



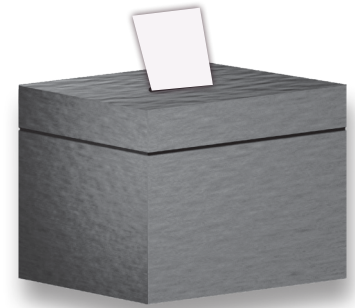
Retirement Board 2012 Election



A message from the Chief Executive Officer

This is a special Election Edition of the ACERA Newsletter.

ACERA will be conducting an election to fill an elected position on the Retirement Board. **Active and Deferred ACERA members** will receive a ballot in the mail in November to select a candidate for the position of **Second Member to Represent the General 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 who submitted a statement. 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. If you are an Active or Deferred ACERA Member, please complete your ballot and return it to the Registrar of Voters by December 19, at 5:00 p.m.

Chief Executive Officer
Vincent P. Brown

VOTING PERIOD | Voting will begin on Wednesday, November 21, 2012. You must return your ballot to the Registrar of Voters no later than Wednesday, December 19, 2012 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 ballot features a privacy flap that covers your signature.

Chief Executive Officer

Vincent P. Brown

Board of Retirement

George Dewey, *Chair*

Dale E. Amaral, *1st Vice Chair*

Keith Carson, *2nd Vice Chair*

Ophelia B. Basgal

Annette Cain-Darnes

Liz Koppenhaver

Elizabeth Rogers

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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Oakland, CA 94612

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Mike Wallace

Staff Analyst

Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation
District – Zone 7



Greetings fellow employees of Alameda County! It would be my honor to represent you on the Board of the Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association (ACERA).

Having had the opportunity of working at ACERA as an Administrative Specialist II, and learning the retirement system from the ground up – I offer you the experience no other candidate to date has offered you. I understand the interworking between the ACERA staff and Board of Retirement. I also understand the influence of the voters and our County leadership on your future retirement benefits. As a former SEIU 1020 dues-paying member and as a current manager in the County, I appreciate the challenges you face and the issues that threaten our retirement benefits. I will work vigorously to protect your retirement interests.

My combination of: **Education**, degrees in Economics and Management from California State University, Hayward; **Professional Experience**, 18 years private sector management and 5 years public sector service; **Community Service**, 8 years of service as Commissioner of The Alameda County Human Relations Commission and 5 years of managing an “Open Gym Basketball Program” for at-risk young adults; and **Family Life**, born in Berkeley, married 21 years to my high school sweetheart, father of two high school age daughters, and a resident of Castro Valley.

I want your vote so you will have a “seat at the table,” a voice in the management of your future income and health-care, as serious threats exist that will affect the benefits you have worked so hard to earn. Only 5 of the 11 ACERA Board positions are elected members, and only 2 of those are general members. Make your voice heard and make your vote count – **vote for Mike Wallace.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul Akinjo

Candidate 2nd General Member ACERA 2012 Election

Our Voice, our choice

“For many, fears have replaced optimism. Anxiety has triumphed over Hope and Resentment over the word “Retirement “. We find ourselves asking: What went wrong? Why are the financial institutions failing? Was enough careful planning in place? “

That’s my quote from two years ago when I asked for your vote. It was before the Occupy Movement became entrenched in our everyday vocabulary. I wish I could report to you that the horizon as far as retirement benefits are concerned is brighter than when I wrote that statement. Unfortunately, from Wisconsin to San Diego, San Jose, and now Sacramento retirement benefits are under serious and coordinated attacks.

The only redress we have is to maintain a collective voice. We must not be drawn into the lingo of Investment Hyperbole. We must not lose focus on the main issue of “Fulfillment ‘n Retirement“which means retirement without the added stress of worrying over the loss of our benefits. The Retirees know it and they exercise that power by their votes. We have an opportunity as active general members to speak even louder with our votes.

There is nothing wrong with Financial Certifications: (people ask me all the time and some will not vote for anybody who lacks them) in Auditing, Accounting, Investments, Asset management and Banking. The only problem with the above groups is that they were unable to help the rank and file of ACERA members and in fact the whole country has yet to recover from all the manipulations and behind the scenes investments that nearly brought the economy of our country to its knees.

