



Candidates may be nominated to serve on the Board of the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois (TRS) for a 4-year term to commence July 15, 2021, through a petition process. The election will be held May 3, 2021. TRS board elections are governed by the Illinois Pension Code, 40 ILCS 5/16-165. Board election procedures are explained in 80 Ill. Admin Code 1650, Subpart L (1650.1000 - 1090). Questions should be emailed to **Communications Managing Editor Kathy Boehme** at [kboehme@trsil.org](mailto:kboehme@trsil.org) for response.

## Petition Circulators

For a candidate to be nominated and placed on the ballot for a teacher or annuitant trustee, 500 valid signatures from applicable active or annuitant TRS members must be obtained for the candidate and submitted to TRS. Signatures will be validated by the System.

- **Step 1:** Download the TRS Petition forms from the TRS website, [www.trsil.org](http://www.trsil.org). You must use the TRS Petition forms. Be sure to use the right form for your candidate (active teacher or retired annuitant).
- **Step 2:** **Before** obtaining signatures for an active teacher trustee candidate, ask the candidate to fill out and sign the Candidate Certification on the petition. **This is a new statutory requirement that became effective July 15, 2020.** Active teacher candidates must indicate statewide teacher organization membership on the petition. See 40 ILCS 5/16-165(d-5).
- **Step 4:** Once the Candidate Certification (for active teacher candidates only) and the top portion is completed, petitions may be duplicated in any quantity.
- **Step 5:** Petitions may be circulated beginning Nov. 1, 2020. **Do not circulate petitions before this date.**
- **Step 6:** **After** obtaining signatures, complete and sign the Petition Circulator Certification portion the petition. Your signature must be notarized.
- **Step 7:** Submit the petitions bearing original signatures of eligible petition signers to TRS using the address listed above (Attn: Kathy Boehme) **between Monday, Jan. 4 and no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29, 2021.**

## Trustee Candidates

- A candidate for a **TRS Teacher Trustee** board position must be a member of TRS who meets the definition of "teacher" as defined in the Pension Code, 40 ILCS 5/16-106.
- A candidate for a **TRS Annuitant Trustee** board position must meet the definition of "annuitant" in 40 ILCS 5/16-111.1.

## Petition Signers

- To nominate a Teacher Trustee Candidate, the petition signer must be an active TRS member who is a "teacher" as defined in 40 ILCS 5/16-106.
- To nominate an Annuitant Trustee Candidate, the petition signer must be a retired TRS member who is an "annuitant" as defined in 40 ILCS 5/16-111.1.
- Petition signers must furnish an original signature and complete address (street address, city, state, zip). For verification purposes, a telephone number is also requested.