BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

OF THE

COUNTY OF FRESNO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF: ADOPTING AMENDED ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT OF THE FRESNO COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION))))	RESOLUTION NO. 21-194
RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION)	

WHEREAS, the Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association ("FCERA") is the retirement system for the County of Fresno (the "County"), and for participating governmental employer entities (each, a "Special District," or collectively, "Special Districts"), under the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 ("CERL," Gov. Code, § 31450 *et seq.*) and the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 ("PEPRA," Gov. Code § 7522 *et seq.*);

WHEREAS, the Board of Retirement of FCERA is the governing board of FCERA (the "Board of Retirement");

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno (the "Board of Supervisors") is the board of supervisors of the County;

WHEREAS, Government Code § 31520.1 shall apply to the membership of a board of retirement whose county retirement system membership includes safety members:

WHEREAS, as of the date of this Resolution, FCERA's membership includes general members ("General Members"), safety members ("Safety Members"), and retired members ("Retired Members");

WHEREAS, under Government Code § 31520.1, the Board of Retirement shall consist of the following members:

13 14

15

16 17 18

19 20

22

23

21

24 25

26 27 28

- A. The first member shall be the County Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector:
- B. The second and third members shall be members of FCERA, other than Safety Members, elected by those members (*i.e.*, General Members);
- C. The fourth, fifth, sixth, and ninth members shall be qualified electors of the County who are not connected with the County government in any capacity, except one may be a member of the Board of Supervisors (each, a "Supervisor"), and shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors; a Supervisor appointed as a member of the Board of Retirement may not serve beyond his or her term of office as Supervisor;
- D. The seventh member shall be a Safety Member elected by the Safety Members:
- E. The eighth member shall be a Retired Member elected by the Retired Members:
- F. The alternate member shall be that candidate, if any, for the seventh member from the group under Government Code § 31470.2 or 31470.4, or any other eligible Safety Member in the County if there is no eligible candidate from the groups under Government Code §§ 31470.2 and 31470.4, which is not represented by a member of the Board of Retirement who received the highest number of votes of all candidates in that group, and shall be referred to as the alternate seventh member;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors' appointment of the Supervisor under Government Code § 31520.1 shall be made pursuant to the Board of Supervisors' policies and procedures for the appointment of any of its members to serve on another public agency's governing board; and

WHEREAS, under Government Code § 31520.5, the Board of Retirement alternate Retired Member, if any, shall be elected separately by Retired Members in the same manner and at the same time as the eighth member of the Board of Retirement is elected;

WHEREAS, Government Code § 31520.1 permits the Board of Supervisors to determine the manner in which elected members shall be elected to the Board of Retirement;

WHEREAS, under Government Code § 31524, the Board of Retirement's second and third members, seventh member, and, if any, alternate seventh member, shall be employees of the County or a Special District, while they hold such respective offices;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors established the Fresno County
Retirement Board Election Procedure on November 25, 1969, and amended the
Retirement Board Election Procedure on: October 30, 2001; March 1, 2005 (at which
time the Fresno County Retirement Board Election Procedure was renamed as the
Board of Retirement Election Procedures); September 11, 2007; August 11, 2009;
December 8, 2015; and June 18, 2019;

WHEREAS, as the date of this Resolution, the Board of Retirement has an alternate Retired Member; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this Resolution, the Board of Retirement does not have an alternate seventh member, but these election procedures shall apply to such an alternate seventh member if and when there should be such a member;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors further desires to amend the Board of Retirement Election Procedures, as set forth below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors adopts these further amended Board of Retirement Election Procedures, which are and shall read as follows:

BOARD OF RETIREMENT ELECTION PROCEDURES

- I. <u>Dates of Elections; Officials; Reimbursement of Election Costs.</u>
 - A. <u>Regularly-Schedule Elections and Special Elections</u>: Board of Retirement regular elections shall be held on the third Thursday in November for odd election years, and on the third Thursday in August for even election years, except for

23

24

25

26

27

28

1

2

3

4

5

Special Elections (as defined in Section 1.C., herein) called by the Board of Supervisors under Section 1.C., herein. The Board of Retirement's regular election schedule is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference as Appendix A-Election Schedule, and supersedes any prior Board of Retirement's regular election schedule adopted by the Board of Supervisors. These election procedures shall govern all regularly scheduled elections for the Board of Retirement in Appendix A-Election Schedule, and all Special Elections for the Board of Retirement. From time to time, the Board of Supervisors may supplement Appendix A-Election Schedule by amending this Resolution to add future regularly-scheduled elections. In the event it is apparent from examining the face of Appendix A–Election Schedule that any member category, member number, expiration of term, or election month or year set forth therein is incorrect or incomplete, the Retirement Administrator, on behalf of FCERA, and the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (the "County Registrar of Voters") on behalf of the County, may jointly execute a memorandum prior to the relevant Board of Retirement election, which jointlyexecuted memorandum sets forth the correct and/or complete information and the reason therefor, and such jointly-executed memorandum shall be filed by the Retirement Administrator with the Clerk of the Board of Retirement, and by the County Registrar of Voters with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, and upon such filing thereof with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, such jointly-executed memorandum shall be deemed to be a modification to Appendix A–Election Schedule, and all references herein to Appendix A-Election Schedule shall thereafter be deemed to include such modification to Appendix A–Election Schedule. The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall file the jointly-executed memorandum in his or her filing system containing, and along with, this Resolution.

B. <u>County Registrar of Voters Declaration Regarding Election</u>. The County Registrar of Voters may, at any time commencing upon the date that the County Registrar of Voters receives a written request from the FCERA Retirement

Administrator, under Section III.A.1., herein, to conduct a Board of Retirement election and continuing thereafter until the moment immediately after 5:00 PM on the date of the election, declare that Registrar of Voters cannot conduct, or complete the conducting of, the election, or the election for a particular member seat, due to any condition, except for any alleged or actual violation by a nominee, or any other County employee allegedly or actually acting at the behest of or in concert with the nominee, of County ordinance code § 3.08.110 (Employees—Political activity) relating to any Active Member Election. If the County Registrar of Voters makes a determination that he or she cannot conduct, or complete the conducting of, a Board of Retirement election, or the election for a particular member seat, under this Section I.B., then, subject to this Section I.B.

- 1. The County Registrar of Voters shall declare in writing that he or she cannot conduct, or complete the conducting of, the election, or the election for the particular member seat (and any such declaration concerning the particular member seat only affects that member seat);
- 2. The County Registrar of Voters shall promptly post such declaration, which shall include a statement of the condition for such declaration, on its Department website, and provide a copy thereof to the Board of Retirement, the FCERA Retirement Administrator, the Board of Supervisors, and the affected candidates for the election, or the election for the particular member seat, and shall request the Board of Supervisors to call a new Board of Retirement election, or a new election for the particular member seat, which election shall be a Special Election (as defined in Section I.C., herein);
- 3. Any such declaration by the County Registrar of Voters shall be final and conclusive with respect to such condition; and
- 4. The eligibility of members of FCERA to participate in the Special Election called by the Board of Supervisors under Section I.C., herein, shall relate to the Special Election so called without regard to the election for the Board of

26

27

28

Retirement, or the election for a particular member seat, that County Registrar of Voters declared that he or she cannot conduct or complete.

- C. <u>Board of Supervisors Call of Special Election</u>. The Board of Supervisors shall, as soon as may be practicable under the circumstances at such time, call for, and set the date of, any Board of Retirement elections to any fill midterm vacancies, or any Board of Retirement election requested by the County Registrar of Voters, under Section I.B.2., herein, or requested by the Retirement Administrator, under Section IV.F., herein (in either case, a "Special Election," or collectively, "Special Elections").
- D. Parties; Officials: FCERA, including the Board of Retirement, and/or any officer, employee, or agent thereof collectively are the "FCERA Parties," and each of them is a "FCERA Party." The County, including the Board of Supervisors and/or the County Registrar of Voters, and/or any officer, employee, or agent thereof collectively are the "County Parties," and each of them is a "County Party." The Special Districts, including their respective governing boards, and/or any officer, employee, or agent thereof, respectively, are the "Special District Parties," and each of them is a "Special District Party." The FCERA Retirement Administrator, the FCERA Assistant Retirement Administrator, the FCERA Executive Assistant or the FCERA employee whom the Retirement Administrator certifies in writing to the County Registrar of Voters as the functional equivalent of the FCERA Executive Assistant for purposes of these election procedures, and the FCERA officer who is designated by the Retirement Administrator as the clerk to the Board of Retirement shall be, and each of them acting alone is (each, a "FCERA Authorized Officer"), authorized to do any and all things for and on behalf of FCERA under these election procedures, unless the Retirement Administrator is specifically authorized to act hereunder for and on behalf of FCERA. The County Registrar of Voters (including his or her designee where specifically authorized to act hereunder) shall be and is authorized to do any and all things for and on behalf of the County under these

election procedures, unless the Board of Supervisors is specifically authorized to act hereunder for and on behalf of the County.

