

LaVoz

The Voice of the Public Employees Retirement Association of New Mexico

PERA 2019 Board

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Letter from the Board Chair



Dear PERA Members:

On behalf of the PERA Board, I am pleased to present this Election Edition of La Voz. There are three positions on the PERA Board up for election; a Retiree, State and County seat. As a PERA Member, your voice on the Board is incredibly important and your voice is most directly heard by voting for your representative. Ballots are scheduled to be mailed on Friday, August 9, 2019 and must be returned to the post office by noon on

Friday, September 13, 2019. Be sure to vote!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new Board Members David Roybal (State Member) and Shirley Ragin (County Member). Our new Members bring a wealth of experience and I look forward to serving with both of them.

Congratulations to PERA for receiving the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR) and for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). These awards are the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. They represent a significant accomplishment by PERA's Chief Financial Officer and PERA's Administrative Services Division, as well as demonstrate PERA's commitment to sound, transparent management of your retirement Fund. You can view these reports on PERA's webpage here: www.nmpera.org/financial-overview.

The PERA Solvency Task Force established by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has been busy at work over the past couple of months. As a member of the Task Force I have been impressed with the dedication and spirit of collaboration shown by its members. I look forward to sharing the Task Force recommendations with our membership and I thank Governor Lujan Grisham for her leadership on this issue.

Thank you for your continued support and again, make sure to vote!

Sincerely,

Jacquelin Kohlasch, PhD
PERA Board Chair



PERA

Public Employees
Retirement Association
of New Mexico

Mission Statement

The mission of the Board of the Public Employees Retirement Association is to preserve, protect and administer the Trust to meet its current and future obligations and provide quality services to association members.

Welcome New PERA Board Members

PERA would like to welcome David J. Roybal and Shirley M. Ragin to the PERA Board of Trustees.



David J. Roybal was born and raised in Santa Fe, NM where he attended St. Michael's High School. He possesses a Finance degree from the University of New Mexico and enjoys being active in his community.

He currently serves as the Budget & Grant Director for the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions. He has worked at multiple state agencies including Expo New Mexico, New Mexico Department of Health and New Mexico Environment Department.

As a New Mexican and state employee who has a vested interest for his co-workers, family and friends, David is honored to support and safeguard the success of the PERA trust for our community.

Shirley M. Ragin is a Certified Management Accountant, started at Bernalillo County in 2012 as the Budget and Business Improvement Department Director and was appointed to her current position as Deputy County Manager for Finance in 2014. She serves on the County's Investment Committee and represents the County on NMC's Multiline Insurance Pool Board.

She retired from PNM after thirty-two years of service in various leadership positions in accounting, budget and internal audit. She has a BS in Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Albuquerque and Master's in Public Administration with a certificate in Budgeting and Financial Management from UNM.

She understands the importance of solvency for the PERA trust and its impact on the futures of its members. She plans to use her expertise to bring forth ideas based on facts and competing priorities, and to collaborate on making the best decisions for the plan and the members it serves.



Solvency Task Force Update



The 19 member PERA Solvency Task Force is responsible for providing a set of recommendations to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham no later than August 30, 2019. These recommendations must address PERA's unfunded liability and governance structure. The recommendations must be actuarially sound, preserve the defined benefit offered by PERA and also ensure intergenerational equity for current and future PERA members and retirees. The next Task Force meeting is August 8, 2019 at the State Capitol and is open to the public.

All presentations to the Task Force are available on our website at

<http://www.nmpera.org/solvency-information/solvency-task-force>

2019 Annual Elections

Automated Election Services (AES) verified the candidates for the 2019 PERA Board election. AES's election nominations report was accepted by the PERA Board on April 25, 2019.

