.pers.ms.gov](http://www.pers.ms.gov)). For questions, contact PERS Compliance Counsel Davetta Lee at 601-359-9516, 800-444-7377 ext. 9516, or [dlee@pers.ms.gov](mailto:dlee@pers.ms.gov).

Sincerely,

H. Ray Higgins, Jr.  
Executive Director

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Board of Trustees:

Bill Benson  
County Employees,  
Chair

George Dale  
Retirees,  
Vice Chair

Kelly Breland  
State Employees

Kimberly Hanna  
Municipal Employees

Chris Graham  
Gubernatorial  
Appointee

Randy D. McCoy  
Retirees

David McRae  
State Treasurer

Brian Rutledge  
Institutions of Higher  
Learning Employees

Jay Smith  
Public Schools  
Community/Jr. Colleges

Terrance Yarbrough  
State Employees



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

Electronic Service Requested

Pre-Sorted  
First Class  
Postage PAID  
Hicksville, NvY  
Permit No. 734

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

**To Vote Online:**

1. To vote online, please go to: [vote.yeselections.com/MSPERS](http://vote.yeselections.com/MSPERS)
2. Enter your Election Code and Voting PIN (below)
3. Follow the on-screen instructions

**To Vote by Mail:**

1. On the ballot below, fill in the bubble to the left of the candidate of your choice
2. Tear the ballot at the perforated line and mail (no envelope necessary)
3. All ballots must be received by YesElections by 5:00 pm on June 16, 2026

**To Vote by Phone:**

1. Call (877) 311-9976
2. Follow the prompts to enter your Election Code and Voting PIN (below)

Election Code

Election Code

Voting PIN

Voting PIN

**State a Representative**

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

All votes must be received by 5 p.m., June 16, 2026.

For a replacement ballot or to ask a question, contact: [help+mspers@election-america.com](mailto: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
<input checked="" type="radio"/> John Doe	<input type="radio"/> John Doe	<input checked="" type="radio"/> John Doe

*(Fold and detach on the perforated line.)*



**2026 State Employee Representative**

Vote for no more than one.

- Dr. William J. Ashley
- Terrance Yarbrough

Mail-in ballots must be received by 5:00pm June 16, 2026

Control Number

Dr. Wiliam J. Ashley	Madison, MS	27.8333 years of service credit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mississippi Department of Employment Security, executive director</li> <li>Mississippi State University, doctorate, education</li> <li>Delta State University, master's, business-finance and economics</li> <li>Mississippi Development Authority</li> <li>Former college president</li> </ul>	<p>I pledge to protect the future retirement income of all PERS members. I have over 28 years of contributions in PERS. I lead the state workforce agency and 409 state employees. I have directed research at the state economic development agency, and I have led a community college as president. Previously, I was an instructor of economics and business administration at the post-secondary level for over 15 years. I hold a BBA in finance and an MBA with 30 graduate hours in economics, and a Ph.D. with a graduate certificate in economic development.</p>	

Terrance Yarbrough	Pearl, MS	22.3333 years of service credit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mississippi Department of Transportation, deputy administrator human resources</li> <li>Belhaven University, master's, management</li> <li>University of West Alabama, bachelor's, marketing and psychology</li> <li>UMMC community advisory board</li> </ul>	<p>Terrance Yarbrough brings an unmatched depth of knowledge and experience to the Public Employees' Retirement System. His service spans every critical role within PERS—member, former employee, manager, and current Board member—providing a rare, 360-degree understanding of how the system impacts state employees and retirees. Widely respected for his knowledge of state government and its workforce, Yarbrough blends frontline experience with executive leadership to make balanced, informed decisions. In a short time on the Board, he has been entrusted to serve as Chair of the Claims Committee, ensuring fairness, fiduciary responsibility, and the long-term stability of the retirement system.</p>	