- E. Reimbursement of Election Costs: Pursuant to an agreement entered into by and between FCERA and the County, the County Registrar of Voters shall be reimbursed for all of its election costs by FCERA within <u>forty-five (45) calendar days</u> after any Board of Retirement election referred to herein, or within the time otherwise agreed to between FCERA and the County under the reimbursement agreement.
- F. <u>Dates</u>; extensions: Whenever any act is required or permitted to be performed by the County Parties and/or any County Party, or the FCERA Parties and/or any FCERA Party, as applicable, or any period is provided for any act required or permitted to be performed by the by the County Parties and/or any County Party, or the FCERA Parties and/or any FCERA Party, as applicable, under these election procedures upon or not later than a particular day or within a particular period, which day or end of such period falls upon a Saturday, Sunday, holiday, or day for which County or FCERA offices, as applicable to such act or period, are officially closed, such act shall be performed by each of them, as applicable, not later than the next County business day or FCERA business day, as applicable to such act or period, and if such act is performed by any of them on such next County business day or FCERA business day, as applicable to such act or period, such act shall be deemed performed with the same effect as if such act had been performed upon the day or last day appointed or before such period had ended at its appointed time.
- II. <u>Types of Elections; Eligible FCERA Membership Classifications</u>.
 - A. <u>Types of Elections</u>: The Board of Retirement shall have two types of elections with separate but comparable election procedures for both types of elections.
 - 1. <u>Active Member Election</u>: One type of election shall be for the second and third members (General Members), seventh member (Safety Member), and, if

any, alternate seventh member (Safety Member) of the Board of Retirement, who shall be employees of the County or a Special District, as well as be the appropriate membership classification of FCERA for the related Board of Retirement seat number, while they seek election for, and hold, such respective offices (each, an "Active Member Election").

- 2. Retired Member Election: The other type of election shall be separate elections that shall be held simultaneously for the Retired Member and alternate Retired Member of the Board of Retirement, who shall be Retired Members while they seek election for, and hold, such respective offices, (each, a "Retired Member Election").
- B. <u>Identification and Classifications of Eligible Members of FCERA</u>: For the purposes of these election procedures, the only persons eligible to participate in any Board of Retirement elections are members of FCERA who are identified and classified as the following types of eligible voters, respectively:
 - 1. "Eligible Active Members" are identified and separately classified within their respective eligible voter classification:
 - a. "Eligible General Members" are all General Members, as of the Eligible Voter Certification Date (as defined in Section V.C.1., herein), who either are employed by the County or a Special District, or have elected in writing to come within the provisions of Article 9 (commencing with Gov. Code, § 31700) of CERL, and on the date of such election so made was a General Member (also known as "Deferred General Members"), or have otherwise elected in writing under CERL to leave his or her accumulated contributions on deposit with FCERA upon separating from the service of the County or a Special District, and on the date of such election so made was a General Member (also known as an "Inactive General Members"); and

- b. "Eligible Safety Members" are all Safety Members, as of the Eligible Voter Certification Date, who either are employed by the County or a Special District, or have elected in writing to come within the provisions of Article 9 (commencing with Gov. Code, § 31700) of CERL, and on the date of such election so made was a Safety Member (also known as "Deferred Safety Members"), or have otherwise elected in writing under CERL to leave his or her accumulated contributions on deposit with FCERA upon separating from the service of the County or a Special District, and on the date of such election so made was a Safety Member (also known as "Inactive Safety Members").
- 2. "Eligible Retired Members" are identified as, and have the single classification of, all former employees of the County or a Special District who are Retired Members as of the Eligible Voter Certification Date.
- C. Eligibility to Participate in Elections; One (1) Vote per Eligible FCERA

 Member: A FCERA member who is eligible to participate in a Board of Retirement election, as provided in Section II.B., herein, may vote only for one (1) candidate who is designated within the same FCERA membership classification to which that eligible FCERA member belongs as of the Eligible Voter Certification Date (e.g., for an Active Member Election, the eligible FCERA member may only participate in the appropriate eligible voter classification either as an Eligible General Member or as an Eligible Safety Member, but not both). This "one (1) vote per eligible FCERA member" rule means that a FCERA member's accumulated retirement service credit, if any, in the other FCERA member classification (e.g., Eligible Safety Member who has accumulated retirement service credit as a prior General Member), shall not be considered in the determination of such FCERA members' eligibility to participate in a Board of Retirement election.
- D. <u>Eligibility to Participate in Elections; Active Member Elections</u>: Eligible Active Members may participate in the election for a member of the Board of Retirement

only within their own classification of FCERA membership either as an Eligible General Member or as an Eligible Safety Member, respectively, as follows:

- 1. An Eligible General Member may participate only in the election of the second and third members (General Members) of the Board of Retirement;
- 2. An Eligible Safety Member may participate only in the election of (a) the seventh member (Safety Member), and (b) the alternate seventh member, if any (Safety Member), of the Board of Retirement. The alternate seventh member, if any, shall be elected from the group under Government Code § 31470.2 or 31470.4, or any other eligible Safety Member in the County if there is no eligible candidate from the groups under Government Code §§ 31470.2 and 31470.4, which is not represented by a member of the Board of Retirement who received the highest number of votes of all candidates in that group. If there is no eligible candidate for the alternate seventh member, there may not be an alternate seventh member.
- E. <u>Eligibility to Participate in Elections</u>; <u>Retired Member Elections</u>: Simultaneous elections shall occur for the Retired Member (eighth member) and the alternate Retired Member of the Board of Retirement. Eligible Retired Members of FCERA may participate only in the election of Retired Member (eighth member) and the alternate Retired Member.
- F. Persons Not Made Eligible to Participate in Elections: A person's status as the spouse or domestic partner, a surviving or former spouse or domestic partner, or a beneficiary or beneficiaries (including, but not limited to, primary or contingent beneficiaries, or alternate payee(s)), of an Eligible Active Member or Eligible Retired Member, in either case whether living or deceased, does not make such spouse or domestic partner, surviving or former spouse or domestic partner, or beneficiary or beneficiaries (including, but not limited to, primary or contingent beneficiaries, or alternate payee(s)) eligible to participate in any Board of Retirement elections,

28

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

provided however, such persons may observe the election process, as a member of the public, as provided in Section II.G., herein.

- G. Observing the Election Process: Each candidate, including his or her designated representative, any FCERA member, and any member of the public may observe the Retirement Administrator's drawing of lots for the order of placement of eligible candidates' names on the official ballot under Section IV.G., herein, the County Registrar of Voters and his or her designees' undertaking of the pre-count procedures under Section VII.E., herein, and the opening and inspection of Official Return Envelopes and the counting of returned voted official ballots under Sections VII.E. and VII.F., herein, respectively, provided however, (1) each candidate, or his or her designated single representative who is a County employee, but not both, shall be allowed a reasonable amount of County release time ("County Allowed Time") for such activities, and (2) each such candidate, including his or her representative, each such FCERA member, and each such member of the public shall not interfere in any way with the Retirement Administrator's drawing of lots for the order of placement of candidates' names on the official ballot, or the County Registrar of Voters' and his or her designees' orderly undertaking of such pre-count procedures, inspection, and counting, including, but not limited to, the touching or handling of any returned Official Return Envelopes or any returned voted official ballots. Candidates, including their representatives, who are County employees, shall not be allowed any County Allowed Time to obtain nominations or campaign. Except as provided in this Section II.G. for each candidate, including his or her representative, FCERA members who are County employees shall not be allowed any County Allowed Time for any activities referenced in these election procedures.
- H. <u>Secret Ballots</u>: Each election for the Board of Retirement shall be conducted herein by secret official ballot, and all votes shall be kept secret.
- I. <u>No Write-Ins</u>. Write-in ballots may not be made for any candidates, and write-in votes shall not be counted, in any election for the Board of Retirement.

