

**g. Independence.** CalSTRS board members and their delegates shall, upon taking office, acknowledge and affirm their independence and their understanding of fiduciary duties. The pledge shall be reviewed annually and shall read as follows:

“I understand that as a board member, I must discharge my duties as a fiduciary with respect to CalSTRS solely in the interest of its members and beneficiaries as further set forth in Sections 22250 through 22253 of the Education Code. I also understand the unique independent status that California public pension funds such as CalSTRS holds, as reflected in the following finding of Proposition 162: ‘The integrity of our public pension systems demands that safeguards be instituted to prevent political ‘packing’ of retirement boards, and encroachment upon the sole and exclusive fiduciary boards or infringement upon the actuarial duties of those retirement boards.’ I affirm my pledge to conduct myself in accordance with these understandings.”

**h. Code of Conduct.** In keeping with the responsibilities outlined in this section, board members shall annually acknowledge and affirm their commitment to following the code of conduct. The code of conduct shall be reviewed annually and shall read as follows:

“We, the trustees of CalSTRS, recognize that we are the leadership and ultimate fiduciaries for CalSTRS. As such, we are responsible for governing the system in the best way we can and to act solely in the interest of its members and beneficiaries (as set forth in Sections 22250 through 22253 of the Education Code).

We pledge not to allow political interference, or any form of intimidation affect our judgment in the exercise of our fiduciary responsibilities. We accept our responsibility to avoid actual and perceived conflicts of interest. Where avoidance is not possible, we will disclose and mitigate conflicts to the best of our abilities. We agree not to engage in any acts of self-dealing.

We acknowledge that we are subject to the disclosure and reporting requirements of the system's Conflict of Interest (COI) Code and Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) regulations. We have the personal responsibility to ensure that gifts, honoraria, and travel expenses received are disclosed and reported under the system's COI Code and FPPC regulations.

To meet the high standard of prudence for fiduciaries, we understand that education is important. We accept our personal responsibility to attend educational sessions and conferences, and to share the knowledge with each other.

We, the board, consider the diversity of experience and opinions among us to be a strength, not a weakness. When differing viewpoints are expressed during our meetings, we will be respectful in our discussions.”