If I am elected as the 2nd Member of the ACERA Board of Trustees I promise to bring the needed transparency and Education to the Rank and File members.

Our Retirement Benefits will not be manipulated or truncated without adequate discussion on the impact it will have on current, retired and future members of ACERA.

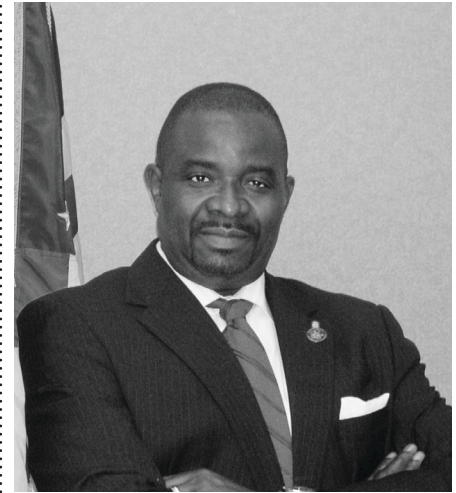
The Rank and File within the General Members of ACERA, whether represented or unrepresented, will have a voice. The retirees have a voice; why should active members not have a voice? We can change that if I am elected.

Let us also be aware that if the Governor’s Tax proposal is not passed during the November 6th Election, we can look forward to another attempt to wrestle away more benefits from our Retirement Plans.

I need your help, I need your support, and I need your Vote. Whether we spend our retirement years free of worries and anxieties or we spend the retirement years with our loved ones with added liabilities on them depends on the decision you make now. Vote for a Fulfillment in Retirement. Vote for me: PAUL AKINJO.

Our priorities will be the following if I am elected:

- Stand up for the active Members of ACERA
- Monitor the Pension Reforms Scheme from Sacramento and within Alameda County



Elizabeth Rogers

Incumbent



I am seeking re-election to the Alameda County Employees Board of Retirement where I have served since 2006. I am an attorney with over 20 years' experience in the Office of the Public Defender and, therefore, understand my fiduciary duty to safeguard the assets of the plan by making reasoned financial investment decisions utilizing the expertise of ACERA staff and consultants.

The last four years comprise one of the most turbulent times in the history of public pensions. Our pension system, like all public and private plans, was affected tremendously in 2008. However, we are working hard to manage our investments in a sound and prudent manner periodically changing our asset allocation in order to increase returns without adding substantial risk to the portfolio.

In addition to making investment decisions, I share responsibility for oversight of the annual budget, adoption of actuarial valuations and assumptions upon which employer and employee contributions are calculated, development and approval of Board policies, and review of member services.

During my tenure on the Board, there have been many innovations contributing to the efficiency and integrity of our pension system, including the addition of an internal auditor, a communications team, and, most recently, the start of a website redesign project which will greatly enhance the ability of members to access information and their accounts.

It is important to me as the General Member representative that all members receive prompt, efficient and knowledgeable service. It is particularly important that members are informed of changes made to the 1937 Act which governs ACERA. The changes enacted by the legislature affect current members and may affect decisions regarding the timing of retirement. If members have questions or concerns I can be contacted by phone or email for assistance at any time.

Finally, I remain dedicated to preserving the Supplemental Retirees Benefits Reserve (SRBR) which provides non-vested post-employment benefits including the monthly medical allowance, vision and dental care and additional benefits such as the supplemental COLA. This reserve is for all members and it is my duty to protect the SRBR so that all active employees will receive benefits upon retirement.

I appreciate your confidence in me over the last six years and look forward to serving as your representative in the future. I ask for your support and your vote in this election.

Board of Retirement Experience:

- Trustee on the Board of Retirement since 2006
- Board Chair 2009
- Chair of Operations Committee 2010-2012
- Member of Investment, Retirees, Actuarial, and Governance Committees

Education:

- University of California, Berkeley, B.A.
- American University, Washington College of Law, J.D
- Principles of Pension Management, California Association of Public Retirement Systems
- Portfolio Concepts and Management, Wharton School of Business

Endorsements:

- Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley
 ACERA Board Members
 Dale Amaral
 Annette Cain-Darnes
 Liz Koppenhaver
 David Safer
 George Wood
 Retired Employees of Alameda County (R.E.A.C.)
 Public Defender Chapter, Local 21, IFPTE