MEETING DATE: May 20, 2020

SUBJECT: Election Timeline for Alternate Safety Board Member

SUBMITTED FOR: ___ Consent  _X_ and Action  ___ and File

RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends the Board postpone the election for the vacant Alternate Safety representative on the Board of Retirement until early 2021.

PURPOSE
This item supports the 2019-20 Strategic Management Plan goal of maintaining transparent communications and contributes to the Board’s effective oversight of the retirement system.

DISCUSSION
The Alternate Safety representative seat on the Board of Retirement was vacated in March 2020, prior to the commencement of a full term that ends in December 2021. While the SCERS Retirement Board Election Policy and Government Code section 31523(a) state that a special election to fill the vacancy shall be held as soon as possible, an election for the vacated seat has yet to occur due to the stay at home order issued on March 19, 2020 in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The SCERS Retirement Board Election Policy states: “In the event that an elected Board position becomes vacant prior to the end of a normal term, a special election will be held as soon as practicable, on a date mutually agreed upon by SCERS and VRE.”

After consultation with Voter Registration and Elections (VRE), SCERS Staff have concluded that it would be difficult if not impractical to conduct the election for the Alternate Safety representative seat at this time due to current workplace restrictions, safety concerns for VRE and SCERS staff and SCERS members, and impending timing issues for VRE to prepare for the upcoming November General Election. The soonest practical date to resume the election would be in January 2021.

Staff has notified the recognized labor organizations that represent Safety members of the potential election delay.