STATE POSITION

AES determined that three individuals submitted more than the required 150 valid nominations necessary to be an eligible candidate for the PERA Board State Member position. Those candidates are:

- Robert Doucette
- Yvonne Aragon
- Paula Fisher

COUNTY POSITION

AES determined that three individuals submitted more than the required 150 valid nominations necessary to be an eligible candidate for the PERA Board County Member position. Those candidates are:

- Stewart J. Logan
- Shirley M. Ragin
- Gail Rogers-Tripp

RETIREE POSITION

AES determined that four individuals submitted more than the required 50 valid nominations necessary to be an eligible candidate for the PERA Board Retiree Member position. Those candidates are:

- Loretta Naranjo Lopez
- Robert Shilling
- Jeffery M. Riggs
- Jacqueline Y. Geoffrion

BALLOTS

Automated Election Services is scheduled to mail out ballots to eligible members on August 9, 2019. Ballots must be received by the Post Office by noon on September 13, 2019 in order to be counted. Ballots received after this date are invalid and will not count toward the election results.

Please make sure you vote early so your vote will count.

If you have a question about your ballot, contact Automated Election Services at 1-800-833-5568 Ext 6534.

2019 PERA Board Election Questions

Questions Posed to all State and County Candidates

1. Who is your current employer? What is your current position and how long have you held it?
What are your major responsibilities?
2. How long have you been a PERA member?
3. Education - What is your highest degree attained?
4. Other relevant experience:
5. What special contribution do you believe you would make to the PERA Board?

Please see pages 4-7 for each candidate's information.

Candidate information is also available at www.nmpera.org/board-of-trustees/elections

2019 PERA State Candidates

Robert E. Doucette, Jr.



1. After joining the Office of Superintendent of Insurance in 2015, he continues to serve through as the Deputy Superintendent managing all operational processes including strategic planning, budget development, personnel management, and organizational restructuring.
2. Robert E. Doucette, Jr. has served the State of New Mexico for over 21 years through his work with Bernalillo County and the Workers Compensation Administration.
3. MA-Management & Leadership; BS-English.
4. Robert has remained dedicated to advancing accountability and growth for each organization, establishing collaborative relationships with stakeholders at all levels of government.
5. As an astute strategist with an extensive record of building and improving public organizations to achieve excellence and fiscal accountability, Robert's career reflects a dedication to the system. His ability to develop forward-thinking solutions for long-term impact would greatly benefit the PERA system and its beneficiaries. As a PERA Board Member, Robert would remain dedicated to ensuring a stable and transparent system for all participants.

Yvonne Aragon



1. NM Department of Transportation (NMDOT) - 4 years. Provide information about NMDOT projects to the news media, government officials and the public. Additionally, I coordinate individual and public meetings to inform local communities about planned transportation projects and events.
2. 29 years -- NMDOT -- Construction - Office Manager -- Inspector -- Analyst / Maintenance -- Analyst / Public Information
3. BA -- Business Administration
4. I serve, and have served, on several boards relating to community advocacy.
5. I am running for election to the Public Employee Retirement Board (PERA) to be "Your" representative on the board. Clearly, now more than ever, it is important members have a voice to protect our pension from careless decisions which are diminishing our hard-earned benefits. It is important we stand together to defend what we have earned. I ask for your vote to be "Your" voice to hold PERA officials accountable for proper management of our funds.

Paula Fisher



1. CYFD. Juvenile Correctional Officer Lead worker; 10 years. Help rehabilitate youth at risk.
2. 24 years; CYFD
3. Graduate - Business College, Accounting
4. National Committee Member -- National Conference on Public Employee Retirement, Certificates of Achievement in Public Plan Policy, PERA Board Committees: Chair -- Rules and Administration, Vice-Chair -- Legislative, Vice-Chair -- Disability, Committee Member -- Investments, Accomplishments: Advocated for Pension Solvency. Held money managers accountable. Decreased investment fees and operational expenses. Demanded Wachovia Bank refund the membership 50 million dollars in losses.
5. I am the only candidate from Rank and File. I understand the negative financial impact on "rank and file" employees, if contributions are increased. I will terminate money managers who fail to perform. We all need our pension and I'm committed to protecting your benefits with the utmost integrity and experience you deserve!