III. Request for Election.

A. Requirements. Not later than one hundred twenty-five (125) calendar days prior to election day (E–125; all references to "E-#" mean election day minus # of calendar days) for a Board of Retirement election, the FCERA Authorized Officer shall provide the following to the County Registrar of Voters for the election:

- 1. Written Request: Written request for the County Registrar of Voters to conduct the Board of Retirement election that (a) specifies the date of the election either according to Appendix A–Election Schedule, or as a Special Election called by the Board of Supervisors under Sections I.C. or IV.F., herein, respectively; (b) specifies the relevant member election, including the related seat number, for the Board of Retirement; (c) includes a confirmation that the County-FCERA cost reimbursement agreement is in effect (See Section I.E., herein); and (d) provides an estimate of the specific number of Official Ballot Packets (as defined in Section VI.A., herein) that FCERA requests the County Registrar to order for printing in relation to such election; and
- 2. <u>Election Calendar</u>: Proposed calendar of events for the election, which calendar shall be consistent with these election procedures.

IV. <u>Nomination Process</u>.

- A. <u>Notice of Election</u>: Not later than <u>E–75</u>, FCERA shall provide a written notice of each election ("Notice of Election") as follows:
 - 1. For Active Member Elections, to (a) the head of each County department, each Special District, and each recognized employee representation organization having FCERA members employed by the County or a Special District, provided that the Notice of Election to each such County department head and Special District shall (i) state that such Notice of Election is provided, and the request in (ii), herein, is made, under the Election Procedures for the Board of Retirement of FCERA, and (ii) specifically request that such Notice of Election shall be provided to all of the employees of such

County department or Special District, respectively, by its customary means for providing notices to such employees, and (b) each Deferred General Member, Deferred Safety Member, Inactive General Member, and Inactive Safety Member at his or her then-current mailing address on file with FCERA.

- 2. For Retired Member Elections, which shall be separate elections held simultaneously for the Retired Member and alternate Retired Member of the Board of Retirement, (a) to each organization recognized by the Board of Retirement as representing the Retired Members, and (b) to each Retired Member at his or her then-current mailing address on file with FCERA provided that, for regularly-scheduled Retired Member Elections, such Notice of Election shall also be provided by mailing a flyer (or including information along with or in the monthly benefit statement mailed to each retiree) that provides basic information about the regularly-scheduled Retired Member Elections.
- B. <u>Member Seats</u>: Each Notice of Election shall state the following concerning the election for each member seat on the Board of Retirement:
 - 1. Each member seat for which the election is being held, specifying the classification of (*i.e.*, for the Active Member Election, specifying either the General Member or Safety Member classification, or for the Retired Member Elections, specifying either the Retired Member seat or the alternate Retired Member seat, as applicable) and qualifications for the member seat, and the related seat number, or reference to retired alternate member, as applicable.
 - 2. The term of office for each member seat for which the election is being held.
 - 3. Procedures for submissions of a Nominee's Submittal (defined in Section IV.D., herein) and a Candidate's Statement (defined in Section IV.D., herein), including deadlines for submissions thereof (which shall be the close of the nomination period set forth in Section IV.E., herein), the date of the election

to be held, and the time period for the pre-count and counting of returned voted official ballots, all of which shall comply with these election procedures.

- C. <u>Nominee and Office Holder Qualifications</u>: Each nominee and office holder shall meet the following qualifications, as applicable:
 - 1. For the Active Member Election:
 - a. The nominee who is a General Member may be elected and hold office only as the second or third member of the Board of Retirement, provided that he or she shall be an Eligible General Member, and, at all relevant times, he or she shall be an employee of the County or a Special District, and remain (i) employed by the County or a Special District, and (ii) in the classification of a General Member.
 - b. The nominee who is a Safety Member may be elected and hold office only as the seventh member, or, if any, alternate seventh member of the Board of Retirement, provided that he or she shall be an Eligible Safety Member, and, at all relevant times, he or she shall be an employee of the County or a Special District, and remain (i) employed by the County or a Special District, and (ii) in the classification of a Safety Member.
 - c. The nominee may be elected and hold office only in one seat at a time as a member of the Board of Retirement.
 - d. Any nominee who is elected to any such seat on the Board of Retirement, but either separates from the service of the County or a Special District, or changes his or her FCERA membership classification from General Member to Safety Member or vice-versa, shall automatically vacate his or her office.
 - e. The nominee may not be elected and hold office as a member of the Board of Retirement if he or she is or would be prohibited by law from holding such office.

6

10

15

2324

25

26

27

28

2. For the Retiree Member Elections:

- a. The nominee shall be an Eligible Retired Member, and, at all relevant times remain, a Retired Member.
- b. The nominee may be elected and hold office only in one seat at a time as a member of the Board of Retirement.
- c. A nominee may not be elected and hold office as a member of the Board of Retirement if he or she is or would be prohibited by law from holding such office.
- D. Nominations; Petitions and Nominee's Submittal: The FCERA Retirement Administrator shall prepare (or caused to be prepared and approve) a petition form for each Board of Retirement election according to the requirements of these election procedures and make each petition form available to the following members of FCERA for such election, provided that each of the following members of FCERA may nominate only one (1) person per member seat on the Board of Retirement for which the election is (or elections are, as applicable) being held and in which such member, may participate: the petition, specifying the seat number (and for the Retired Member Elections, specifying either the Retired Member seat or the alternate Retired Member seat) of the Board of Retirement, and signed by at least fifteen (15) General Members for the second or third member, or by at least fifteen (15) Safety Members for the seventh member, or, if any, alternate seventh member, or by at least (15) Retired Members for the Retired Member (eighth member) seat or the alternate Retired Member seat of the Board of Retirement, as applicable, shall be delivered to the FCERA Retirement Administrator together with the following completed, signed, and dated Nominee's Submittal, provided by the nominee of said petition, as applicable:

For the Active Member Election:

///

NOMINEE'S SUBMITTAL
(Active Member Election)
For the election of the BOARD OF RETIREMENT OF THE FRESNO COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION to be held on, 20
Name of namina o
Name of nominee: [Print your name]
Certification
I certify my willingness to serve on the BOARD OF RETIREMENT OF THE FRESNO COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION, and declare the following:
(a) I am a nominee for the office of Member [specify: General Member or Safety Member] for Seat No [specify: Seat No.]
concerning the term of office from to (b) I am a Member [specify: General Member or Safety
Member] of the Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association.
(c) I am an employee of the: [specify employer]. (d) (County employees only): The Department (including Division, if any) in
which I am employed is
County Employees Political Activity
I acknowledge that I have received a copy of County ordinance code § 3.08.110 (Employees—Political activity), which is attached.
(Employees—Political activity), which is attached.
[Attach copy of County ordinance code § 3.08.110 (Employees—Political activity)]
Contact Information
Telephone number that may be used to contact me:
E-mail address that may be used to contact me:
SIGNATURE: PRINT YOUR NAME:
DATE:
[Attach nominee's petition to this Nominee's Submittal, using the petition form
provided by FCERA according to these election procedures]
-End of Nominee's Submittal-

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these election procedures, (a) County ordinance code § 3.08.110 (Employees—Political activity), referenced herein and a copy of which is attached to any Nominee's Submittal, is not incorporated into these election procedures or to be used for any purposes under these election procedures except as expressly stated on the Nominee's Submittal, (b) neither the County Parties, nor any County Party, nor the FCERA Parties, nor any FCERA Party, as applicable, have any responsibility under these election procedures for any alleged or actual violation by a nominee, or any other County employee allegedly or actually acting at the behest of or in concert with the nominee, of County ordinance code § 3.08.110 (Employees—Political activity) relating to any Active Member Election, and (c) the references, herein, to County ordinance code § 3.08.110 (Employees—Political activity) is only a statement of existing rules of conduct for County employees and does not impose any new term or condition of employment upon nominees who are County employees, and (d) the nominee's receipt of a copy of County ordinance code § 3.08.110 (Employees—Political activity) is only to be used by the County for the County's own purposes, in its capacity as an employer with respect to the management of its employees.

For the Retired Member Elections:

26

27

28

NOMINEE'S SUBMITTAL

(Retired Member Elections)

For the election of the BOARD OF RETIREMENT OF THE FRESNO COUNTY

Name of nominee:

[Print your name]

Certification

I certify my willingness to serve on the BOARD OF RETIREMENT OF THE FRESNO COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION, and declare the following:

which he or she was employed), of the candidate and a brief description of the candidate's education, qualifications, and platform expressed by the candidate. The Candidate's Statement shall be limited to a recitation of the candidate's own personal background, qualifications, and platform, and shall not in any way refer to other candidates for that office or to another candidate's qualifications, platform, character, or activities.

