

## 2020 PERA Board

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## Letter from the Board Chair

Dear PERA Members:



On behalf of the PERA Board and staff, I hope this newsletter finds you and your families safe and healthy in these unique times we are all living through.

In October, the Board of Trustees welcomed Francis Page and Roberto Ramirez to the Board. Francis was elected to a Retiree seat while Roberto was elected to a Municipal seat. Both will begin 4-year terms on the Board in January of 2021. While the PERA Board welcomes new Members we also say farewell to Members Daniel Mayfield, Patricia "Patty" French and Claudia Armijo and wish them good luck in their future endeavors.

The year has forced PERA to operate in new ways and the Board election process is no different. After no candidates certified for the State seat during our normal election cycle, the Board voted to hold our first ever off-cycle election. Ballots for the State election will be mailed on November 10, 2020 and are due back to the Post Office no later than December 10, 2020. In the following pages you will find additional information about the State candidates. The winner will begin their 4-year term in January.

Thank you and stay safe.

  
John Melia  
PERA Board Chair

## 2020 State Member Annual Elections

Automated Election Services (AES) determined that two individuals, Diana Rosales Ortiz and Renada Peery-Galon, submitted more than the required 150 valid nominations necessary to be an eligible candidate for the PERA Board State Member position. Please see page 2 for each candidate's information.

Candidate information is also available at [www.nmpera.org](http://www.nmpera.org) under "Board of Trustees: Board Elections". AES will mail out ballots to eligible

New Mexico State Employees on November 10, 2020. Ballots must be received by the Rio Rancho Post Office by noon on December 10, 2020 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 AES at 1-800-833-5568 Ext 6534.



# GET A FLU SHOT

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**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.

# 2020 PERA State Candidates

## 2020 PERA Board Election Questions

### Questions Posed to all State 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?

### Diana Rosales Ortiz



1. State Treasurer's Office, Director of Operations, Chief Risk Officer Full operations oversight to safeguard financial initiatives and transactions surrounding funds held on behalf of New Mexico citizens and to fulfill the agency's mission
2. 8 year member total – Attorney General's Office and Taxation & Revenue. Performed high level, complex financial records analysis for decision making, compliance and accountability.
3. Master's Accounting, Bachelor's Business in Finance
4. Certified Fraud Examiner
5. I will be a voice (English or Spanish) for PERA members. My specialized Finance and Accounting education and my unique professional experience will assist the Board with effective and transparent decision making. I am committed to act as a steward for the trust fund holding our hard-earned retirement dollars. I will provide the highest level of oversight by promoting responsible investment strategies, close monitoring of cost and fees, while managing fund assets and eliminating unnecessary and wasteful spending. See my website <http://diana4pera.com/>

### Renada Peery-Galon



1. Early Childhood Education and Care Department. Serve as Administrative Services Division (ASD) Director since May. Oversee budget/financial services and human resources.
2. 17 years - ASD Director for Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA), Budget Manager and ASD Director for Children, Youth and Families Department, and Senior Fiscal Analyst for Legislative Finance Committee.
3. Master of Public Administration - NMSU and Bachelor of Science - ENMU.
4. My experiences have given me a broad perspective of NM state government from working on policy and budgetary issues for the legislature to financial and operational management of state agencies.
5. I attended PERA Board meetings for the past five years in which investments and solvency of the PERA Fund have dominated agendas. I understand NM employees are fortunate to have one of the best retirement systems in the country. I will work to ensure the solvency of the PERA Fund for current employees and retirees.

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