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Sec. 145.05. (A) The terms of office of employee members of the public employees retirement board shall be for four years each beginning on the first day of January following election. The election of the county employee member of the board and the employee member of the board representing public library, health district, park district, conservancy district, sanitary district, township, metropolitan housing authority, union cemetery, joint hospital, and institutional commissary employees shall be held on the first Monday in October, 1945, and on the first Monday in October in each fourth year thereafter. The election of the state employee member of the board and the municipal employee member of the board shall be held on the first Monday in October, 1946, and on the first Monday in October in each fourth year thereafter. The election of the initial university-college employee member of the board shall be held on the first Monday in October, 1978, and elections for subsequent university-college employee members of the board shall be held on the first Monday in October in each fourth year thereafter.

(B) The term of office of the retirant member of the public employees retirement board shall be for four years beginning on the first day of January following the election. The election of the initial retirant member of the board shall be held on the first Monday in October, 1978, and elections for subsequent retirant members of the board shall be held on the first Monday in October in each fourth year thereafter.

(C) All elections for employee members of the public employees retirement board shall be held under the direction of the board. Any member of the public employees retirement system, except a member who is receiving a disability allowance BENEFIT under this chapter, is eligible for election as an employee member of the board to represent the employee group of which he is a member, provided that he has been nominated by a petition signed by at least five hundred members of the employee group to be represented and further provided that there shall be not less than twenty such signers from each of at least ten counties of the state. The name of any member so nominated shall be placed upon the ballot by the board as a regular candidate. Names of other eligible candidates may, at any election, be substituted for the regular candidates by writing such names upon the ballots. The candidate who receives the highest number of votes for a particular employee member position on the board shall be elected to that office.

(D) All elections for the retirant member of the public employees retirement board shall be held under the direction of the board. Any former member of the public employees retirement system who is a recipient of service retirement benefits under this chapter and a resident of this state, and any member of the system who is a recipient of a disability allowance BENEFIT under this chapter and a resident of this state, is eligible for election as the retirant member of the board to represent the service and disability retirants AND DISABILITY BENEFIT RECIPIENTS of the system, provided that such person has been nominated by a petition signed by at least two hundred fifty former members of the system who are receiving service retirement benefits under this chapter or members of the system who are receiving A disability allowances BENEFIT under this chapter, or any combination of such service RETIRANTS and disability retirants BENEFIT RECIPIENTS that totals two hundred fifty. The petition shall contain the signatures of at least ten such retirants OR RECIPIENTS from each of at least five counties wherein service RETIRANTS or disability retirants BENEFIT RECIPIENTS under the system reside.

The name of any disability BENEFIT RECIPIENT or service retirant under the system nominated in this manner shall be placed upon the ballot by the board as a regular candidate. Names of other eligible candidates may, at any election for the retirant member of the board, be substituted for the regular candidates by writing the names of such persons upon the ballot. The candidate who receives the highest number of votes for any term as the retirant member of the board shall be elected to office.

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