- 2. The Candidate's Statement shall be submitted with the petition in Word form, 12-point font type.
- 3. Once submitted, the Candidate's statement may not be withdrawn, revised, or refiled by the nominee, except to the extent as any portions of the Candidate's Statement may be deleted, as permitted by the County Registrar of Voters, under Section IV.D.5., herein.
- 4. The Candidate's Statement will be published as presented by the candidate, subject to the requirements of this Section IV.D., and any reformatting deemed necessary by the Retirement Administrator and/or the County Registrar of Voters.
- 5. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section IV.D., neither the County Parties, nor any County Party, nor the FCERA Parties, nor any FCERA Party, as applicable, assume any responsibility whatsoever for the content or form of the Candidate's Statement or the distribution thereof to any voters, or for making any changes to the content of the Candidate's Statement, or for correcting its grammar, punctuation, or spelling, provided however, that the County Registrar of Voters may, in his or her sole discretion, after providing, or attempting to provide, written or oral notice to the affected nominee, delete, or request the affected nominee to delete, any portions of the Candidate's Statement that the County Registrar of Voters determines, in his or her sole discretion, to be non-compliant with the requirements of this Section IV.D., provided however, any such request to the affected nominee, and the affected

2

nominee's response, failure to respond, or late response, shall not in any way whatsoever limit or prohibit the County Registrar of Voters from making any such deletions and/or any other deletions of any portions of the Candidate's Statement that the County Registrar of Voters determines, in his or her sole discretion, to be non-compliant with the requirements of this Section IV.D. it being understood that any such request by the County Registrar of Voters is made solely for the convenience of the County Registrar of Voters, and that time is of the essence in any response by the affected nominee to any such request by the County Registrar of Voters. When counting words, the County Registrar of Voters will utilize the following non-exhaustive list of word counting procedures: (1) punctuation is not counted; (2) proper nouns, including geographical names, are counted as one word (e.g., "City and County of San Francisco" is counted as one word); (3) each abbreviation for a word, phrase, or expression is counted as one word; (4) hyphenated words, in general usage as such, as determined by the County Registrar of Voters, in his or her sole discretion, are counted as one word; (5) dates are counted as one word; (6) any number consisting of a digit or digits is counted as one word (e.g., "100"), but, any number that is spelled, such as "one," is counted as a separate word or words (e.g., "one" is counted as one word while "one hundred" is counted as two words).

- E. <u>Close of Nominations</u>: The nomination period shall close <u>twenty (20)</u> <u>calendar days (E–55)</u> after the date FCERA provides the Notice of Election pursuant to Section IV., herein. The nomination period under this Section IV.E. qualifies for extension under Section I.F., herein.
- F. <u>Confirmation of Eligible Candidates</u>: Prior to determining the order of placement of candidates' names on the official ballot, the Retirement Administrator shall determine that the nominees are duly nominated and eligible candidates, according to these election procedures, for election of the relevant seat on the Board

of Retirement, and have timely delivered their respective signed and sufficiently completed Nominee's Submittal according to these election procedures.

- 1. For any Active Member Elections, the Retirement Administrator shall email a PDF copy of the signed Nominee's Submittal of such nominees to their respective employer identified in their respective Nominee's Submittal, and obtain email confirmation from such employer (e.g., for the County employer, the nominee's identified County department is sufficient) that such nominee is employed by such employer, and retain the original thereof for the same period provided under Section XI., herein, solely for the purpose of keeping custody of such documents, and no additional obligations of the Retirement Administrator shall be inferred or implied therefrom.
- 2. If the Retirement Administrator determines that a nominee is not duly nominated or eligible for such seat, or has not timely delivered his or her signed and sufficiently completed Nominee's Submittal, the Retirement Administrator shall declare such nominee as ineligible as a candidate for such seat. The nominee's lack of sufficient Contact Information shall not be a basis for the Retirement Administrator to determine that the nominee is not duly nominated or eligible for such seat, provided however, the nominee shall, upon request by any FCERA Authorized Officer, immediately deliver sufficient Contact Information to the requesting FCERA Authorized Officer.
- 3. If the Retirement Administrator determines that no nominee is duly nominated or eligible for such seat, the Retirement Administrator shall declare that there is no nominee who is eligible as a candidate for such seat, and the Retirement Administrator shall promptly request the Board of Supervisors to call a Special Election for such seat, and simultaneously provide a copy of such request to the County Registrar of Voters. Any such declaration by the Retirement Administrator shall be final and conclusive, but only as to such

election for such seat, and the Retirement Administrator shall so inform the nominee(s), if any, and the reason therefor.

- G. Placement of Eligible Candidates' Names on Official Ballot: Not later than E-52, the FCERA Retirement Administrator shall determine the order of placement of duly nominated and eligible candidates' names on the official ballot by drawing of lots at FCERA's office in the manner provided for the County Registrar's drawing of lots to break tie votes under Section VII.I., herein, except that the order of placement of such candidates' names on the official ballot shall be based on descending order of the lots as they are drawn. At least one (1) FCERA business day prior to such drawing of lots, FCERA shall provide written notice to all such candidates, as to the date and time of day during FCERA's business hours, that they may observe such drawing of lots. The FCERA Retirement Administrator shall provide such candidates' names, and order of placement of such candidates' names on the official ballot, to the County Registrar of Voters not later than the close of the FCERA business day on E–49.
- H. <u>Unopposed Candidates</u>: If any duly nominated and eligible candidate is unopposed for election at the close of nominations, the Retirement Administrator shall so certify to the Board of Supervisors, and the Board of Supervisors shall order that no election be held for such seat and shall direct the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to cast a unanimous ballot in favor of the candidate pursuant to Government Code § 31523, subdivision I. The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall deliver the casted ballot to the Board of Retirement, and a copy thereof to the County Registrar of Voters.

V. <u>Preparations for Elections</u>.

A. <u>Preparation of Elections Materials</u>: For each Board of Retirement election, not later than <u>E-35</u>, the Retirement Administrator, or any other FCERA Authorized Officer, and the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designee shall coordinate their respective pre-printing activities for the official ballot form and, if any, each of

the Candidate's Statements (See Section VI.A., herein, regarding the County Registrar of Voters' mailing of the Official Ballot Packet to eligible FCERA member voters) as follows:

- 1. The FCERA Authorized Officer shall provide the following to the County Registrar of Voters:
 - a. Sample proof of the form of the official ballot showing eligible candidates' names and order of their placement on the ballot (See Section IV.F., herein, regarding the Retirement Administrator's confirmation of eligible candidates); and
 - b. Sample proof of each of the Candidate's Statements, if any.
- 2. The County Registrar of Voters or his or her designee shall order for printing the Official Ballot Packets based on the estimate of the specific number of Official Ballot Packets that FCERA requests the County Registrar to order under Section III.A.1., herein, plus additional official ballots and Official Return Envelopes, in his or her determination, to accommodate an estimated number of eligible voters who might need reissued official ballots or Official Return Envelopes. The County Registrar of Voters shall order the printing of appropriate type of official ballots and Official Return Envelopes for each election (*i.e.*, Eligible General Members, Eligible Safety Members and Eligible Retiree Members) so that types of Official Return Envelopes can be matched with their like-kind official ballots, for example, and not as a limitation, color-coding Official Return Envelopes to match the color of their like-kind official ballots.
- 3. At least one FCERA Authorized Officer shall review all sample proofs of the forms of official ballot and, if any, each of the Candidate's Statements provided to the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designee under Sections V.A.1.a. and V.A.1.b, herein, respectively, and give final written verification to the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designee that the

form of official ballot and, if any, each of the Candidate's Statements are correct and ready to print.

