

## **What purpose does the Board of Trustees for the MoDOT & Patrol Employees' Retirement System serve?**

In simple terms, the MPERS Board of Trustees (Board) is the 11-member governing body holding ultimate responsibility for the administration and performance of the system. These individuals serve without compensation. The group is comprised of:

- Three members of the state highways and transportation commission
- The superintendent of the highway patrol
- The director of MoDOT
- A senator appointed by the president pro tem of the senate
- A state representative appointed by the Speaker of the House
- An active MoDOT employee elected by active MoDOT employees
- An active Highway Patrol employee elected by active Patrol employees
- A retired MoDOT employee elected by MoDOT retirees
- A retired Highway Patrol employee elected by Patrol retirees

In more technical terms, the Board has certain explicit responsibilities set forth in Missouri state law as well as implied authority to take the steps necessary for its prudent oversight of the system. For the Board to meet its obligations under the law, every trustee has a personal responsibility to uphold the highest fiduciary standards and actively participate in the governance of MPERS.

The Board is responsible for all aspects of the retirement system's operations. The day-to-day management of MPERS is delegated to the executive director who is hired by the Board. The executive director acts as an advisor to the Board on all matters pertaining to the System and, with the approval of the Board, contracts for professional services and employs the remaining staff needed to operate the System.

MPERS is a creation of state law and through that law the Board is established as the highest-level body that has fiduciary responsibility for the system and those covered by the System. Fiduciary duty is a legal relationship of trust between parties, where one party is acting for the exclusive benefit of another. Fiduciaries of pension funds have strict standards imposed upon them by law. The Board's primary fiduciary responsibilities are:

1. The duty of loyalty, which requires that a Trustee:
  - Act solely in the best interest of the members,
  - Refrain from self-dealing,
  - Avoid conflicts of interest,
  - Act with candor, honesty, and integrity, and
  - Maintain independence.
2. The duty of care, generally thought of as the "prudent person rule."

In addition to administrative rules, the Board adopted “governance policies” setting forth the expectations the Board has for itself and formalizing the way the Board conducts business. The policies are intended to help the Board meet its fiduciary responsibilities. The governance policies set forth the structure, manner, and process by which the Board exercises its authority and control. The Board meets at least once a quarter but maintains routine contact with the executive director through committee meetings and regular system updates from the executive director. For more detailed information regarding the Board please refer to the “Trustees” tab on the MPERS website.