



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' Matters

Investments PART 4

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

$$C + I = B + E$$

As we continue to cover the investment component of the oversight formula $C+I = B+E$, we move now to part four of the series. Part four will look briefly at the Sunshine Law as it applies to MPERS' investments.

C = Contributions
I = Investments
B = Benefits
E = Expenses

As a quasi-governmental agency, MPERS is subject to Missouri state statute including Missouri's Sunshine Law. This law allows for members of the public to request information regarding MPERS and other public and quasi-public governmental agencies. Most of MPERS' business records and meetings are open records and available to the public upon request.

There are exceptions to the open record requirements of the Sunshine Law for things like personnel files. There are also exceptions when it comes to certain investment records and information. Investment items that are protected from disclosure under the Sunshine Law can include investment contracts. The contract between MPERS and the investment manager is complicated, sensitive, and protected under trade secret laws. There are other documents or other details associated with other stages of some investments that are not initially open records because the details of the arrangement may compromise the transaction itself.

Although some information is not available to the public, it has been reviewed by attorneys and acknowledged by staff and consultants before entering into the relationship. While this information may be unavailable to the public, it is available to the MPERS' Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is ultimately responsible for the oversight and administration of the System. The Board, however, rarely inquires about the details contained in these documents due to the collective lack of legal/investment expertise, volume of documentation, and the complex legal jargon associated with them. This is one of the reasons why MPERS has professional investment staff in place.

The executive director is the custodian of records for MPERS. The custodian of records has the responsibility to interpret and apply laws associated with disclosure and the transparency demanded of public entities. Erroneously disclosing these critical documents could result in serious financial and/or reputational damage for the System.

[Click Here for More Information on MPERS and the Sunshine Law](#)

The 2021 Webinar Season is Winding Down

There are only a handful of Pre-Retirement and Mid-Career Checkup webinars left for the year! Don't miss out!

Upcoming Pre-Retirement Webinars

Closed Plan/Year 2000 Plan Webinar

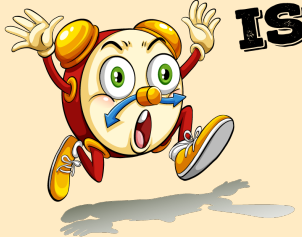
September 22
October 14
November 4

2011 Tier Webinar

November 16

Register for a
Pre-Retirement Webinar

TIME IS



RUNNING OUT

Upcoming Mid-Career Checkup Webinars

Closed Plan/Year 2000 Plan Webinar

September 8

2011 Tier Webinar

October 20

Register for a Mid-Career
Checkup Webinar



AVOIDING SCAMS!

“Grandpa, this is your grandson”

“John?”*

“Yes, it's John. I've been in an accident, but I'm okay. I just have a broken nose, which is why I sound different. But the lady that I hit had to be taken to the hospital. The police arrested me for careless and imprudent driving. Can you pay the bail so I can get out of jail?”

This is a portion of a recent conversation that the family member of an MPERS' staff member had with, who he thought, was his grandson. When the MPERS staff member was contacted, she immediately reached out to John, her son. John was just fine. A little confused as to why his mother was a nervous wreck, but he hadn't been in an accident. He didn't have a broken nose. He wasn't in jail. In fact, he had been at work the whole time.

Does this scenario sound familiar? Perhaps you have received a text message from Amazon notifying you that there is something wrong with your account, so you need to follow the link provided to update your personal information? Or maybe you have received an email stating that there was a funds transfer made to your account in error and you need to return the money as soon as possible or face imprisonment for theft?

[The Federal Bureau of Investigations \(FBI\) estimates that older adults lose more than \\$3 billion each year to fraud](#) and it is only getting worse. People of all ages are increasingly living their lives online, but older adults seem to be at higher risk of being targeted and taken advantage of by scammers.

This could be due to the perception that older adults have more money in the bank than their younger counterparts or that older adults aren't as tech-savvy. Therefore when a scammer tells someone their computer has been compromised, the person tends to believe the scammer simply because the person isn't sure about computers or the technology that they rely on.

Can scammers be stopped? If so how? The answer, in short, is no. However, being aware of the types of scams that are out there is the first step in not becoming a victim.

According to the [National Council on Aging, the most prominent scams include:](#)

- **Government imposter scams** - calls from people claiming to be from the IRS, Medicare, Social Security, or another government agency

- **The grandparent scam** - see the scenario above
- **Medicare/health insurance scams** - fake Medicare or insurance representatives try to get personal information.
- **Computer tech support scams** - a pop-up message appears indicating your computer has been compromised and you need to call a number for tech support. Once this number is called, the scammer may request remote access to your computer.
- **Sweepstakes & lottery scams** - scammers inform you that you've won a lottery or a sweepstakes and need to make a payment to claim a prize
- **Robocalls/phone scams** - scammers will claim that a warranty is expiring or they are from an online retailer and there is a problem with their account
- **Romance scams** - scammers use fake dating profiles or fake profiles on social media to exploit loneliness for money
- **Internet and email fraud** - Pop-up browser windows and fake emails indicating virus activity on the computer, prompting a download of "virus protection" software; it is actually malware that scammers install on the computer
- **Elder financial abuse** - usually carried out by someone the older adult knows-i.e. family member, friend, caregiver or even power of attorney
- **Charity scams** - scammers claim to be raising money for a good cause, then pocket the money for themselves

These are just a few of the current, common scams that older adults may face, so please, be scam-aware for yourself and for your family members.