- B. <u>Confidentiality</u>: The mailing addresses of the Eligible Active Members and Eligible Retired Members shall remain confidential, and not subject to public disclosure (See Gov. Code, § 31532; Cal. Const. Art I, § 1).
- C. <u>FCERA-Certified Electronic Data Files</u>: At the most recent payroll period ending before <u>E-45</u>, a FCERA Authorized Officer shall, not later than <u>E-43</u>, deliver to the County Registrar of Voters the following together in an individual transmittal for each type of election that has been called (*i.e.*, Active Member Election or Retired Member Elections), FCERA's then-current electronic data file as of the Eligible Voter Certification Date (as defined in Section V.C.1., herein), in a computer program that is acceptable to the to the County Registrar of Voters:
 - 1. For Active Member Elections: Eligible General Members who may participate in the election of the second and third members of the Board of Retirement (General Members), and Eligible Safety Members who may participate in the election of the seventh member of the Board of Retirement (Safety Member), and the alternate seventh member (Safety Member), if any, and their names and mailing addresses for receipt of Official Ballot Packets (which mailing address shall, as of the Eligible Voter Certification Date, as defined hereinbelow, be his or her mailing address, as filed with his or her employer by General Members or Safety Members who are employed by the County or a Special District, or as filed with FCERA by Deferred General Members, Inactive General Members, Deferred Safety Members, or Inactive Safety Members, as applicable), accompanied by the FCERA Authorized Officer's certification, which shall be completed, signed, and dated as of the delivery date ("Eligible Voter Certification Date"), and shall state the following:

ACTIVE MEMBER ELECTION CERTIFICATION

This certification is provided under the Election Procedures for the Board of Retirement of FCERA, as adopted by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors on [insert date] (the Election Procedures).					
[_insert name_], [_insert title_] of the Fresno County Employees Retirement Association (FCERA) certifies to the Fresno County Clerk/Registrar of Voters that:					
a. Each accompanying electronic data file for the [insert date] Active Member Election represents and correctly identifies all current, eligible voters who may vote in such election;					
b. Each accompanying electronic data file, depending on the Board of Retirement member seat, corresponds to the classification of FCERA members who may vote for the relevant seat in such election (<i>i.e.</i> , Eligible General Members may vote only for the General Member seat(s), and Eligible Safety Members may vote only for Safety Member seat(s);					
c. CHECK EACH BOX THAT APPLIES TO THIS CERTIFICATION:					
☐ The accompanying electronic data file includes and represents Eligible General Members in one electronic data file that correctly identifies and only includes all current Eligible General Members who may vote for the General Member seat(s) for such election.					
The accompanying electronic data file includes and represents Eligible Safety Members in one electronic data file that correctly identifies and only includes all current Eligible Safety Members who may vote for the Safety Member seat(s) for such election.					
d. If an Active Member Election includes both the General Member seat(s) and the Safety Member seat(s), there are no voters classified in either of the accompanying electronic data files both as an Eligible General Member and an Eligible Safety Member for such election;					
e. If an Active Member Election is only for one type of FCERA member seat classification (<i>i.e.</i> , General Member seat(s) or Safety Member seat(s)), there are no voters classified in the accompanying electronic data file from the other FCERA member classification for such election;					
f. An Eligible General Member's or Eligible Safety Member's accumulated					

FCERA members' eligibility to participate in such election;

retirement service credit has not been considered in the determination of such

- g. There are no identified voters in the accompanying electronic data file(s) who are Retired Members, or persons referred to in Section II.F. of the Election Procedures as persons not made eligible to participate in Board of Retirement elections or any other non-members of FCERA;
- h. The information in the accompanying electronic data file(s) of eligible voters is complete and accurate for all such Eligible General Members or Eligible Safety Members, as applicable, who may vote in such election, as of the date that such electronic data file(s) of eligible voters and this certification is delivered to the Fresno County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, which is the "Eligible Voter Certification Date" under the Election Procedures; and
- i. Any capitalized terms that are not defined herein, are defined in the Election Procedures.

Signature: _		 	
Name and	Title:		
Date:			

-End-

2. For Retired Member Elections: Eligible Retired Members of FCERA who may participate in the election of Retired Member (eighth member) and the alternate Retired Member of the Board of Retirement, if any, and their names and mailing addresses for receipt of Official Ballot Packets (which mailing address shall, as of the Eligible Voter Certification Date, be his or her mailing address, as filed with FCERA) accompanied by the FCERA Authorized Officer's certification, which shall be completed, signed, and dated as of the Eligible Voter Certification Date, and shall state the following:

RETIRED MEMBER ELECTIONS CERTIFICATION

This certification is provide	ed under the Election Procedures for the Board
of Retirement of FCERA, as adop	oted by the Fresno County Board of
Supervisors on [<i>insert date</i> _] (the Election Procedures).

[insert name_	_], [_	_insert title_	_] of the Fresno County	Employees
Retirer	ment Association	(FCE	ERA) certifies	to the Fresno County	
Clerk/F	Registrar of Vote	rs tha	ıt:		

- a. The accompanying electronic data file for the [__insert date__]
 Retired Member Elections represents and correctly identifies all current, Eligible
 Retired Members who may vote in such elections;
- b. The accompanying electronic data file corresponds to the Eligible Retired Members who may vote in such elections (*i.e.*, the Retired Member (eighth member) seat and the alternate Retired Member seat;
- c. The accompanying electronic data file correctly identifies and only includes all current Eligible Retired Members who may vote in such elections;
- d. There are no identified voters classified in the accompanying electronic data file who are General Members who are employed by the County or a Special District or are Deferred General Members or Inactive General Members, or Safety Members who are employed by the County or a Special District or are Deferred Safety Members or Inactive Safety Members, or persons referred to in Section II.F. of the Election Procedures as persons not made eligible to participate in Board of Retirement elections or any other non-members of FCERA;
- e. The information in the accompanying electronic data file of eligible voters is complete and accurate for all such Eligible Retired Members who may vote in such elections, as of the date that such electronic data file of eligible voters and this certification is delivered to the Fresno County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, which is the "Eligible Voter Certification Date" under the Election Procedures; and
- f. Any capitalized terms that are not defined herein, are defined in the Election Procedures.

Signature:			
Name and	Title:		
Date:			

-End-

3. Before delivering the FCERA-certified electronic data file(s) of eligible voters to the County Registrar of Voters for any Active Member Election or Retired Member Elections, as required herein, the FCERA Authorized Officer who will provide each of the foregoing certifications and electronic data file(s) shall ensure that the file(s) are accurate and complete according to the FCERA Authorized Officer's certification to be delivered and FCERA's records that are

reflected in such data file(s), and shall retain such records and files for the same period that the County Registrar of Voters is required to retain tallied official ballots under Section IX., herein. The County Registrar of Voters may rely exclusively on the foregoing certifications delivered by the FCERA Authorized Officer as conclusive proof of the accuracy and completeness of the information set forth in each accompanying applicable FCERA-certified electronic data file of eligible voters delivered to the County Registrar of Voters.

- VI. Distribution of Official Ballot Packets to Eligible Voters.
 - A. <u>Ballot Requirements; Mailing</u>: <u>Twenty-four (24) calendar days</u> before the election (<u>E–24</u>), the County Registrar of Voters shall mail a sealed outgoing official ballot packet (each, an "Official Ballot Packet," or collectively, "Official Ballot Packets") to each Eligible Active Member for the Active Member Election, or to each Eligible Retired Member for the Retired Member Elections, at the mailing address for each such eligible voter, based solely on the information set forth in each applicable FCERA-certified electronic data file of eligible voters, delivered to County Registrar of Voters and certified by a FCERA Authorized Officer under Section V.C., herein. All such eligible voter name and address data shall remain confidential, including for mailing purposes, pre-counting, and official ballot counting (See Section V.B., herein).
 - 1. The Official Ballot Packet shall bear the applicable eligible voter's name and address and consist of the following documents to be inserted therein:
 - a. One (1) official ballot that is applicable to the eligible voter's FCERA member classification pursuant to Section II.B., herein, for an election of the Board of Retirement (*i.e.*, either one official ballot for Eligible General Members in the Active Member Election, or one official ballot for Eligible Safety Members in the Active Member Election; or one official ballot for Eligible Retired Members in the Retired Member Elections);

- Voting instructions prepared by the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designee;
- c. Each of the Candidate's Statements, if any; and
- d. One (1) non-postage paid official ballot return envelope bearing the address of the Fresno County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Office ("Official Return Envelope"), and providing a unique identifying number, code and/or symbol, as determined by the County Registrar of Voters, that will enable the County Registrar of Voters to verify the identity of the eligible voter who returns the voted official ballot.
- 2. The County Registrar of Voters or his or her designees shall:
- a. Use a company or companies, which is or are certified by the California Secretary of State to print ballots, to provide all ballots and undertake all ballot layout and preparation and/or inserting processes relating to such documents to be provided, prepared, laid out, and/or inserted into the Official Ballot Packets, provided however, the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designees instead may, at his or her option, undertake any or all of such functions;
- b. Use non-profit postage for mailing of the Official Ballot Packets if the County Registrar of Voters determines that such method of mailing is available; and
 - c. Mail the Official Ballot Packets as required herein.
- VII. <u>Pre-Count; Counting; Election Results</u>. The County Registrar of Voters shall process the receipt, pre-counting, and counting of returned voted official ballots for the election as follows:
 - A. <u>Reissued Official Ballot Materials</u>: The procedures for spoiled, mismarked, undeliverable, lost, or destroyed, official ballots or Official Return Envelopes are as follow.

1. If an eligible voter has spoiled or marked his or her official ballot or Official Return Envelope in error and needs a replacement, the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designees must receive the spoiled or mismarked ballot or Official Return Envelope back from the eligible voter and a signed declaration under penalty of perjury from the eligible voter, as applicable, before a new official ballot or Official Return Envelope is issued to the eligible voter, as follows:

"My spoiled/mismarked official ballot for the [__insert date__] Board of Retirement election has been surrendered to the Fresno County Registrar of Voters."

