



Increase representation on the TRS Board of Trustees

- RESTORE the Higher Education seat
- ADD a dedicated seat for retired TRS members
- ADD an additional seat appointed by the Governor

The TRS provides retirement and related benefits for a growing number of public school and higher education employees and retirees. Currently, 1.5 million employees and retirees participate in the system, up from over 1.1 million ten years ago. The TRS Board manages a \$132 billion trust fund established to finance member benefits.

The TRS Board of Trustees currently consists of nine members. Five members are appointed directly by the Governor of Texas. Four seats have been designated for specific groups participating in the TRS: two for public school employees, one for retired TRS members, and one for higher education employees. Instead of direct elections, the governor appoints one of the top three vote-getters for each of these seats. This means that public school employees, retired TRS members, and higher education employees have been guaranteed a voice on the TRS Board.

However, a law passed in 2011 abolishes the higher education seat, creating an “open” seat in its place. Higher education employees with their futures and livelihoods invested in the TRS deserve a dedicated seat on the TRS Board of Trustees. Moreover, the membership of the TRS is steadily increasing, calling for an increased total number of seats on the Board of Trustees. In addition to restoring the higher education seat, TSEU is calling for a new dedicated seat for retired TRS members and a new seat appointed by the Governor to represent the membership of the TRS on the Board of Trustees.