



The Pensioner: *Looking Forward*

Welcome to the digital MPERS newsletter! *The Pensioner: Looking Forward* contains news, updates, and important information for active employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and MPERS.



Pre-Retirement Seminar Registration Update

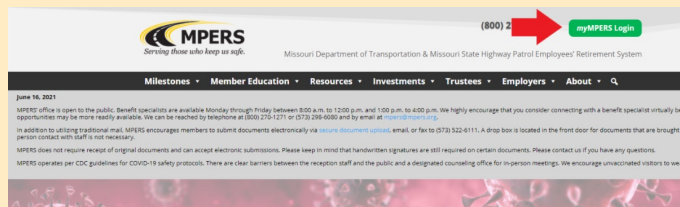
There are only **SIX** live Pre-Retirement Webinars remaining this year!

Five of the webinars are for Closed Plan and Year 2000 Plan members and one webinar is for 2011 Tier members.

If you would like to register for an upcoming webinar, GREAT! That is wonderful! However, note that the registration process for our Pre-Retirement webinars has an additional step, making it a two-step webinar registration process.

Step 1: Visit www.mpers.org and log in to your [myMPERS Secure Member Access](#) and register for the Pre-Retirement webinar of your choice.

Once you have successfully registered, you will receive a confirmation at the email address we have on file.



Step 2: Once you have received your myMPERS registration confirmation, please select the webinar link located in the confirmation email. (See photo)

When this link is selected, you will be directed to a *GoToWebinar* registration page that will require your first name, last name, and the email address where you would like to receive your personalized webinar join link.

Once you complete registration through *GoToWebinar*, you will receive a confirmation email from *GoToWebinar Global Customer Support* at the email address provided at registration. This confirmation will include your personal join link for the webinar.

If the email containing your join link gets lost in the deep chasm of your email inbox, no worries. You will receive a reminder one day prior to the webinar as well as one hour prior to the webinar. These reminders will include your personal join link as well.

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Website: www.mpers.org



Dear:

Thank you for completing step one of the two-step webinar registration process. You have registered for the Pre-Retirement Webinar listed below:

7/13/2021 12:30:00 PM

Online Webinar

Online Webinar-No Physical Location

Jefferson City, MO 65109

Please select the webinar link below to complete step two of the webinar registration process. Once you have registered in GoToWebinar, you will receive a confirmation from GoToWebinar Global Customer Support that will include your personal join link as well as instructions on how to join the webinar. Please use the link provided in the GoToWebinar confirmation to access the webinar.

If step two is not completed, you will not be able to access the webinar.

Webinar Link: [Webinar](#)

If you are unable to attend, please notify us immediately. If you have any questions, please contact MPERS at (800) 270-1271 or email us at mpers@mpers.org.

We look forward to virtually seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

The MPERS Benefits Team

As always, if you have any questions or need assistance with webinar registration, please contact a benefit specialist by phone at 800-270-1271 or by email at mpers@mpers.org.

[View the 2021 Pre-Retirement Webinar Schedule](#)

MPERS' Matters

Investments PART 2

In the March edition of *The Pensioner: Looking Forward*, the oversight formula was introduced:

$$C + I = B + E$$

C = Contributions

I = Investments

B = Benefits

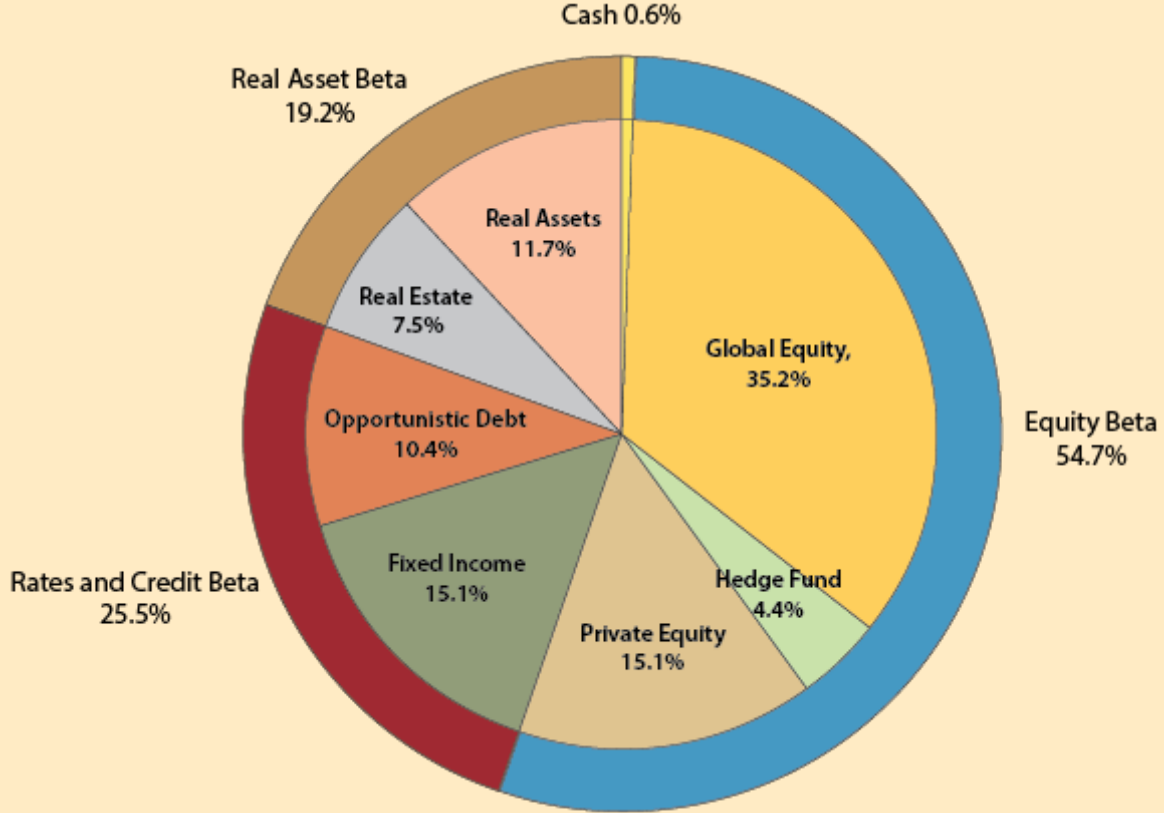
E = Expenses

As noted in last month's MPERS' Matters, the MPERS Board of Trustees has responsibility for the investment of assets used to cover the payments for the System's beneficiaries.

This is an area where the Board of Trustees has a lot of flexibility with decision-making. These decisions are critical for public pension plans because investment returns often cover 60% or more of the cost of a pension plan. Over the last 20 years or so, investment returns have covered approximately half of the cost of the benefits administered by MPERS.

Investment direction is largely established through MPERS' Investment Policy, which includes the asset allocation. Asset allocation involves dividing an investment portfolio among different asset categories such as stock, bonds, real estate, and cash. This board-approved allocation, noted in the chart below, provides direction for the professional investment staff on how to invest these assets.

In order to have positive investment returns, the investor (MPERS) must take some amount of risk otherwise the employers would have to cover an unnecessarily high cost. If an investor takes too little risk, investment returns are minimal, thereby putting extra costs back on the covered employers. Taking too much risk on the other hand, may result in excessive losses during market downturns, again putting extra pressure on covered employers. The Board must consider this delicate balance and spend considerable time and attention when developing or changing an asset allocation.



The asset allocation is reviewed at least annually to be sure the Board knows the return expectations and the associated risk. The asset allocation is also reviewed more formally through an in-depth process called an [asset/liability study](#), usually every five years. This extensive review helps to align the risk taken with the Plan's liabilities.

For a more in-depth study of MPERS' Investment Policy and how it evolved, see the [white paper on the Evolution of Investments](#) located on MPERS' website.

[Want to learn more about MPERS' asset allocation? Click here!](#)



Check Out This Month's Benefit Bite!

Live Webinars and Recordings

Did you know that MPERS offers live webinars for our Pre-Retirement and Mid-Career Checkups? Did you ALSO know that each of these webinars is recorded so you can watch them later??

It's true! Our webinars are so packed with awesome, useful information that sometimes it can be hard to remember everything that was discussed. This is why we provide linked webinar recordings on our website!

[View a Pre-Retirement Webinar](#)

[View a Mid-Career Checkup Webinar](#)



I WISH I WOULD'VE KNOWN....

NUGGETS OF WISDOM FROM CURRENT RETIREES

"Put as much in your Deferred Comp account as you can early and keep funding it.

I amassed a small fortune in my 30 years of contributions! It adds up over all the years. It will help with your pension.

Who wants to go back to work after you retire?!"

—J.O. retired 2018,
27+ years of service

"The single biggest problem I encountered was the fact that we were never told anything about vesting for retirement.

I started the academy November 1, 1973 (I believe). I took a leave of absence from the Academy and returned to active military service when I was a corporal/instructor with 8 1/2 years of service. I didn't know until much later that I needed to have a minimum of 10 years* of service before I could draw a partial retirement. I would never have left without vesting if I had known."

—J.J. retired 2003, 16 years of service

*Five-year vesting period became effective 8/28/1992.



Upcoming Events

- 5 - Independence Day observed; office closed.
- 13 - Pre-Retirement Webinar for Closed Plan and Year 2000 Plan members. [Register here.](#)
- 15 - Mid-Career Checkup Webinar for Closed Plan and Year 2000 Plan members. [Register here.](#)
- 31 - Deadline to submit step 1 -*Notice of Retirement* for September 1 retirements.



We value your feedback!

What would you like to see in ***The Pensioner: Looking Forward?***

Send comments and suggestions to Julie.West@mpers.org.