



FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION INVESTMENT FUND  
1919 S. HIGHLAND AVE. • BUILDING A, SUITE 237 • LOMBARD, IL 60148

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# ADOPTED

## Amendments to Chapter 3 of FPIF Rules

May 9, 2025



FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION INVESTMENT FUND

1919 S. Highland Ave. • Building A, Suite 237 • Lombard, IL 60148

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Subject: Proposed Amendments to Chapter 3 of FPIF Rules

Date: April 11, 2025

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Attached are proposed amendments to Chapter 3 of FPIF Rules. These changes aim to improve efficiency and clarify procedures by:

- Eliminating the requirement for the Election Panel to meet within seven days of the petition filing deadline to determine the initial slate of candidates.
- Allowing candidates to withdraw their candidacy in writing, without requiring adherence to a process prescribed by the Election Panel.
- Clarifying that the Election Panel's certification of election results becomes effective only after the Election Date.
- Clarifying that no Board action is required to accept or approve the Election Panel's certification of election results.

### **Election Panel Deadlines**

Under current rules, the Election Panel must meet within seven days of a petition filing deadline to determine the initial slate of candidates. When filing deadlines for different trustee positions vary by more than seven days, this requirement forces the Panel to hold multiple meetings.

The proposed change provides the Election Panel with scheduling flexibility, allowing it to consolidate its meetings. This adjustment streamlines the process for examining petitions, addressing candidacy challenges, and finalizing the slate of candidates.

### **Withdrawal of Candidacy**

Currently, candidates must withdraw by submitting written notice in a manner prescribed by the Election Panel. The proposed change eliminates this requirement, allowing candidates to withdraw simply by submitting written notice.

### **Certification of Election Results**

Under current rules, if the number of candidates filing conforming petitions does not exceed the number of open positions, the Election Panel certifies the election. The proposed change clarifies that this certification is only effective after the official Election Date.

### **Reading of the Election Results into the Board Record**

Currently, the Board is required to read election results into the minutes of the first meeting following the certification. The proposed change clarifies that this step is procedural and does not require Board approval or action.

Section 3-6 shall be amended as follows:

### **3.6 DETERMINATION OF CANDIDATES**

#### **3-6.1 Initial Slate of Candidates**

The Election Panel shall determine the validity of petitions and notify all candidates whether their petitions met all petition requirements ~~within seven calendar days~~ after the deadline to submit nominating petitions. Candidates filing conforming petitions will be added to the initial slate of candidates on the respective ballot. Candidates and eligible voters shall be given notice of the initial slate of candidates on the Fund's website.

#### **3-6.2 Candidacy Challenges**

The Election Panel shall consider a written statement filed in accordance with Section 3-7 and proceed to make a final determination with respect to the challenge within ~~21~~14 calendar days after ~~the deadline to submit nominating petitions~~determining an initial slate of candidates. The Election Panel shall send a written notice of the final determination to the challenger and all candidates. The determination of the Election Panel shall constitute a final administrative decision for purposes of the Administrative Review Law, 735 ILCS 5/Art. III.

#### **3-6.3 Final Slate of Candidates**

The Election Panel shall determine the final slate of candidates within ~~21~~14 calendar days after ~~the deadline to submit nominating petitions~~determining an initial slate of candidates. Candidates and eligible voters shall be given notice of the final slate of candidates on the Fund's website.

#### **3-6.4 Withdrawal of Candidacy**

A candidate may withdraw his or her candidacy by notifying the Election Panel in writing, ~~in the manner prescribed by the Election Panel~~. The Election Panel shall remove any withdrawn candidate from the ballot. If a candidate withdraws his or her candidacy after the printing of the ballots, any votes cast in favor of such withdrawn candidate shall not be counted.

#### **3-6.5 Absence of Challengers**

If the number of candidates filing conforming nominating petitions for a trustee position does not exceed the number of positions to be elected, the Election Panel shall deem the candidate or candidates elected. If a candidate is deemed elected under this paragraph, the Election Panel shall certify the result and no further election for that trustee position shall be administered.

Section 3-7 shall be amended as follows:

### **3-6 CHALLENGE OF NOMINATING PETITIONS**

#### **3-7.1 Examination of Petitions**

Any individual may, upon reasonable notice and during normal business hours on or after the first business day following the ~~deadline for the~~ Election Panel's determination of the initial slate of candidates and until 4:30 pm on the fifth business day following the ~~deadline for the~~

Election Panel's determination of the initial slate of candidates, examine petitions that have been filed; provided, however, that in order to protect the signing participants' and annuitants' privacy and confidentiality, the examination shall be subject to the following limitations:

- (a) Petitions that are examined will be duplicate copies of the original petitions filed, with any confidential information redacted.
- (b) Petitions may only be examined at the Fund's office.
- (c) Petitions may not be removed from the Fund's office, copied, or duplicated by any means.

### **3-7.2 Challenges**

A prospective candidate or eligible voter may challenge the petition validation process for a nominating petition or candidacy only in the class within which that prospective candidate or voter is eligible. A challenge shall be submitted in a written statement identifying the specific aspects of the petition validation process that is being challenged.

### **3-7.3 Submission of Challenges**

All challenges shall be submitted to the Election Panel no later than 4:30 pm on the fifth business day following the ~~deadline for the~~ Election Panel's determination of the initial slate of candidates. Any challenge submitted after such time shall not be considered.

Section 3-12 shall be amended as follows:

## **3-12 BALLOT COUNTING AND CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

### **3-12.1 Standards for Handling of Ballots**

The Fund shall ensure that minimum standards are in place to ensure ballots are properly recorded, secured, tabulated and retained.

### **3-12.2 Receipt Deadline**

Ballots must be received by 4:30 pm on the Election Date. Ballots received after 4:30 pm on the Election Date are invalid and will not be counted. A record of the receipt date of each ballot will be maintained.

### **3-12.3 Invalid Delivery**

Ballots delivered to the Fund in bulk or, via hand delivery will not be counted.

### **3-12.4 Multiple Ballots from Single Voter**

If multiple ballots are received from an eligible voter, the first ballot received will be counted as the official ballot and any subsequent votes will not be counted.

### **3-12.5 Votes for Ineligible Candidates**

Votes received in favor of any candidate who has withdrawn his or her candidacy or is

otherwise ineligible will not be counted.

**3-12.6 Determination of Elected Trustees**

When all eligible ballots have been counted and tabulated, the candidates who have received the greatest number of votes in each Trustee Position will be elected trustees.

**3-12.7 Ties**

In the case of a tie vote, the winner shall be determined in accordance with procedures developed by the Department of Insurance.

**3-12.8 Certification of Results**

The results of the election process shall be certified by the Election Panel, posted on the Fund website, and reported to the Board. The Election Panel will certify the election results by the fifth business day following the Election Date. [A candidate shall be "elected" only once certified by the Election Panel as having been elected or deemed elected. If a candidate is deemed elected pursuant to Section 3-6.5 prior to the Election Date, that certification is effective only after the Election Date.](#)

**3-12.9 Reading Results into Board Record**

The Board shall read the election results into the minutes of the first meeting of the Board following the declaration of election results. [No Board action is required to accept or approve the Election Panel's certification of the election result](#)