Or

"My spoiled/mismarked official return envelope for the [___insert date___] Board of Retirement election has been surrendered to the Fresno County Registrar of Voters."

2. If an eligible voter claims that he or she did not receive in the United States mail the Official Ballot Packet or claims that he or she lost or destroyed his or her official ballot or Official Return Envelope, the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designees must receive a signed declaration under penalty of perjury from the eligible voter, as applicable, before a new official ballot or Official Return Envelope is issued to the eligible voter, as follows:

"I did not receive in the United States mail my original official ballot packet for the [___insert date___] Board of Retirement election. If I receive in the United States mail my original official ballot packet, I will immediately destroy the original official ballot."

Or

"I lost or destroyed my original official ballot for the [___insert date___]
Board of Retirement election. If I find my original official ballot, I will
immediately destroy the original official ballot."

Or

"I lost or destroyed my original official return envelope for the [___insert date___] Board of Retirement election. If I find my original official return envelope, I will immediately destroy the original official return envelope."

- 3. The County Registrar of Voters' created roster of FCERA members who voted in each election under Section VII.D.1., herein, and counting of returned voted official ballots under Section VII.F., herein, shall take into account, any new official ballot issued to the eligible voter under this Section VII.A.
- B. Return of Voted Official Ballots: Each eligible voter returning his or her voted official ballot to the County Registrar of Voters must return the voted official ballot in the voted official ballot's like-kind, Official Return Envelope provided to the eligible voter by the County Registrar of Voters. Voted official ballots may be returned by the eligible FCERA voting member to the County Registrar of Voters only by United States Postal Service ("USPS") Official Ballot Packets, overnight delivery by a commercial carrier, such as FedEX or United Parcel Service, also known as UPS (each, a "Commercial Carrier"), or the eligible voter returning his or her voted official ballot by hand delivery to a County staff member who is attending the front counter within the County Registrar of Voter's office, in each case, not later than 5:00 PM on the date of the Board of Retirement election. A USPS postmark date on the Official Return Envelope containing the voted official ballot, or a date that the Official Return Envelope containing the voted official ballot was given to a Commercial Carrier, shall not be considered. A returned voted official ballot that is not in the voted official ballot's like-kind, Official Return Envelope, or multiple voted official ballots that are in a single Official Return Envelope, shall be rejected. If during counting of returned voted official ballots, the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designee discovers any returned voted official ballot that is not among like-kind returned voted official ballots, such returned voted official ballot shall be deemed to have been returned in an envelope other than its like-kind, Official Return Envelope, and such returned voted official ballot shall be rejected. The County Registrar of Voters shall reject any returned voted official ballots through any means other than those specified, above,

26

27

28

in this Section VII.B. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing sentence, the County Registrar of Voters shall reject any returned voted official ballots through any of the following means: (i) any County means of internal communication among County departments, including, but not limited to, County messenger, commonly known as "stop mail" or County inter-office mail or delivery (however, any County means of internal communication among County departments are not considered herein as, and shall not be treated herein as, the use of Commercial Carriers); (ii) any County Registrar of Voters drop box otherwise used by the County Registrar of Voters for any elections other than an election of the Board of Retirement; and/or (iii) the delivery to the County Registrar of Voters in any manner of multiple voted official ballots.

For any Official Ballots Packets that have been mailed by the County Registrar of Voters under Section VI.A., herein, and returned as undeliverable by the USPS to the County Registrar of Voters, (i) the County Registrar of Voters shall not have any obligation to reissue, whether using the same or a different address, any such Official Ballot Packets, or otherwise undertake any activity, including, but not limited to, conducting any outreach to FCERA or searching for the mailing address of the affected eligible voter, in relation to any such Official Ballots Packets; and (ii) such Official Ballot Packets shall have no effect on any Board of Retirement election. If any such Official Ballot Packets are returned by the USPS to County Registrar of Voters after he or she, or his or her designee, has posted and delivered election results of such election under Section VII.G., herein, but before they have certified the final, official election results of such election, the number of such official ballots shall be identified as non-delivered on the County Registrar of Voter's certification of such final official election results. If any such Official Ballot Packets are returned by the USPS to County Registrar of Voters after he or she, or his or her designee, has certified the final, official election results of such election, the County Registrar of Voters shall not revise his or her certification of the final official election results, or

 otherwise revise his or her tally of the returned official ballots, to reflect such returned and undeliverable Official Ballot Packets, provided however he or she shall retain such returned and undeliverable Official Ballot Packets to the extent required under Section XI., herein.

- C. Return of Voted Official Ballots from Outside Continental United States:

 Eligible voters who reside outside of the continental United States may, subject to these election procedures, return their voted official ballot only by United States mail or Commercial Carrier to be received in the County Registrar of Voters Office, in each case, not later than 5:00 PM on the date of the relevant Board of Retirement election. A USPS postmark date on the Official Return Envelope containing the voted official ballot, or a date that the Official Return Envelope containing the voted official ballot was given to a Commercial Carrier, or other countries' marks on the Official Return Envelope containing the voted official ballot indicating any date, including but not limited to a mailing date, or date that the Official Return Envelope containing the voted official ballot was given to a Commercial Carrier, shall not be considered.
- D. <u>Pre-count Procedures</u>: Commencing at 9:00 AM on the next County business day following the relevant Board of Retirement election, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable under the circumstances at such time, the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designees shall undertake the following pre-count procedures before opening and counting the returned voted official ballots.
 - 1. Prior to opening the Official Return Envelopes, the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designees shall (a) verify whether the name of the eligible voter, and his or her FCERA member classification, on each Official Return Envelope, matches the eligible voter's name and FCERA member classification on the FCERA-certified electronic data file(s) for such classification delivered to the County Registrar of Voters under Section VI.C., herein, and (b) create a roster of FCERA members who voted in each election. The roster of FCERA

members who voted shall remain confidential, and not subject to public disclosure (See Section V.B., herein). If the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designee determines that any returned Official Return Envelopes do not comply with these election procedures, none of those Official Return Envelopes will be opened, none of the voted official ballots contained therein will be counted, and the County Registrar of Voters shall proceed to complete all precount procedures for all other returned Official Return Envelopes for the Active Member Election or the Retired Member Elections, as applicable.

- 2. The County Registrar of Voters or his or her designees shall complete all pre-count procedures for the Active Member Election or the Retired Member Elections prior to opening the Official Return Envelopes under Section VII.E., herein.
- E. Opening and Inspecting Official Returned Envelopes; Separating Returned Voted Official Ballots: Upon opening the Official Returned Envelopes, and before the official voted ballots are separated from their respective Official Return Envelopes, the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designees shall inspect each opened Official Returned Envelope solely for the purpose of determining whether the returned official ballot contained therein is in its like-kind, Official Returned Envelope. If the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designees discover that any returned voted official ballot is not in its like-kind, Official Return Envelope, such returned voted official ballot shall be rejected. After all Official Returned Envelopes have been so opened and inspected for an election, the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designees shall separate the returned official ballots from their respective Official Returned Envelopes, and, once separated, kept in separate groups, as follows:
 - 1. For the Active Member Election:
 - a. Returned official ballots for the active General Member seat(s) shall be grouped together, and kept separate from all other returned official ballots; and

- b. Returned official ballots for the active Safety Member seat(s) shall be grouped together and kept separate from all other returned official ballots.
- 2. For the Retired Member Elections: returned official ballots for the Retired Member (eighth member) seat and alternate Retired Member seat shall be grouped together (but in any event shall be considered as official ballots for separate elections) and kept separate from all other returned official ballots.
- F. <u>Counting the Returned Voted Official Ballots</u>: After opening and inspecting all of the Official Return Envelopes under Section VII.E., herein, the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designee(s) shall count the returned voted official ballots by using an electronic voting system until completed, as follows:
 - 1. The County Registrar of Voters shall tally the results of the official count for the Active Member Election (including separate counts for the active General Member seat(s) and the active Safety Member seat(s) in the same regularly scheduled election or Special Election), and for the Retired Member Elections (including separate counts for the Retired Member (eighth member) seat and the alternate Retired Member seat in the same regularly scheduled election cycle or Special Election), according to the following categories, as applicable:
 - a. Official ballots issued;
 - b. Official ballots returned by voters;
 - c. Rejected official ballots;
 - d. Votes cast:
 - e. Overvotes (*i.e.*, returned voted official ballot invalidated due to more than one vote per member seat);
 - f. Blanks (*i.e.*, not voted);
 - g. Spoiled/reissued official ballots; and
 - h. Undeliverable official ballots (*i.e.*, as determined and returned by USPS).

