

Urgent Legislative Update from the April 2009 House of Delegates!

SURS Board of Trustees Elections Coming Soon!

In the past, the SURS Board of Trustees was made up of 9 members, all of whom were appointed by the Governor. Under the recently signed Public Act 96-0006, the Board will be expanded to 11 members. The Board will be chaired by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) chair, who is appointed by the Governor; the Governor will also appoint 4 other members to the Board. The remaining 6 members of the SURS Board of Trustees will be elected by the participating members of SURS: 4 active members and 2 annuitants.

The IFT (Illinois Federation of Teachers), to which UPI belongs, is working with AFSCME (American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees), the NEA (National Education Association), SEIU (Service Employees International Union), and the SUAA (State Universities Annuitants Association) to put forward and elect a slate of candidates for these six positions on the SURS Board who will protect our interests.

The IFT candidates are Mitch Vogel, former President of UPI who is a candidate for annuitant trustee and Antonio Vasquez who is a candidate for contributing member trustee. The other contributing member candidates are Joe Iosbaker of SEIU, Dorinda Miller of AFSCME, and Jeff Beaulieu of IEA. The other annuitant trustee candidate is Jeff Engstrom.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Although Public Act 96-006 gives us the right to elect members to the SURS Board, we have to follow the established protocols of election in a short amount of time if we are to get our slate seated:

- By May 13, we must collect 400 signatures for each candidate on the slate.
- In early June, members must fill out and mail back the ballots SURS will send out.

Given attacks on state pensions over the last several years, UPI President Sue Kaufman calls this “the most serious election in my 22 years in the union!”

SO WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- (1) Sign the petition!! Your UPI Department Rep will ask you to sign the petitions for UPI endorsed candidates within the next week.
- (2) Watch your home mail during the week of May 31 for your ballot, which will come from SURS. Vote and send the completed ballot back in the envelope provided.