

BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMPOSITION AND ELECTIONS

A.C.A. § 24-7-301

The general administration and proper operation of the System is vested in the Board of Trustees that consists of eleven (11) elected members and four (4) ex-officio members. Pursuant to ACA § 24-7-301, the Board shall adopt rules and regulations regarding the election of trustees and vacancies.

I. GENERAL RULES FOR CANDIDACY AND VOTING IN TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

- A. For purposes of eligibility for an active member trustee position and voting, “active members” shall mean active members as defined in A.C.A. § 24-7-202(2) and members participating in T-DROP, if employed by a participating employer and receiving T-DROP plan deposits.
- B. If a candidate is employed in more than one position with a participating employer(s), eligibility shall be determined based on his/her primary position for which he/she receives the greater percentage of covered salary.
- C. For purposes of eligibility for an administrator trustee position or voting for that position, “administrator” shall mean a public school superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, or vice-principal; a higher education president, chancellor or director; or a community college, vocational/technical or cooperative director, president, or vice president, who is employed by a participating employer OR any employee of an education related agency participating in ATRS that is employed in a position grade C127 or higher, including unclassified employees.
- D. For purposes of eligibility for a licensed trustee position or voting for that position, “licensure” shall mean a person employed in a position requiring state teaching licensure or an education institution grade C117-C126 and not an administrator.
- E. For purposes of eligibility for a nonlicensed trustee position and voting for that position, “nonlicensed” shall mean a member employed in a position with a participating employer that does not require state licensure including employment in an educationally related agency in a position grade C116 or below. Nonlicensed shall not include any position defined as an administrator or licensure.

- F. Only members are authorized to vote in a trustee election. Guardians, attorneys-in-fact, or others may not vote on behalf of a member.
- G. Terms not defined in these rules shall have the meaning set forth in A.C.A. § 24-7-202 *et. seq.*

II. QUALIFICATION AND VOTER ELIGIBILITY FOR ELECTED TRUSTEE POSITIONS

There shall be four (4) active member trustees each of whom will represent one of the four congressional districts in Arkansas.

A. Active Member Trustee Position Nos. 1-4 - Congressional Districts

1. Qualifications for Candidacy

- i. Active member with a minimum of five (5) years of actual service.
- ii. Employed by a participating employer located in the congressional district for which he/she is seeking election.
- iii. Employed in a position requiring state teaching licensure or the equivalent under these rules.

2. Eligible Voters for Trustee Position Nos. 1-4

Active members, regardless of credited service, employed by participating employers located in the respective congressional districts and who are otherwise eligible to be a candidate under subsection IIA iii above.

B. Active Administrator Trustee Position Nos. 5 - 6

There shall be two (2) active member trustees each of whom must be employed as administrators as defined in these rules.

1. Qualifications for candidacy:

- i. Active member with a minimum of five (5) years of actual service.
- ii. As provided in A.C.A. § 24-7-301, at least one of the administrators serving as an active administrator trustee must be employed by a participating employer as an Arkansas school superintendent.
- iii. If an election is being held for either position and the other administrator position is not held by a superintendent, candidates

for the open position must be a superintendent and the notice of election shall so state that requirement.

- iv. Candidates for Position No. 5 and Position No. 6 shall be licensed administrators employed by a participating employer.

B. Eligible Voters for Trustee Position Nos. 5-6

Eligible voters for Position Nos. 5 and 6 shall be active members, regardless of credited service, employed as licensed administrators.

C. Nonlicensed Trustee Position No. 7

1. Qualifications for candidacy:

- i. Active member with a minimum of five (5) years of actual service.
- ii. Employed in a position not requiring state licensure.

2. Eligible Voters for Trustee Position No. 7

Eligible voters for Position No. 7 shall be all active members, regardless of credited service, who are employed by participating employers in nonlicensed positions as defined these rules.

D. Minority Trustee Position No. 8

There shall be one (1) member trustee of a minority racial ethnic group.

1. Qualifications for candidacy:

- i. An active or retirant member of ATRS with a minimum of five (5) years of actual service.
- ii. Member of a minority racial or ethnic group

2. Eligible Voters for Trustee Position No. 8

- i. All active members, regardless of credited service
- ii. Retirant members

E. Retired Member Trustees (At-Large) - Position Nos. 9-11

There shall be three (3) retired member trustees who shall be “retirants” under A.C.A. § 24-7-202.

1. Qualifications for Candidacy
 - i. Retirant member of ATRS
 - ii. Resident of the State of Arkansas
2. Eligible Voters for Trustee Position Nos. 9-11

All retirants of ATRS, regardless of present employment status or residency.

Amended: April 26, 2007
February 11, 2008
December 18, 2009