(Item b., above, is the sum of items c., d., e., and f., above).

- 2. In the event an electronic voting system cannot be used for counting all of the returned voted official ballots, the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designee(s) shall count the returned voted official ballots by hand. In the event a returned voted official ballot cannot be counted by an electronic voting system due to the condition of the voted official ballot, the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designee(s) shall create a duplicate ballot, using the same information in the returned voted official ballot, and count such duplicate ballot in the same manner as all other like-kind returned voted official ballots are counted by the electronic voting system. The County Registrar of Voters shall retain the returned voted official ballot that cannot be counted by the electronic voting system, and indicate on such returned voted official ballot that it cannot be used and that the duplicate ballot has been used in its place; the created duplicate ballot shall be deemed to be the voted official ballot.
- 3. Any candidate receiving the highest number of votes, in at least the plurality of all votes cast for the election of a member seat on the Board of Retirement, shall be deemed to be elected for that seat.
- G. Posting and Delivering Election Results: The County Registrar of Voters or his or her designees shall complete all counting procedures for the Active Member Election or the Retired Member Elections under Section VII.F., herein, prior to posting the results of each election. After completing the counting procedures for each election, the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designee shall, as soon thereafter as may be practicable under the circumstances at such time, promptly post the election results (including any changed election results) on its Department website and deliver the election results (including any changed election results) to the FCERA Retirement Administrator by email or hand delivery.
- H. Request for Recount Requirements: In the event a candidate desires to request a recount of the election for the member seat that he or she is seeking on

the Board of Retirement, he or she must file a written request for the recount with the County Registrar of Voters, and comply with this Section VII.H., not later than <u>5:00 PM on the fifth (5th) calendar day</u> following the date that the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designee has posted the election results on its Department website pursuant to Section VII.G., herein. In the event of timely multiple requests for a recount of the election for the member seat, each requesting candidate shall comply with this Section VII.H., herein, without regard any other request for a recount, or any other deposit of any amount by any other candidate for the cost of the recount, but there shall be only one (1) recount.

- 1. Recount Request in Writing. The written request for a recount must comply with Section VII.H., herein.
- 2. One Request Per Candidate. A candidate may only request a recount of the election for the member seat that he or she is seeking on the Board of Retirement, and a recount will only be conducted if the requesting candidate first pays the County Registrar of Voters' the full cost of the recount pursuant to this Section VII.H.2.
 - a. In the event of a request for a recount of the election for the member seat, the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designee shall, not later than <u>five (5) County business days</u> thereafter, provide the requesting candidate a written estimate cost of the recount, and the requesting candidate must deposit an amount equal to the cost estimate, in the form of cash, cashier's check, or money order, with the County Registrar of Voters not later than the third (3rd) County business day thereafter.
 - b. In the event of multiple deposits due to multiple timely requests for a recount of the election for the member seat, the County Registrar shall determine how to apportion the use of such amounts to pay the County Registrar of Voters' costs of completing the recount.

- c. In the event the money so deposited is insufficient to pay the County Registrar of Voters' costs of completing the recount, the County Registrar of Voters shall suspend the recount and provide the requesting candidate(s) a written estimate of the cost of completing the recount. The requesting candidate(s) must deposit an amount equal to the cost estimate with the County Registrar of Voters not later than the third (3rd) County business day thereafter. In the event the County Registrar of Voters does not receive the estimated cost in the form of a cash, cashier's check, or money order deposit within such time, the recount shall be terminated, and any activities that the County Registrar of Voters undertook toward the recount shall be disregarded and have no force or effect.
- d. In the event the moneys so deposited are sufficient to pay the County Registrar of Voters' costs of the recount, the County Registrar of Voters shall conduct the recount, including breaking any resulting tie vote, according to the election procedures for counting returned official ballots under Section VII.F., herein, and the following procedures shall apply, depending on the outcome of the recount:
 - i. If the recount does not change the result, which is the highest number of votes of all votes cast for the election of a member seat on the Board of Retirement, including a resulting tie vote or breaking a tie vote, of the election in the favor of the requesting candidate, the County Registrar of Voters shall provide written notice thereof to the affected candidates, and such recount shall be disregarded.
 - ii. If the recount changes the result, which is the highest number of votes of all votes cast for the election of a member seat on the Board of Retirement, including a resulting tie vote or breaking a tie vote, of the election in the favor of the requesting candidate, the County Registrar of Voters shall post the changed election results on its Department website

26

27

28

and deliver the changed election results to the FCERA Retirement Administrator, pursuant to Section VII.G., herein.

- iii. No candidate shall be entitled to a new recount following the completion of a recount under these election procedures.
- The amount of moneys deposited by the requesting candidate(s) e. for the costs of a recount shall only be refunded to a requesting candidate upon the completion of the recount if such candidate achieves a new count, which is the highest number of votes of all votes cast for the election of a member seat on the Board of Retirement, and which changes the result of the election for the member seat in his or her favor, by (i) such candidate obtaining the highest number of votes in at least a plurality of all votes cast for such election (pursuant to Section VII.F.3., herein), (ii) such candidate obtaining a resulting tie vote, if two or more candidates, including such candidate, receive an equal and the highest number of votes, of all votes cast for the election of such member seat (in which case any such resulting tie vote shall be broken under Section VIII.I., herein), provided that there was not a tie vote, where two or more candidates, including such candidate, received an equal and the highest number of votes, of all votes cast for the election of such member seat, for a different count in the first place, or (iii) such candidate breaking a tie vote that results in such candidate obtaining the highest number votes in at least a plurality of all votes cast for such election (pursuant to Section VII.F.3., herein); otherwise all of such moneys paid to the County Registrar of Voters and spent for the recount requested by such candidate shall be retained by the County Registrar of Voters.
- f. Any amount of such moneys so deposited with the County Registrar that is required to be refunded, as provided herein, or in any event not spent for the recount, will be refunded to the requesting candidate within thirty (30) County business days following the completion of the election process. In the event of

25

26

27

28

timely multiple requests, and deposits of amounts, for a recount of the election, the County Registrar shall determine whether or how to apportion any such amounts to be refunded to the requesting candidates.

<u>Tie Votes:</u> After the conclusion of, or passage of time allowed herein for, any recount that may be conducted pursuant to Section VII.H., herein, if two or more candidates receive an equal and the highest number of votes, of all votes cast for the election of a member seat on the Board of Retirement, the County Registrar of Voters shall direct the candidates who received the tie votes to appear before him or her or his or her designee at the office of the County Registrar of Voters at a time and date, not later than five (5) County business days thereafter, to be designated by him or her for the drawing of lots to break the tie, provided that a candidate may designate a representative to appear and act for him or her in his or her absence so long as the candidate has given the County Registrar of Voters advance written notice of such designation, which advance written notice may be given by email. If a candidate or his or her representative is not in attendance at the specified time and date for, or attends but at any time does not participate in, the drawing of the lots, the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designee shall proceed and appoint a Department employee or employees (in either case, who is not a spouse, domestic partner, parent or child of any affected candidate) to act as the candidate's or candidates' representative(s) for all purposes relating to the drawing of lots, provided that, if a candidate or his or her representative appears, or attends but at any time does not participate, while the drawing of lots is in progress, the drawing of lots shall continue until completion without regard to the fact that the candidate or his or her representative had not appeared or participated. The County Registrar of Voters or his or her designee shall break the tie by drawing of lots in the following manner, using ordinary materials and supplies selected by the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designee:

- 1. Before undertaking the drawing of lots, the following procedures shall be read aloud to the candidates or their representatives who are present.
- 2. The candidates or their representatives shall be provided a small slip of paper, each approximately the same size, upon which they shall write the name of the candidate.
- 3. The candidates or their representatives shall fold and place their signed slips in identical small sealed containers (e.g., pill bottle with a cap), seal them, and hand their sealed containers to the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designee, and those sealed containers, once returned to him or her, shall be placed by Registrar of Voters or his or her designee in a larger opaque container (e.g., hat, bag, or bucket).
- 4. Without looking into the larger container, the County Registrar of Voters' or his or her designee shall reach into the larger container, retrieve only one (1) of the smaller sealed containers, and open the retrieved sealed container. The name of the candidate whose name is in the retrieved sealed container shall be announced as the winner of the elected seat.
- 5. The candidate winning the tie for the election of a member seat on the Board of Retirement shall be deemed elected for that seat, and the completion of such drawing of lots to break the tie vote shall be final and conclusive.
- J. <u>Certification of Final, Official Election Results</u>: The County Registrar of Voters or his or her designees shall complete all counting procedures for each election under Section VII.F., herein, and conduct all activities as may be necessary under Sections VII.G., VII.H., and/or VII.I., herein, prior to certifying the final, official election results of each such election. After completing all such counting procedures and activities for each such election, and the passage of time allowed for the timely filing of a valid written protest of the election results as required under Section VIII.A., herein for each such election, and if there is no written protest of the election results filed with the County Registrar of Voters within such allowed time for any

