



## Board Report 21-04

Date: January 19, 2021  
 To: Board of Deferred Compensation Administration  
 From: Staff  
 Subject: Deferred Compensation Plan 2021 Board Elections:  
 Active WPERP Representative/Retiree Representative

| Board of<br>Deferred Compensation<br>Administration         |
|---|
| <b>Thomas Moutes</b><br><i>Chairperson</i>                  |
| <b>Raymond Ciranna</b><br><i>Vice-Chairperson</i>           |
| <b>Robert Schoonover</b><br><i>First Provisional Chair</i>  |
| <b>Wendy G. Macy</b><br><i>Second Provisional Chair</i>     |
| <b>Hovhannes Gendjian</b><br><i>Third Provisional Chair</i> |
| <b>Joshua Geller</b>  |
| <b>Neil Guglielmo</b>                                       |
| <b>Linda T. Ikegami</b>                                     |
| <b>Baldemar J. Sandoval</b>                                 |

### Recommendation:

That the Board of Deferred Compensation Administration (Board) approve that: (1) the petitions for the 2021 Board election for the Active Water and Power Employees’ Retirement Plan (WPERP) Representative and Retiree Representative be provided electronically to candidates by Deferred Compensation Plan (DCP) staff; and (2) petition signatures may be provided electronically in lieu of original/physical signatures for the 2021 Board election for the Active WPERP Representative.

### Discussion:

#### A. Background

Per City of Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 4.1407, Board members include directly elected employee participant representatives from the Los Angeles City Employees’ Retirement System (LACERS), Los Angeles Fire and Police Pensions (LAFPP), and the Water and Power Employees’ Retirement Plan (WPERP), and a retiree participant representative. The table below details the incumbent representatives and their Board terms:

| Board Position         | Incumbent            | Term                         |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| LACERS Representative  | Joshua Geller        | July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023 |
| LAFPP Representative   | Baldemar J. Sandoval | July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023 |
| WPERP Representative   | Hovhannes Gendjian   | July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021 |
| Retiree Representative | Thomas Moutes        | July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021 |

The terms for both the active WPERP Representative and the Retiree Representative expire on June 30, 2021. The election to fill these seats will be held on **May 13, 2021**, with new terms beginning July 1, 2021, and ending on June 30, 2024. Key dates for this election are:

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Early March 2021</b> | Active WPERP participants and retiree or separated from City service participants will be advised via general mailing of the election and their eligibility to run for the seats. |
| <b>March 18, 2021</b>   | Petitions to run will be made available by the DCP staff to eligible participants who choose to run.  |
| <b>April 1, 2021</b>    | Deadline for submission of petitions from participants interested in running for the seat.  |
| <b>Late April 2021</b>  | Ballots and voting packets will be mailed to eligible voters.   |
| <b>May 13, 2021</b>     | Election Day; all ballots must be received by this date.  |

The Office of the City Clerk (City Clerk) administers this election on behalf of the Board. DCP staff works closely with the City Clerk on coordinating the election process, including establishing timelines and drafting and disseminating communications.

As of March 2020, the City Clerk adopted certain measures in its administration of elections to comply with ongoing Safer At Home orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These include, among other measures, requiring appointments for activities such as obtaining replacement ballots, depositing ballots, and submitting certificates of eligibility. These processes were put in place with the 2020 Board elections and communicated in the election materials that were mailed to eligible voters. These same processes will continue with the 2021 Board elections. Staff will continue to work with the City Clerk and update the Board as the election process progresses.

**B. Revisions to Board Election Policies and Procedures**


At its December 15, 2020 meeting, the Board adopted revisions to the Board Election Policies and Procedures as follows:

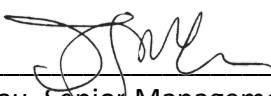
- Addition of option to provide for the submission of petitions to run for Board seats and petition signatures electronically in lieu of hard copy petitions and original/physical signatures, if the Board so designates.
- Reduction of petition signatures requirement for the LACERS, LAFPP, and WPERP employee participant representative from a minimum of 100 and a maximum of 200 to a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 100.
- Elimination of petition signatures requirement (minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20) for the retiree participant representative.

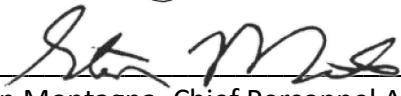
Accordingly, for the two elections that will be conducted in 2021, petition signatures will not be required for candidates running for the Retiree Representative seat. For candidates running for the WPERP Representative seat, a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 100 petition signatures will be required.

**C. Electronic Petitions and Signatures for DCP 2021 Board Elections**

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic poses some challenges for executing the 2021 Board elections. In compliance with various City, State, and County public health orders and guidelines, the DCP office remains closed to the public until further notice and DCP staff continues to telecommute almost exclusively. As the office is closed, participants planning to run for this year’s Board elections will be required to communicate with DCP staff via email and/or phone to obtain and return petitions to run for the Board within the deadlines established by the Plan. Additionally, as many City employees continue to telecommute, collecting original/physical petition signatures will most likely be challenging. Accordingly, in accordance with the newly adopted Board Elections Policies and Procedures which provides the Board flexibility to conduct elections during extraordinary times such as the current pandemic, staff recommends that the Board approve that: (1) petitions to run for the 2021 Board elections be provided electronically to candidates and (2) petition signatures may be provided electronically in lieu of original/physical signatures for the 2021 Board election of the Active WPERP Representative seat.

Submitted by:   
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Reviewed by:   
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Approved by:   
Steven Montagna, Chief Personnel Analyst