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State Personnel Board Elects 2024 Officers

SACRAMENTO – The California State Personnel Board (SPB) on December 14, 2023, elected its officers for the 2024 calendar year. Shawnda Westly was elected President and Kathy Baldree was elected Vice President. Dr. Gail Willis was re-elected to serve as the Board’s representative on the California Public Employees’ Retirement Board (CalPERS). The officers serve a one-year term.

Shawnda Westly was appointed to the Board in 2018. She is the president of Westly Consulting, which focuses on political, policy and legislative consulting, including issue advocacy, political strategy and donor management. Westly served as senior strategist and executive director of the California Democratic Party from 2009-2018 where her responsibilities included employee management, organizational and campaign strategy, member engagement, fundraising and ally building. Westly served as Vice President of the Board in 2023.

Kathy Baldree was appointed to the Board in 2018. Most recently, Ms. Baldree served as special assistant and director of scheduling to Governor Jerry Brown. From 2007-2011, she served in a similar role at the Office of the Attorney General. Prior to that, Baldree held multiple positions at Gap, Inc., and served as an instructor with the San Francisco Community College District. Baldree served as President of the Board in 2023.

Dr. Gail Willis was appointed to the Board in 2022. She is currently a Mathematics Prevention/Intervention Specialist and has been an educator teaching multiple subjects for the Los Angeles Unified School District since 1996. Dr. Willis has previously served as the Southern California Special Assistant at the Department of Insurance and as President of the Southern Los Angeles Area Planning Commission. Dr. Willis earned a Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership, Administration and Public Policy. Dr. Willis has been a member of the California Teachers Association since 1996.

The Board’s other two members are Kimiko Burton and Ana Matosantos.

Established by the State Constitution, SPB is charged with overseeing the merit-based, job-related, recruitment and selection process for the hiring of state employees who provide critical services to the citizens of California. SPB provides direction to departments through simplifying civil service laws, rules, and policy. In addition, SPB audits departments for merit system compliance. SPB also investigates and adjudicates alleged violations of civil service law that are filed by employees, applicants, and members of the public. More information on SPB and its Board members can be found at the [SPB website](#).