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December 10, 2025

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State Personnel Board Elects 2026 Officers

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California State Personnel Board (SPB) on December 9, 2025, elected its officers for the 2026 calendar year. Kathy Baldree was elected President and Kimiko Burton 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.

Kathy Baldree was appointed to the Board in 2018. Baldree served as the Board President in 2023 and as Vice President in 2024 and 2025. Prior to joining the Board, 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. .

Kimiko Burton was appointed to the Board in 2012 and served as the Board's President for 2017. Burton was reappointed to the Board in 2019. After over 34 years with the City and County of San Francisco, the last 22 of which she spent as the manager of the San Francisco City Attorney's Dependency and Mental Health Team, Burton retired in June 2025. Prior to joining the City Attorney's Office, Burton was San Francisco's first female public defender. Her other posts with "the City" included leading the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and serving as a Deputy Public Defender. Burton has worked on state legislation affecting child welfare and public conservatorships and CARE court. Burton serves on the Board of Directors of John Burton Advocates for Youth, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for California's homeless children and developing policy solutions to prevent homelessness with an emphasis on children in foster care and emancipated foster children.

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 Ana Matosantos and Shawnda Westly.



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About SPB

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](#).

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