



Update

Dear Friends,

November 16, 2022

Since my election to the KPERS Board of Trustees I have a new disclaimer that I must include in these updates from now on: "The views expressed in this update represent my views and/or the views of the Coalition. They do not in any way represent the views of KPERS Board of Trustees nor do I speak for them." (Ernie Claudel)

REPORT ON THE NOVEMBER MEETING

This Update will again be brief:

1. There were three major areas of discussion at the meeting:
 - A. The prospects are good for a 'KPERS Day at the Capitol.' (Or some other catchy title. 😊) We have a tentative date of Wednesday, February 8th. Because of the legislative year, we are almost forced to schedule this event in February. We will not have an absolute confirmation until after Thanksgiving, because all we can do is formally request the date. This event would replace the 'Rallies' of the past and be reformatted. The suggested ideas will require more planning, so it would be helpful if we had an **idea of who** would be interested in attending. Please begin making plans to attend now! The second requirement is that we have enough retirees in attendance, so as to not embarrass ourselves.
The focus of that day will be the COLA. We are working on other avenues and that will likely include Tier III discussions as well. We believe, however, that on that day we must focus on a BENEFIT Increase of some nature. We are up to 7 ideas on what to pursue. How we plan to pursue a benefit increase should be available in detail by the next meeting. **Also**, if you have some **benefit-increase ideas**, please let me know. We may not have thought of them!
 - B. The election outcome, which I have attached an unofficial copy of, brought some interesting changes. The breakpoint on the supermajority (the number needed to override a Governor's veto is 84 votes.) The majority now has 85. To sustain a veto the vote count would require 2 of the majority to vote with 100% of the minority, or some combination to hold the count to override a veto under 84. A bit complicated, but we thought you should know as there is a lot written about this.
 - C. We hope you have been communicating with your legislator. It has been noted that there are 32 new Representatives. I know of only one who has been thoroughly briefed on KPERS. So.....you need to talk to your legislator and fill them in the best you can to help us out. Just remember, whatever you know, particularly if you have been reading these Updates, about KPERS, exceeds what most, especially the new ones, know about the subject.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

2. Using the suggestions below, email or otherwise communicate to your representative YOUR need for a COLA. I have also attached the previously released brochure. The facts contained within are still accurate except for the present rate of inflation which still exceeds 7%. We will insert the latest figures prior to the 'KPERS Day' in February.
 - A. If your legislator indicates that she/he favors a COLA, please email or text me and let me know the extent of their commitment. We have stated before that it would not be inappropriate to ask for that commitment in writing.

Stay safe and warm,

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EMAIL IDEAS

Jerry Henn, KARSP Executive Director, and I attended an AARP/NRTA (National Retired Teacher Association) conference virtually. One of the presentations was on effective emails. I found it personally very helpful. I am sharing it with you because I believed it would be very helpful to you as well, but also because the emphasis on brevity may relieve some of your communication fear with your representative in Topeka. This information is very compatible with my comments, "Remember a dissertation is not necessary!" 😊

The Subject Line

- A. A subject line should be limited to about **30 characters**.
- B. Make it time sensitive/urgent if possible.
- C. "Will you please vote [or take some other action] for _____."
- a. "Will you please voice your support for a COLA now!"
- b. Hopefully, you will be able to use this suggestion later! "Please vote for Bill _____ which provides the KPERS retired with a COLA."

Email Body

- A. **Make the first sentence and certainly the first paragraph a summary of the rest of the body of the email.**
- B. Remainder of the email body:
 - a. Second Level: In some more detail, **3 to 5** sentences explain in more detail (IF NECESSARY).
If possible, communicate to the recipient what the problem is, the solution and the action needed.
 - b. Third Level: An option might be to enclose a link to something you want them to look at in greater detail. One example might be: List our website, www.ksretirees.org, and what you want them to read on the site.

Three Cautions:

- 1. Do not try to prove your knowledge of the vocabulary of the English language. 😊
- 2. Keep the statistics to a minimum!
- 3. **Be brief and concise!!**

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Prepared by Ernie Claudel, KARSP Legislative Chair and KCPR and KARSP Lobbyist and members of the KARSP executive board and KCPR Steering Committee.

Find Your Legislator

If you do not know, or are not sure, who your Kansas Senator and Representative is, go to OpenStates.org. It will ask you what you are looking for and enter legislators. It will next ask for your address, and your Senator and Representative will pop up!!