



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.

MPERS Continues to Stay Positive

MPERS' investment staff is doing some truly amazing work.

During a year in which the stock market was less than friendly, MPERS investment staff pulled off an incredible feat...a positive investment return of 3.94% while many of their pension plan peers experienced negative investment returns.

MPERS continues to operate within a diversified portfolio that aided in the positive return for Fiscal Year 2022, ranking MPERS' return in the top 1% of the peer universe. Additionally, MPERS' one-year, three-year, five-year, and ten-year returns all ranked in the top 1% of the public peer universe.

What does this mean to our members? It means that providing sustainable benefits for current and future retirees is, and always will be, our number one focus.



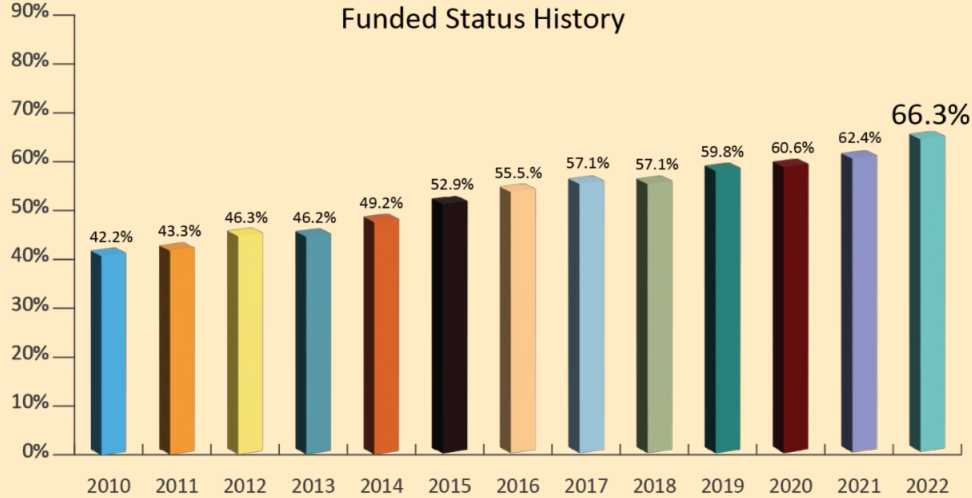
Funded Status Increases to 66.3%



MPERS saw a record increase in funded status of nearly 4% for Fiscal Year 2022. The funded status improved from 62.4% to 66.3%, an increase not seen in over 22 years.

Overall, the funded status has increased a significant 24.1% since 2010!

Funded Status History



This upward continuum is not only attributed to skillful investment decisions by our investment staff, but a commitment by the Board of Trustees to make sure MPERS reaches the funded status of 100% in the not-so-distant future.

[I want to learn more about MPERS' funding policies](#)

MPERS' Retirement Process Satisfaction = A+



MPERS' service reputation with covered members has been solid for some time; however, we are always looking for ways to improve.

Just over a year ago, MPERS' staff made the decision to use Cobalt Community Research to measure our service performance. Cobalt Community Research is a research consultant established in 2007 to provide independent, credible, and cost-effective research. The research service not only provides feedback for specific service areas but also compares our results to other public and private sector organizations conducting the same or similar business.

Over the last year when MPERS' members completed the retirement process, they were surveyed. MPERS' overall score for the last fiscal year was 97, the highest of all survey participants, including other pension plans.

Congratulations to our benefits team! Keep up the stellar work!



Mary Jordan
Senior Benefit Specialist



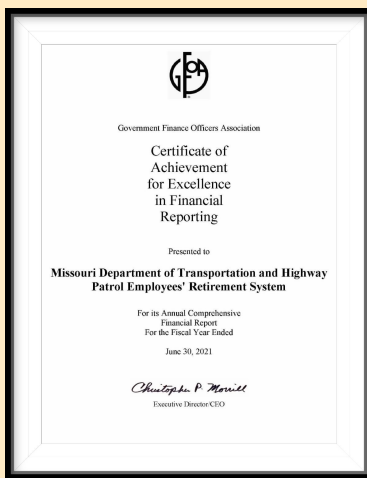
Gabrielle Lewis
Senior Benefit Specialist



Bev Wilson
Benefit Audit Specialist

MPERS Receives Award for 17th Consecutive Year

MPERS was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its FY 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.