9

10

11

17

18

19

20

2425

26

27 28 such election, then, as to such election, the County Registrar of Voters shall, as soon thereafter as may be practicable under the circumstances at such time, certify the final, official election results of such election, and, such certification shall be the final and conclusive, official results of such election. Upon such certification of the official election results of each such election, under this Section VII.J., the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designees shall promptly post the certified final, official election results on its Department website and deliver a copy of such posted certified final, official election to the FCERA Retirement Administrator by email or hand delivery. The counting procedures and certification of the final, official election results shall be completed not later than fourteen (14) calendar days following the first day of opening the Official Return Envelopes for each such election, as applicable, provided that the time for such completion shall be extended by (i) any additional time as may be necessary for the County Registrar of Voters to act upon or respond to any request for recount, under Section VII.H., herein, (ii) five (5) County business days in the event there is the need for the drawing of lots to break the tie, as provided in Section VII.I., herein, and (iii) any additional time as may be necessary for the County Registrar of Voters to act upon or respond to a protesting candidate relating to his or her protest under Section VIII.A., herein.

K. <u>No Requirement for County Registrar of Voters to Act.</u> Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these election procedures, the County Registrar of Voters is not required to post or deliver any election results under Section VII.G., herein, or certify, post and deliver any final, official election results under Section VII.J., herein, when the County Registrar of Voters declares that he or she cannot conduct or complete the conducting of the election, or the election of a particular member seat, as provided in Section I.B., herein.

VIII. Protest; Legal Challenge.

A. <u>Protest Requirements</u>: In the event a candidate desires to protest the results of any election (other than making a request for a recount, which request and

25

26

27

28

recount shall be made pursuant to Section VII.H., herein) for the member seat that he or she is seeking on the Board of Retirement, he or she must file the written protest with the County Registrar of Voters (and he or she must include written proof that he or she has provided a copy of the written protest to any other affected candidate), in compliance with this Section VIII.A., not later than 5:00 PM on the fifth (5th) calendar day following the date, as applicable, that (1) the County Registrar of Voters has posted the election results (including any changed election results) on its Department website pursuant to Section VII.G., herein, or (2) in the event of a recount that has been completed under Section VII.H., herein, the County Registrar of Voters has provided written notice to the candidate, pursuant to Section VII.H.2.d.i., herein, that, after conducting the recount of the election, the recount did not change the result. Any recount that has been terminated under Section VII.H.2.c., herein, shall be disregarded for purposes of this Section VIII.A., and shall not extend the time within which the candidate must file the written protest with the County Registrar of Voters under this Section VIII.A. The County Registrar of Voters shall not be obligated to consider any additional or amended grounds for the protest, or any augmented documentation or other evidence from the protesting candidate, after receipt of the written protest.

- 1. Protest in Writing. The written protest shall be based on the failure of any of the County Parties and/or any County Party, the FCERA Parties and/or any FCERA Party, the Special District Parties and/or any Special District Party, as applicable, to comply with these election procedures, and must specify such grounds for the protest and be accompanied by any documentation or other evidence that may be referenced in the protest.
- 2. County Registrar of Voters Action or Response. Subject to the candidate's compliance with Section VIII.A., herein, the County Registrar of Voters shall, with thirty (30) County business days of receipt of the written protest, act upon or

respond to the written protest and provide written notice thereof to the affected candidates and the FCERA Administrator.

- 3. <u>Valid and Timely Protest; Final, Official Election Results</u>. Once the County Registrar of Voters takes final action, or provides a response, in relation to any protest under Section VIII.A., herein, such final action or response, as applicable, shall be the final and conclusive, official results of the election.
- B. Failure to Exhaust Administrative Remedies: Any candidate's failure to timely make a request for a recount or pay the County Registrar of Voters for the full cost of a requested recount, if any, as required in Section VII.H., herein, or timely file a valid written protest of the election results as required under Section VIII.A., herein (or raise any issue that could have been raised in a protest but was not raised), shall be considered a failure of the candidate to exhaust his or her administrative remedies with respect to (a) any failure of any of the County Parties and/or any County Party, the FCERA Parties and/or any FCERA Party, the Special District Parties and/or any Special District Party, as applicable, to comply with these election procedures (or any issue, to the extent the issue could have been raised but was not raised in the protest); and (b) the election results of the relevant Board of Retirement election.
- C. <u>Legal Challenge to Election and Writ of Mandate</u>: Any legal challenge seeking review of, any right or duty of, act or omission including any failure by any of the County Parties and/or any County Party, the FCERA Parties and/or any FCERA Party, the Special District Parties and/or any Special District Party, as applicable, to comply with these election procedures relating to any election of the Board of Retirement under these election procedures or otherwise, shall be by writ of mandate under Code of Civil Procedure § 1085 in the Fresno Superior Court.

IX. FCERA Posts Official Election Results.

Not later than <u>ten (10) FCERA business days</u> following the later of the date that the County Registrar of Voters or his or her designees delivers the copy of the

posted certified final, official election results to the FCERA Retirement Administrator for each election, pursuant to Section VII.J., herein, or provides written notice of final action, or a response to a protesting candidate, relating to his or her protest under Section VIII.A., herein, to the FCERA Administrator, a FCERA Authorized Officer shall post the copy of such posted results on FCERA's website (presently, www.FresnoCountyRetirement.org) and deliver a copy thereof as follows: (1) for an Active Member Election, to each County department and Special District employing FCERA members who were eligible to vote in the election, and to each recognized employee representation organization having FCERA members who were eligible to vote in the election and employed by the County or a Special District, and (2) for Retired Member Elections, to each organization recognized by the Board of Retirement as representing the Retired Members. A FCERA Authorized Officer may provide any updating information under this Section IX. in the event of any legal challenge to any certified final, official election results.

X. Swearing in the Newly Elected Member.

The Board of Retirement shall swear in the newly elected member as soon as practicable under the circumstances at such time.

XI. Retention of Tallied Returned Official Ballots and Undeliverable Returned Official Ballot Packets.

The County Registrar of Voters shall retain tallied returned official ballots, and Official Ballot Packets, as determined as undeliverable and returned by the USPS under Section VII.B., herein, until the later of: (i) six (6) months following the certified final, official election results under Sections VII.J., or VIII.A., herein, whichever is later, (ii) the final judgment, including any appeals, of any legal challenge brought pursuant to Section VIII.C., herein, or (iii) any time as may be required by law in the event of any legal challenge brought other than pursuant to Section VIII.C., herein, provided however, such reference to any other legal challenge is not intended to, nor

may it be inferred, authorize any legal challenge under any basis not provided for in these election procedures.

XII. <u>Effectiveness</u>.

This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption. From and after its effective date, this Resolution supersedes any prior resolution of the Board of Supervisors with respect to the subject of Board of Retirement Election Procedures, including the prior resolutions of the Board of Supervisors referenced in the recitals to this Resolution.

Appendix A - Election Schedule

			Election	
Category	Member No.	Term Expires	Month	Year
General	2	12/31/2021	November	2021
Retired	8	12/31/2022	August	2022
Retired Alt.	8 Alt.	12/31/2022	August	2022
Safety	7	12/31/2023	November	2023
General	3	12/31/2023	November	2023
General	2	12/31/2024	August	2024
Retired	8	12/31/2025	November	2025
Retired Alt.	8 Alt.	12/31/2025	November	2025
Safety	7	12/31/2026	August	2026
General	3	12/31/2026	August	2026
General	2	12/31/2027	November	2027
Retired	8	12/31/2028	August	2028
Retired Alt.	8 Alt.	12/31/2028	August	2028
Safety	7	12/31/2029	November	2029
General	3	12/31/2029	November	2029
General	2	12/31/2030	August	2030
Retired	8	12/31/2031	November	2031
Retired Alt.	8 Alt.	12/31/2031	November	2031
Safety	7	12/31/2032	August	2032
General	3	12/31/2032	August	2032
General	2	12/31/2033	November	2033
Retired	8	12/31/2034	August	2034
Retired Alt.	8 Alt.	12/31/2034	August	2034
Safety	7	12/31/2035	November	2035
General	3	12/31/2035	November	2035