2019 PERA County Candidates

Stewart J. Logan



1. I have been employed by San Juan County. I was the Benefits & Compensation Manager for 5 years and then asked to start a safety program in 2007. Develop and manage the Safety Program including writing policy and training.
2. Since June 2002 with San Juan County.
3. I have a B.A. from Bob Jones University
4. Consumer financing, mortgage lending, Financial Advisor with MetLife Resources, held Life and Health Insurance licenses, Series 6 & 67 securities licenses. Managed the County self-insured \$5 million medical plan including the prescription drug plan.
5. I have broad experience in the financial field including investments. I am a current member of the Board of Directors with First Financial Credit Union. Previously I was a member of the PERA Board. I can bring my experience and knowledge to help ensure NMPERA is going in the right direction.

Shirley M. Ragin



1. Bernalillo County. Deputy County Manager, Finance Division, 5 years. Oversee Accounting/Budget and Information Technology Departments, and Operations Excellence Office; debt issuance; compliance with debt and investment policies and serve on respective committees. Liaison to Assessor and Treasurer.
2. 6 3/4 years
3. MPA, Budgeting & Financial Management. BSBA, Accounting.
4. PERA Board, May 2019. NMC Multiline Insurance Pool board. Prior Board Service (president, treasurer) PNM Resources Foundation; Southwest Federal Credit Union Supervisory Committee; WESST; Leadership Albuquerque Alumni Association. PNM, retired, 32 years.
5. Diverse experience acquired in the private and public sectors provide skills needed to identify and understand intricacies of the PERA plan and dynamics of the issues. I understand the importance of solvency and its impact on the futures of its members. My expertise allows me to bring forth ideas based on facts and competing priorities, and to collaborate on making the best decisions for the plan and the members it serves.

Gail Rogers-Tripp



1. Socorro County Emergency Services. GIS Systems Manager - 7 years. Supervise staff to create and maintain mapping database for use in County offices, including the Assessors, Dispatch and Floodplain.
2. 8 years. State General office Right-of-Way division and County Government Emergency Services GIS systems.
3. Associate of Applied Science CADD option.
4. Required long term project planning and budget management while working for Engineering Firms help develop fiscal skills.
5. I would like to bring these skill to the Board for long haul decision making instead of reactive decision making.

2019 PERA Board Election Questions

Questions Posed to all Retiree Candidates

1. How long have you been a PERA member?
2. How long were you employed in your most recent PERA position? What were your major responsibilities?
3. Education - What is your highest degree attained?
4. Other relevant experience:
5. What special contribution do you believe you would make to the PERA Board?

Loretta Naranjo Lopez



1. PERA Member in good standing for 41 years and one of the two longest-serving PERA Board Members.
2. I dedicated 25 years of employment with the City of Albuquerque plus 12 years of Trustee service on the PERA Board. On the PERA Board, I focus on (a) ethical governance and overall aspects of PERA, (b) maximizing investment returns, and (c) fighting to preserve retirees' well-deserved benefits.
3. Masters of Community and Regional Planning, MCRP, which complements my business education and investment skill.
4. During my 12 years on the PERA Board, I have consistently championed the need to improve investment returns and I have vigorously defended retiree benefits. I help improve investment returns by holding staff accountable and by networking across the nation with accomplished investors. I lead an effort to preserve COLA benefits for PERA Members.
5. On the PERA Board, I have the strongest knowledge, skill and experience in investing.

Robert Shilling



1. I have been a PERA member for 28 years. I joined the New Mexico State Police in 1992 I was appointed Chief of the New Mexico State Police in 2011 before retiring in 2013.
2. I was employed with the New Mexico State Police for the last 21 years of my career. As Chief, my major responsibilities included: -Oversight and management of an operating budget in excess of \$100 million. -Leadership, supervision, and management of 600+ commissioned personnel and 120 civilian personnel.
3. I currently possess 100 hours in undergraduate studies. I also have several hundred hours of advanced training in myriad topics and I have successfully completed Northwestern University's 'Staff and Command' as well as the FBI's National Executive Institute.
- 4.
5. I will bring to the Board a tenacious, professional, no-nonsense approach to the representation of my fellow PERA retirees. Good governance requires order and rule of law.