The report was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a governmental organization and its management.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 21,000 members and the communities they serve.

Congratulations!

[View the award-winning report](#)



Don't Make a Misstep; Retirement Is a Two-Step Process!

You did it. The race is almost complete, and the finish line is within view! Retirement is within your grasp! While you are completing the last moments of your career race, please remember, MPERS has a two-step retirement process. The MPERS' process is separate from (and in addition to) the process the Patrol or MoDOT may have in place.

Step 1

Submit your *Notice of Retirement* to MPERS no later than one month plus one day before your intended retirement date. You can submit the *Notice of Retirement* as early as 120 days prior to your retirement date; however, if you miss the deadline for your intended retirement date, your retirement will be postponed. You will be sad. We will be sad. Nobody wants to be sad.

You can submit the *Notice of Retirement* electronically through your [myMPERS account](#), or you can [complete a paper form](#) and submit it to MPERS. We will also need proof of age and legal residence for you and your spouse, as well as proof of marriage, if you are married.

Notice of Retirement

- Step 1:**
1. Complete this form.
 2. Attach acceptable proof of age document.
 3. If married, attach acceptable proof of age document for your spouse and copy of marriage license. This information will allow us to provide you with a more accurate benefit estimate.
 4. Send form and attachments to MPERS by deadline.

Member Information			
Blindfold Date of Retirement: Month / Day / Year		Date of Retirement can only be the first day of the month.	
Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number		Date of Birth: mm/dd/yyyy	
Name: (Last, First MI)			
Mailing Address: (City) (State) (Zip Code)			
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone:	Personal Email Address:

- Current Member Status (check one):
- Active member
 - Terminated or vested member
 - Long-term disability
 - Normal disability
 - Work-related disability

Do you have any of the following prior service credit that could increase your MPERS' service? If so, we recommend you contact a MPERS benefit specialist as soon as possible at (800) 276-1271. The more service you have, the higher your benefit amount. Prior service must be purchased/transfered before submitting your Notice of Retirement (Step 1).

- Service under MOERS, MoDOT, or Highway Patrol for which you have not received credit.
- U.S. Armed Forces service (active, reserve, or national guard).
- Full-time, non-federal public agency service in Missouri (county/city government, public school, university).
- Service in a commissioned police officer role for state or county police agency (unterminated members only).

Marital Status and Spouse Information (Required)		
Married members may select a joint and survivor option, which provides a continuing monthly benefit to your eligible spouse after your death. If you are married, please submit an acceptable proof of age document and copy of your marriage license. This information will allow us to provide you with a more accurate benefit estimate.		
Marital status on the Date of Retirement (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married (must provide spouse info)		
Spouse's Name (Last)	(First)	(MI)
Spouse's Social Security Number:	Date of Birth: mm/dd/yyyy	Date of Marriage: mm/dd/yyyy

To the MODOT and Patrol Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) Board of Trustees:
 As an employee or former employee of the state of Missouri, I hereby submit my Notice of Retirement to begin receiving retirement benefits from MPERS. I understand that before my date of retirement, I understand this notification will be null and void. I hereby certify that all information contained in this notification is true and correct.

I do not have a prearrangement with any employer covered under MPERS or MOERS to return to work after I retire.

Member Signature:	Date:
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Step 2

Once your *Notice of Retirement* is received, we will generate your step-two packet and mail it to the address we have on file. The packet includes:

- Retirement Election Form
- BackDROP Distribution Form (if applicable)
- W-4-P Substitute (tax withholding)
- Direct Deposit Application
- \$5,000 Beneficiary Designation Form (if applicable)
- Designation of Agent Form

This packet must be received by MPERS no later than the day prior to your retirement date. If we do not receive the step-two packet prior to your retirement date, your first benefit payment may be delayed.

