



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
DIVISION OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS
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January 2026

TO: Certifying Officers, Public Employees' Retirement System

FROM: Jeff S. Ignatowitz, PERS Board Secretary

SUBJECT: IMPORTANT: PERS Notice of County Election- Extended

The attached notice for the 2026 Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) election requires your cooperation and response. Because no nominee has received the required number of votes (500) to qualify for the election, the Division of Pensions & Benefits **has extended the nomination period until Friday, February 6, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.**

We require your assistance in servicing the election of the PERS-County representative position for the PERS Board of Trustees. The PERS-County representative will be elected for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2026. Candidates for this position must qualify by nomination.

EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

Every active PERS-County member must receive a copy of the attached **Amended Notice of PERS Election**, which details the pre-election procedures. Please distribute the attached election notice electronically or, if you are not able to accommodate electronic distribution, please provide a paper notice to every PERS-County member employed at your location. If you are the Certifying Officer for multiple locations, you will receive only one Certifying Officer letter; however, you are required to distribute the election notice to active PERS-County members at all locations. Your attention to this distribution is required under N.J.A.C. 17:2-1.4.

In addition to individual distribution, you may post the notice on your location's intranet site and/or in any other appropriate public area.

It is very important that you confirm distribution of this notice with the Board of Trustees. To confirm that you have distributed the notice to your active PERS-County employees, please send an email to: NJBOT.elect@treas.nj.gov

Thank you for your prompt assistance and cooperation.

Attachment: Election Notice

PERS COUNTY ELECTION
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please be advised that the current PERS-County representative position expires on June 30, 2026, and the seat is at risk of becoming vacant. The process to fill this seat began in November of 2025. Currently there are six (6) nominees who have expressed interest in this position; however, to date, no nominee has obtained the requisite 500 nominations to proceed to an election.

In an effort to avoid PERS-County members from losing full representation on the Board, the Division has extended the nomination period from **January 9, 2026, through February 6, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.**

PLEASE NOTE: THIS EXTENSION ONLY APPLIES TO THE CANDIDATES WHO HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE POSITION.

The nominees eligible to receive nominations are:

Michael Hopson
Erik Knoop
Richard Marra
Adam O'Reilly
Tracy Smith
Vrutesha Vyas

Only active County employees may petition for the PERS-County representative position. Instructions for the nominating process are available upon receipt of a written request to the Secretary of the PERS Board of Trustees. Nominations for the PERS-County representative position are made primarily through a secure website. The process is very easy and only takes a few minutes.

- For **County** nominations, log on to: <https://vote.election-america.com/PERS-County>
- You will need to provide the last 4 digits of your Social Security number, the first 4 letters of your last name, and your birthdate. You will then see a list of all the candidates and you can make your choice.
- Paper nominating petitions are also available upon request to the PERS Board Office at the address above. For further information, please visit NJDPB website: <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/board-meetings.shtml> and select "Election Information."

Nominations must be received online or arrive in the Board Office on or before 4:00 p.m. Friday, **February 6, 2026, at 4 p.m.** If more than one candidate receives at least **500** nominations, an election will be required. Election ballots will be mailed to PERS County employers for distribution on or about **March 18, 2026.**