2019 PERA Retiree Candidates

Jeffery Riggs



1. Thirty-four years, including 17 years DFA -State Budget Division; 5 years Deputy Director Educational Retirement Board; 4 years PERA Board.
2. While Deputy Director of the Educational Retirement Board I was Acting Director a year. My duties encompassed all aspects of managing the pension fund including member services, retiree payroll, investments, and fiscal administration.
3. BBA-New Mexico State University; MBA-New Mexico Highlands University. Certified public pension plan policy. Certified Governmental Financial Manager (inactive).
4. After my late wife and I were honorably discharged from the Army I attended NMSU and NMHU. Raising our family in her native New Mexico I was fortunate to have a successful career building effective teams to accomplish goals and overcome obstacles.
5. I will always ensure my fiduciary responsibilities are first and foremost, build consensus on the Board, promote retiree concerns to protect our retirement. I will lead by example, reinstitute accountability from the Board and staff.

Jacqueline Y. Geoffrion



1. I have been a member since September, 1992, a retired member since January 1, 2013. My total years as a member, both active and retired, is 27 years.
2. I retired from Taxation & Revenue Dept in December, 2012, as IT Database Bureau Chief/IT Manager.
3. Bachelor's of Arts (Cum Laude) – Computer Information Systems/ Minor Business Administration, May 1992
4. Throughout my career I had opportunities to engage in numerous cost-saving projects. As IT Manager/Project lead, I saved NM \$15 million by bringing MVD into compliance with Federal regulations. I improved NM payroll (approx. 20,500 checks issued bi-weekly) application to run from 4.5 hours to 20 minutes, for a significant savings to the State.
5. I believe that my analytical skills accompanied with my knowledge of financial accounting will be a positive asset to the board. I would commit to doing my best to serve the board and to represent retired PERA members.



Don't forget that ballots will be mailed to eligible members on August 9, 2019. Ballots must be received by the Post Office by noon on **September 13, 2019** in order to be counted.

Make Your Vote Count!

PERA Phishing Emails



In September 2018, the State of New Mexico's Exchange Email System was modified as a result of a recent influx of phishing emails. Phishing is the fraudulent attempt to obtain sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details by disguising oneself as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication.

With the State's new modification, if you receive an email that appears to come from a State of NM employee with the tag "[EXT]" in the subject line, it could be a phishing attempt and therefore, it should be deleted.

In May and July 2019, a phishing email was sent to all State employees by an unknown source by the name of "Gov Resource". The email is informing users of services that are not provided by PERA and the Educational Retirement Board (ERB). The email is offering a 15-minute consultation in order

to receive a PERA or ERB retirement analysis. The email is requiring that you click a "Book Here" link. ***Do not click on the links provided or download any attachments.*** PERA does not send out such emails.

When in doubt, just delete. Please remember that if you ever have any questions or concerns about your PERA account you can walk in to one of our two offices, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, without an appointment and speak with a PERA Specialist. You can also call or email PERA and we will assist you. We also encourage you to open up an account in PERA's online, self-service website known as Retirement Information Online (RIO) and view/maintain your information 24/7.

Your safety is important to PERA and we want to make sure you are protected from any cyber attacks in the future.

2019 PERA Annual Meeting

Thursday, September 26, 2019

The meeting will take place in the Senator Fabian Chavez, Jr. Board Room in the PERA offices located at 33 Plaza La Prensa, Santa Fe, NM 87507. All members and retirees are welcome to attend. The winners of the 2019 State, County and Retiree Board election will be announced during the meeting.

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