Retirement Election Form


MPERS MODOT & Patrol Employees' Retirement System
 PO Box 1908 • Jefferson City, MO 65112-1908
 Phone: (573) 268-6060 • (800) 276-1271
 Fax: (573) 522-6111 • Email: mper@mpers.org
 Website: www.mpers.org

Step 2:
Retirement Election Form

Member Information				
Social Security Number: ***-**-****	Date of Retirement:	Date of Birth:	Marital Status:	Spouse's DOB:
Name: (Last, First MI)				
Mailing Address: (Address, City, State, Zip Code)				Personal Email Address:
House Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone:		

Retirement Benefit Elections		
Select one Retirement Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed Plan <small>If you select the Closed Plan, all elections must be made in this column.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Year 2000 Plan <small>If you select the Year 2000 Plan, all elections must be made in this column.</small>
Select one Benefit Payment Option	<input type="checkbox"/> #1: Life Income Annuity * <small>Name beneficiary to receive your final benefit payment.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> #1: Life Income Annuity * <small>Name beneficiary to receive your final benefit payment.</small>
	<input type="checkbox"/> #2: Divorced Joint & 50% Survivor <small>Available to married members only.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> #2: Joint & 50% Survivor <small>Available to married members only.</small>
	<input type="checkbox"/> #3: Joint & 100% Survivor <small>Available to married members only.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> #3: Joint & 100% Survivor <small>Available to married members only.</small>
	<input type="checkbox"/> #4: 60 Guaranteed Payments * <small>Name beneficiary(ies) to receive final and remaining guaranteed payments (if any).</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> #4: 120 Guaranteed Payments * <small>Name beneficiary(ies) to receive final and remaining guaranteed payments (if any).</small>
	<input type="checkbox"/> #5: 150 Guaranteed Payments * <small>Name beneficiary(ies) to receive final and remaining guaranteed payments (if any).</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> #5: 180 Guaranteed Payments * <small>Name beneficiary(ies) to receive final and remaining guaranteed payments (if any).</small>

See explanation of benefit payment options on reverse side of form.

BackDROP Election (only if eligible)

If your benefit estimate included BackDROP, please make your election below:
 I do not wish to elect the BackDROP.
 I wish to elect the _____ year (____) maximum BackDROP period.
(Based on your BackDROP estimate, enter number of years or check box for maximum BackDROP period.)

If Electing Options #4 or #5 Beneficiary Designation for Final Payment and/or Remaining Guaranteed Payments				
Primary Beneficiary Name:	Social Security Number:	Relationship:	Date of Birth:	
Mailing Address:	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)	
Contingent Beneficiary Name:	Social Security Number:	Relationship:	Date of Birth:	
Mailing Address:	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)	

To the MODOT and Patrol Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) Board of Trustees:
 I hereby make application for retirement benefits to which I am entitled under the provisions of MPERS. If applicable, I agree to act as a special consultant and to abide by the provisions of the statute by being available to give testimony or testify, or only, in response to requests by the Board. I hereby confirm that I have no additional prior service credit that I wish to purchase or transfer to MPERS. I understand these elections cannot be changed after my first benefit payment has been made. I understand that before my date of retirement, I understand this application will be null and void.

Member Signature:	Date:
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If you are married at retirement, and elect payment options #1, #2, #3, or #5, your spouse must sign this form below. I hereby confirm that I am the spouse of the member named in this application. I acknowledge that the payment option elected by my spouse provides me with no survivor benefits from MPERS. I give my consent to this election.

Spouse's Signature:	Date:
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916 See reverse side for important information!

Step Two Packet

The retirement deadlines are posted at the end of each newsletter for your convenience. So, finish the race strong and make sure you complete the two-step retirement process with MPERS!

Retirement Deadlines

Intended Date of Retirement	Step 1 <i>Notice of Retirement</i> Due at MPERS	Step 2 <i>Retirement Election Form</i> Due at MPERS
January 1	September 1 - November 30	December 31
February 1	October 1 - December 31	January 31
March 1	November 1 - January 31	February 28
April 1	December 1 - February 28	March 31
May 1	January 1 - March 31	April 30
June 1	February 1 - April 30	May 31
July 1	March 1 - May 31	June 30
August 1	April 1 - June 30	July 31
September 1	May 1 - July 31	August 31
October 1	June 1 - August 31	September 30
November 1	July 1 - September 30	October 31
December 1	August 1 - October 31	November 30



Please remember to contact MPERS directly if you are thinking about retirement.

Our benefit specialists will provide the information you may need to make an informed decision regarding your MPERS retirement benefits.

Phone: 800-270-1271

Email: benefits@mpers.org

October

Upcoming Events

- 10 - Columbus Day, office open
- 19 - Mid-Career Webinar for Closed Plan and Year 2000 Plan members [Register Here](#)
- 31 - Deadline to submit step 1 -*Notice of Retirement* for December 1 retirement



We value your feedback!

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

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