For further information on scams and elder fraud please click a link or publication below.

[The National Council on Aging](#)

[The United States Senate Special Committee on Aging](#)

[The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Internet Crime Complaint Center IC3](#)

[AARP "The Perfect Scam" Podcast](#)



[Elder Fraud Report 2020](#)



[Fighting Fraud: Senate Aging Committee Identifies Top 10 Scams Targeting Our Nation's Seniors](#)

*Name has been changed



I WISH I WOULD'VE KNOWN....

WISDOM FROM CURRENT RETIREES FOR FUTURE RETIREES

I got a surprise the first full year I was retired (2020). I hadn't held out a high enough percentage for taxes with my retirement checks.

It would be nice at the retirement seminars to have some guidance on a percentage for withholding taxes once you retire. You fill out that paperwork before retiring and if you don't know how much to hold out or where to get that information it's not a good surprise at tax time.

If this is something that should be discussed with a tax preparer instead of MoDOT or MPERS before you retire, it would be great if that was added to the checklist of things to do before actually sitting down to sign paperwork.

With COVID last year I didn't get an in-person consultation with my tax preparer, so the money my husband and I owed for taxes was an unpleasant surprise.

I changed my withholdings after the fact, so next year should be a lot better.

I hope this was helpful for other soon-to-be retirees.

-L.K. retired 2019, 28 years of service

Check Out This Month's Benefit Bite!



How is a Benefit Estimate Like a Crystal Ball?

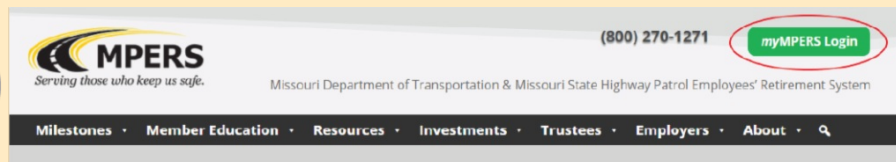
It has the ability to predict the future!

Well...sort of. Although the benefit estimate has limitations, creating one can help you see what your future benefit may be should you continue on your career path at MoDOT or the Highway Patrol.

How do you get access to a benefit estimate? You can log in to your myMPERS account or contact an MPERS' benefit specialist to help you. However, just know that the estimate that you can create in your myMPERS account is the SAME estimate that we can create from our office.

Below are four simple steps that will help you run a benefit estimate. And remember, benefit estimates are confidential and there is no limit to how many benefit estimates can be generated!

Head to www.mpers.org to log in to your myMPERS account.



Once you are logged in, select "estimate a benefit " from the menu on the left of your home page.



Account Summary

- Member Information
- Account Summary
- Personal Information
- Beneficiaries
- Estimate a Benefit**
- Estimate History
- Gross-to-Net Benefit

Seminars

Forms

Communications

- Correspondence
- Statements

Help

- Contact Information
- Site Tour

User

- Profile
- Communication Settings
- Sign Out

Current Status: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Employer: _____ Plan: _____

Date 1st Eligible for Normal Retirement:

Service Totals

Benefit Service:

The more service you have, the higher your retirement benefit. Service credit is one of the determining factors of when you can retire. If you have any prior governmental employment rendered in Missouri, or active duty military service, please contact a MPERS Benefit Specialist to learn how you might increase your amount of service.

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By default, your normal eligibility date will be populated. If you have a spouse, please input their date of birth in the last section. This is important as it will generate joint & survivor payment options on your estimate.

If you are in the Closed Plan or the Year 2000 Plan and would like to see BackDROP payment options, please select option two and enter a date at least two years past your normal eligibility date.



The benefit estimates generated from this screen are just that...estimates!
All information must be verified by MPERS, at the time of retirement, before a benefit can be paid.

Date 1st Eligible for Normal Retirement

This box shows the date you are/were 1st eligible for normal retirement, if you are currently working on your BackDROP this date has already passed.

Date 1st Eligible for Normal Retirement: Year 2000 Plan

Options for Generating a Benefit Estimate

This benefit estimate program will allow you to generate a benefit estimate based on the date(s) in the system, or you can enter a different date of retirement or termination.

Option 1: Benefit Estimate Using Date 1st Eligible

- The system calculated your eligible date of retirement based on your age, service, and the 2-Step Retirement Process deadlines. To generate an estimate using the date(s) indicated, click on **Generate Estimate** (below).

Date Eligible for Normal Retirement Year 2000 Plan

Date Eligible for Early (reduced) Retirement Year 2000 Plan

Option 2: Estimate Using a Specific Date of Retirement

- To generate a benefit estimate using a **specific Date of Retirement**, enter the date below.

