

2018 ERS Board of Control Election Candidate Biographies

Dwayne Gillam is a Department of Transportation (ALDOT) Worker TMT III Senior for District One, 3rd Division in Birmingham. He has been working for ALDOT for 28 years. Gillam graduated from Shades Valley High School, Homewood, in May 1982. Immediately upon graduation, he joined the United States Marine Corps, where he served for 3 years and 3 months. Gillam has great interpersonal skills and loves working with people. He believes in listening to all the points of view before making a decision.

Steve Walkley, the incumbent, is a resident of Montgomery and has worked for more than 35 years as a state employee. He currently serves as the Division Director of the Workforce Development Division of the Department of Commerce. Walkley has a B.A. degree from Jacksonville State University, Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Alabama, and a Juris Doctorate degree from Jones School of Law and is a member of the Alabama State Bar. He served more than 23 years in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves and earned the rank of Colonel. Walkley is a member of ASEA, ROA, SETA, and served two years as president of the Brewbaker Junior High PTA. He is married to Karen Walkley, who is also a state employee, who works as a Personnel Analyst at the State Personnel Department. They attend the Church of the Highlands in Montgomery. Walkley has served on the Board of the Retirement Systems of Alabama for more than 15 years.

Stephanie S. Whitehead was born in Tuskegee in Macon County. She graduated from Tuskegee Institute High School, and went on to graduate from Auburn University Montgomery with a degree in Business Administration with an Accounting major. She gained work experience as a Secretary, Executive Assistant, and Grant Specialist with Tuskegee University. Whitehead also worked as Finance/HR Manager for the city of Tuskegee, Financial Reviewer as a federal consultant, and Staff Accountant with the Department of Public Health. She currently works with Medicaid's Nursing Home Reimbursement Division, where she is employed as a Senior Accountant. She has been employed at the state level since December 1, 2011.

Steve Dukes is the current Personnel Bureau Chief for the Alabama Department of Transportation. He was born in Houston County and lived there until 1991. His educational background includes graduation from Dothan High School and then subsequently from Troy State University with a degree in Business Administration in 1987. Dukes is married and has two children. His state career began with the Houston County Department of Human Resources as a Social Worker in 1988. Three years later, he was appointed to the State Personnel Department in Montgomery as a Classification and Compensation Analyst I. Dukes then served at State Personnel for the next 21 years and received two promotions while there. During the majority of his time at State Personnel, he was assigned to work with the Department of Transportation performing a variety of HR activities. In the spring of 2013, he was appointed as Departmental Personnel Manager III with the Department of Transportation and assumed the role of Personnel Bureau Chief. Dukes supervises over 20 employees performing personnel services for over 4,000 employees. He currently has over 29 years of state service with 26 years of direct Human Resources experience.