

December 6, 2019

**DeKalb County Pension Board Qualification Application**

**Michael R Amato**

**Date of Retirement: December 1, 2017**

**Department: Information Systems**

**Last Job Title: Director Information Systems**

**Qualifications**

I have 30 years proven experience supporting mission critical systems at the county, city and school district level. I started my career in information technology as a print room operator and advanced to the position of director promoting ethics and accountability. I have managed large budgets and worked with the finance department, appointed and elected officials to improve operational support while completing projects ahead of schedule and under budget. My experience in government operations and the private sector has given me a greater understanding of what it takes to minimize risk and gain a significant return on investment. The political realities have often made this a challenge, but I am confident that with continued dedication we can protect our retirement funds and provide pensioners with timely information regarding balances and projections. Those of us that are fortunate to have a pension realize the importance of sound decision making because it directly impacts our lives and those of our family. Those of you that remember me know that I will do my best to protect our pension. I will work closely with other Board members and elected officials to provide retirees with necessary cost of living raises. Our current pension is under-funded and we need solid representation to get things back on track and to protect our retirement.

I ask for your vote for the DeKalb County Pension Board. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Mike Amato**



DeKalb County Pension Board

January 14, 2020 Election

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AND  
DEC -2 PM 4:30

Candidacy Questionnaire

Name: Birdie M. Presley

Department: Sheriff's Office

Years Worked at DeKalb County: 5 (five)

Educational Background: Associates - Central City Business Inst.  
Associates New Orleans Bapt Theo Center  
Graduate of ITC - Atlanta

Experience with the County: Office Assistant / Secretary to  
Chief Deputy - DeKalb County  
Sheriff's Office 3/16/98 - 12/31/03

Why You Want to be a Pension Board Member: Having served five (5) years

with the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office provided  
me with the inner workings of the judicial system  
and management of incarcerated inmates. Prior  
to the Sheriff's Office I retired from the National  
Headquarters of the American Cancer Society having  
fiduciary responsibilities and management of a  
multi-million dollar department budget.

Maintained and operated my own business - now  
defunct for 6 years. Considering professional and  
monetary experience enhances my knowledge of  
money matters and for these reasons, I would  
like to be considered qualified to serve on the Board.

# **Dekalb County Pension Board Election**

## **Retiree Representative**

**Name:** Robert L. Robertson

**Department:** Retired as a Fire Captain from DeKalb Fire Rescue June 2006 after 28 ½ years of service.

**Educational Qualifications:** High School

Educated as FINRA Series 7 Registered Representative.

Attended or spoke at over 75 Educational Pension Conferences.

**Endorsed by:** Pension Board Chairman Ed Wall, Employee Elected Trustees D'Lisa Stevens and Eric Hendrix, and Commissioner Appointed Trustee John McMullan.

**Why I want to be a Pension Board member:**

As the incumbent retiree representative, I feel that I am extremely qualified to be your elected representative. I served as a pension board employee representative for 6 ½ years and as your retiree representative for the last 12 years. I have attended over 75 pension conferences at my own expense to maintain the highest level of education on pension issues. I have experience in the asset management, brokerage and hedge fund industries.

The most important thing to remember is as a pension board member, we do not have any control over benefit enhancements. This is up to the BOC. We have control over investments and investment strategies. This is where I have excelled. I am currently the point person in dealing with securities fraud litigation.

Being a board member is more complex than most people realize. It takes several years for a new member to get up to speed on all aspects of being a board member and this does not take into consideration the educational requirements. As of this election, 50% of the board could be replaced. So, the overall experience level could be severely diminished. It is for these reasons I feel that I am the most qualified person to represent your interests, your benefits and your pension.

As your representative, I will continue to work to ensure the integrity and stability of the pension fund. I have, and will continue to, fiercely lobby for a yearly cost-of-living raise and more benefits for all retirees, as funding allows.