Enter Anticipated Date of Retirement:

For a BackDROP estimate, this date must be at least 2 years beyond the date you are 1st eligible for normal retirement (see red box above).

Option 3: Estimate Using a Specific Date of Termination

- To generate a benefit estimate using a **specific Date of Termination**, enter the date below.

Enter Anticipated Date of Termination:

Use Date Eligible for Normal Retirement

Use Date Eligible for Early (reduced) Retirement

Optional Information: Spouse's Date of Birth - Prior Service Credit

- To generate an estimate with spouse survivor options, you must enter your spouse's date of birth.
- To see how purchasing prior eligible service credit will affect your benefit amount, enter the number of years, months, and days you are considering purchasing.

Spouse's Date of Birth (if married):

Prior Service Credit You May Purchase/Transfer (optional): Years Months Days

Generate Estimate

Your benefit estimate will populate in your myMPERS estimate history. If the estimate doesn't populate, make sure the pop-up blocker on your web browser is turned off.



MPERS ID: _____

This personalized estimate was prepared using the assumptions listed at the right. All information must be verified by MPERS before a benefit can be paid. **This is only an estimate!**

Year 2000 Benefit Estimate				
Benefit Payment Options	Retiree Base Benefit	Temporary Benefit	Total Benefit	Survivor Benefit
Life Income Annuity	\$2,316.05	\$1,089.90	\$3,405.95	\$ 0.00
Life-120 Guaranteed	\$2,200.25	\$1,089.90	\$3,290.15	\$2,200.25
Life-180 Guaranteed	\$2,084.45	\$1,089.90	\$3,174.35	\$2,084.45

*Temporary benefit and any COLAs earned on that amount end at age 62. Survivors/beneficiaries are not eligible for the temporary benefit.

How We Calculated Your Life Income Annuity Amount				
Credited Service	Multiplier	Final Average Pay	=	Base Benefit
25.75	x .017	x \$5,290.80	=	\$2,316.05 (life)
25.75	x .008	x \$5,290.80	=	\$1,089.90 (temporary)
				\$3,405.95 (total)

Credited Service: The service earned as a member of MPERS, including prior service credit you elected to purchase or transfer from another system. The purchase or transfer of prior service credit must be completed before applying for retirement. Your unused sick leave may be used in calculating the amount of your retirement benefit; however, it cannot be used in determining your eligibility for retirement.

Final Average Pay (FAP): The average of your highest 36 consecutive months of pay.

Benefit Payment Options: The benefit payment you elect at retirement determines whether or not a benefit will be paid to anyone after your death, regardless of the option you elect, you will receive a benefit payment each month for your lifetime.

- Life Income Annuity – No survivor benefits upon your death and no reduction to your benefit
- Joint & 50% Survivor – Your spouse receives 50% of your base benefit for life and a reduction will be applied to your benefit
- Joint & 100% Survivor – Your spouse receives 100% of your base benefit for life and a reduction will be applied to your benefit
- Guaranteed Payments – 120 and 180 monthly payments. The guaranteed payment window starts at retirement and a reduction will be applied to your benefit. Your beneficiary receives remaining guaranteed payments (if any) from death until expiration of guaranteed payment window. Beneficiary can be anyone (spouse, child, friend, charity, etc.) and the beneficiary can be changed after retirement.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments: Cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) are provided every year on the anniversary date of your retirement. Your annual COLA rate will be equal to 80 percent of the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) with an annual maximum of 5 percent.

Important Information to Consider:

- Detailed information about your retirement benefits can be found in the retirement handbooks on our website, www.mpers.org.
- Benefit elections (payment option and plan election) cannot be changed after your first benefit payment has been distributed. To help you make informed decisions at retirement, we recommend you attend a free, half-day MPERS Pre-Retirement Seminar at least five years prior to retirement.
- For active employees, this estimate assumes you will continue working in the same position, at the same rate of pay, until the date of termination shown.

If you have any questions regarding this estimate, please contact a benefit specialist at (800) 270-1271.

Personal Information

Date of Birth: _____

Spouse's DOB:
Not Applicable

Assumptions Used in Calculation

Type of Retirement:
Normal

Date of Retirement:
October 1, 2035

Date of Termination:
September 30, 2035

Credited Service:
Membership 25y 8m 12d

Purchase/Transfer* 0y 0m 0d

Sick Leave* 0y 1m 0d

Credited Service 25y 9m 0d

*Potential service – may or may not be available at time of retirement

Final Average Pay:
\$5,290.80

Period of Final Average Pay:
10/2032 - 09/2035

If you have specific questions as it relates to your benefit estimate, please contact MPERS directly at mpers@mpers.org or 800-270-1271.



Upcoming Events

- 8 - Mid-Career Checkup webinar for Closed Plan and Year 2000 Plan members - [Register here](#)
- 22 - Pre-Retirement Webinar for Closed Plan and Year 2000 Plan members - [Register here](#)
- 23 - Board meeting - [View the agenda when available](#)
- 30 - Deadline to submit step 1 - *Notice of Retirement* for November 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.