

# LAFCO

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**Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission**  
105 East Anapamu Street ♦ Santa Barbara CA 93101  
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www.sblafco.org ♦ lafco@sblafco.org

October 5, 2023 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara CA 93101

## **SBCERS Ballot for General 3<sup>rd</sup> Member to Retirement Board**

Dear Members of the Commission

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission vote for one member to be elected to the Santa Barbara County Employees' Retirement System (SBCERS) as the General 3<sup>rd</sup> Member of the Board of Retirement.

### DISCUSSION

The Santa Barbara County Employees' Retirement System is holding elections to select the General 3<sup>rd</sup> Member for the Santa Barbara County Board of Retirement. The General Member candidate who receives the most votes will be declared the winner.

As a member of SBCERS, LAFCO is eligible to cast our vote. The Commission has the option to direct the Executive Officer to cast a vote for one of the three candidates. A brief statement is provided below for each candidate. The deadline is October 10, 2023.

### JULIUS ABANISE, DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL (OFFICE OF COUNTY COUNSEL)

I am a 2008 graduate from the University of California Riverside with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. I earned a law degree from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles in 2011 and I am an active member of the California State Bar. I began working for the Office of County Counsel in 2015. Currently, I am a Senior Deputy County Counsel and my duties include defending the County of Santa Barbara and its employees in civil law suits. I am the current president of the Civil Attorneys Association, a union which represents County lawyers in the Office of County Counsel and the Department of Child Support. I also currently serve on the Deferred Compensation Oversight Committee ("DCOC") that oversees the County's 457 deferred compensation plan. My legal training and deep interest in economics have served me well in my participation in the work of the DCOC. I believe my background, training and experience will allow me to make valuable contributions to the work of the Retirement Board with the goal of safeguarding and nurturing the growth of our irreplaceable retirement savings.

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**Commissioners:** Cynthia Allen ♦ Jay Freeman, Vice-Chair ♦ Craig Geyer ♦ Joan Hartmann, Chair ♦ James Kyriaco ♦ Bob Nelson  
♦ Jenelle Osborne ♦ Alice Patino ♦ Jim Richardson ♦ Shane Stark ♦ Das Williams **Executive Officer:** Mike Prater

**BUSINESS ITEM No. 2**

LAURIE LEE, INCUMBENT (DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES)

I am running as a General Member Trustee of the Board of Retirement for Santa Barbara County to ensure for the continued fiscal responsibility to current and past employees of Santa Barbara County.

I have been an employee in Santa Barbara County for the past 19 years in the Department of Social Services. I am the incumbent for this position and have been serving on the board as a Trustee to fulfill the previous seat vacated in 2022. I am now running for the full three-year term.

I have learned so much in a short period time and I look forward to continuing to learn how to better protect the retirement benefits that you have earned throughout your years of service to our community. I am committed to continuing to work on ensuring that your retirement benefits are adequately managed and available to you when the time comes. I hope to receive your vote. Thank you.

JOEL FLORES, COST ANALYST II (GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT)

My name is Joel Flores, and I am a Cost Analyst with the General Services department. I obtained my CPA license in 2021 while working in the Office of the Auditor-Controller. My experience within the Auditor-Controller's department includes working on the Annual Property Tax Roll which generates over \$1B in revenue for the County each year, distributions of millions of dollars in sales tax revenue to local cities and agencies, assisting local taxpayers receive their property tax refunds in a timely matter, and preparing multiple financial reports such as the Financial Highlights and the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). I have been fortunate to be able to assist the County save time and resources over the last few years. In addition to assisting the County, I also enjoy volunteering to provide tax preparation services to lower income families in the Santa Barbara area. Giving back has been something I have always been passionate about and volunteering as a tax preparer is what sparked my interest to pursue accounting as a career. If elected to the SBCERS board, I will utilize my unique experience and skillset to advocate for well-balanced investments that will maintain and grow the County's pension assets.

Attachments

Attachment A – Email from SBCERS Announcing Election

Attachment B – SBCERS Ballot

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mike Prater  
Executive Officer

**From:** SBCERS <invitations@mail.electionbuddy.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 8:01 AM  
**To:** mike.sblafco@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Vote now: General 3rd Member of the Board of Retirement

## Vote now: General 3rd Member of the Board of Retirement

You are invited to vote in the SBCERS - General 3rd Member of the Board of Retirement.

The voting deadline is Oct 10 2023 11:59pm Pacific Time (US & Canada).

The Santa Barbara County Employees' Retirement System is holding elections to select the General 3rd Member for the Santa Barbara County Board of Retirement. The General Member candidate who receives the most votes will be declared the winner.

### How do I vote for the Board of Retirement?

Eligible voters will be able to cast their votes online or by paper ballot until 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on Tuesday, October 10, 2023. The online voting system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, during the voting period. A paper ballot is also enclosed with a pre-paid return envelope and must be received at the address listed on the return envelope by end of day Tuesday, October 10, 2023 via USPS.

**Please only return ONE ballot format: online OR paper. If more than one ballot is received per person, only the first received vote will be counted.**

If you have election questions, feedback or want to be removed from future ballot lists, please email Cesar Casillas at [cesar@mkelections.com](mailto:cesar@mkelections.com).

To vote, visit:

[secure.electionbuddy.com/P6XS-GCDD-KS6F-RFML](https://secure.electionbuddy.com/P6XS-GCDD-KS6F-RFML)

Or copy and paste the link into your web browser.

You can also visit [secure.electionbuddy.com/ballot](https://secure.electionbuddy.com/ballot) and enter "**REDACTED**"

[Unsubscribe](#) from any further emails about this election.



English

**Ballot**



Review



Confirmation

## SBCERS

### General 3rd Member of the Board of Retirement

The Santa Barbara County Employees' Retirement System is holding elections to select the General 3rd Member for the Santa Barbara County Board of Retirement. The General Member candidate who receives the most votes will be declared the winner.

#### How do I vote for the Board of retirement?

Eligible voters will be able to cast their votes online or by paper ballot until 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on Tuesday, October 10, 2023. The online voting system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, during the voting period. A paper ballot with a pre-paid return envelope and must be received at the address listed on the return envelope by end of day Tuesday, October 10, 2023 via USPS.

***Please only return ONE ballot format: online OR paper. If more than one ballot is received per person, only the first received vote will be counted.***

Your choices are secret and cannot be accessed by the administrator.

### Board of Retirement General Member

Select ONE choice.

Candidates	
Julius Abanise, Deputy County Counsel (Office of County Counsel) <a href="#">Information</a>	<input type="radio"/>
Laurie Lee, Incumbent (Department of Social Services) <a href="#">Information</a>	<input type="radio"/>
Joel Flores, Cost Analyst II (General Services Department) <a href="#">Information</a>	<input type="radio"/>

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