



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
DIVISION OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS
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September 2020

TO: Certifying Officers, Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS)
FROM: Jeff S. Ignatowitz, PERS Board Secretary
SUBJECT: **PERS Municipal Election Extended Until November 2, 2020**

As you are aware, the election for the PERS-Municipal Representative to the Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System was set to begin in March of this year. Due to the current health crisis, the election was postponed in order to ensure that all locations would be able to distribute election ballots to all eligible PERS-Municipal members in a safe, fair and efficient manner. Due to the postponement, one of the two PERS-Municipal seats on the Board became vacant on July 1, 2020, at the end of the three-year term filled by the former trustee.

At its meeting of July 15, 2020, the Board voted to restart the election, and scheduled the election to begin the week of August 10, 2020, to run through October 2, 2020. On or about August 7, 2020, your location's Certifying Officer should have received notice from Election America, Inc., the company administering the election, advising that election materials were being shipped with instructions on distributing the ballots to your eligible PERS-Municipal members.

Many locations contacted the New Jersey Division of Pensions & Benefits and advised as to the challenges they faced distributing the ballots to eligible voters. First, due to the health emergency, many of the eligible members were not reporting to their location on a regular basis, if at all, making it difficult to distribute the ballots. Second, the uncertainty surrounding whether schools would re-open, and in what capacity, in the fall, also raised concerns. In light of these difficulties, the Board has voted to **extend the election from October 2, 2020, for an additional 30 days, until November 2, 2020.**

The Board is respectfully requesting that all of the Certifying Officers make every effort to distribute the ballots to all eligible voters in the safest and most efficient manner possible. For example, in an effort to allow as many members as possible to participate in the election, several locations have advised that they are contacting their eligible voters through email and setting aside certain days for those employees to pick up their ballots at their primary work location. Other locations have advised that they are mailing the ballots to the home addresses of each eligible voter. If you have any questions or concerns regarding ballot distribution, please contact us at NJBOT.elect@treas.nj.gov.

The Board appreciates all of your efforts to conduct the election in the safest and fairest way possible.