



Update

Dear Friends

August 8, 2016

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)

The monthly meeting of KCPR was held Monday, August 8th. The primary reason for the meeting was to begin work on the 2017 report to the legislature, a document KCPR puts together on an annual basis. A committee was established to work on the document. We of course had a lengthy discussion regarding the recently completed primary. The general consensus was that the outcome was caused by hard work on the candidate's part. We would caution that the money spent on the General Election might increase noticeably.

As we move toward the General Election, it is likely that you will receive postcards from out of the area, from those who don't work or live here and don't raise their families here. They won't hesitate to use all matters of spins and untruth. These flashy cards are used by both sides; however, some of the incumbents in Johnson County have used these to try to convince everyone that they supported education by voting for the bill that led to the schools being funded. There were in fact only 5 no votes and three not voting in the house. Only one Senator voted against the compromised bill. Don't be fooled by the glitz and glitter! You must vet (research) the candidates of the races you have interest in and as the Wichita Eagle suggests, "Then vote with care!"

We have included a link to the Wichita Eagle to an article that discusses the subject in the previous paragraph. It is entitled "Be skeptical of campaign mailer claims." I have provided the link if you are interested. <http://www.kansas.com/opinion/editorials/article91995487.html>

Further, we suggest that when talking to a candidate or an elected official...Be watching for the following:

1. Since experience tells us that often candidates are not interested in what you have to say, be cautious when they listen. (We have at least one Johnson County legislator that is great at listening and then "voting against you".) First, you have to determine if they are listening because they know they need to, or because they are really interested in your opinion.
2. It is not enough to ask if they are supportive of your interest.
Example: Are you supportive of a benefit increase for KPERS? Will you refuse to support any legislation that further "short funds" KPERS?
3. You must ask the next question: Will you vote for a bill that calls for an increase in KPERS benefits? Will you vote against any legislation that further "short funds" KPERS?
4. The place in time that we reside, members of KCPR and KARSP have witnessed multiple times when the legislator will be opposed to the leadership's position, but vote with them anyway. One recent example is the vote to "short fund" KPERS the approximate \$94million with the promise of repayment later with interest. A Senator was very opposed to any reduction, because he had been a part of voting for what was considered the "fix" when the "Cash Balance" system was introduced. But when "push came to shove," he could not bring himself to vote "against the Governor"! This is why #3 above is so important.

Regarding Voting in the General Election: We are not going to get into the Presidential race. ☺ There are claims that if you don't vote for one candidate or the other, you are passively voting for the other. Who knows how those will play out? What we want you to do is vote for the State and Local offices even if you don't vote for President.

Important Dates

Important Dates for General Election

Tuesday, October 18 – Deadline to register to vote

Advanced Voting by Mail begins – Wednesday, August 19

Advance Voting in person begins – Monday, October 24, Ends Monday, November 7 at noon.

Friday, November 4 – Deadline to apply for an advance ballot to be mailed

Tuesday, November 8 – General Election

You may register to vote at your Local County Clerk, or in the large counties, the Election Office. If you are in need of a photo ID or Drivers License, they can be obtained at your Driver's License Bureau.

Remember that if you are registering to vote, you will need a proof of citizenship which would either be a birth certificate or a passport. Check with your local election office or your county clerk on this matter soon. If you are not registered to vote, do not put this action off.

"When you skip voting, it's not rebellion, its surrender!" Research makes it unclear of this quote's origin! We do know that the responsibilities placed on each citizen by the Constitution are twofold: 1. Serve on Juries and 2. Vote!

Have a wonderful weekend!!!! Stay Cool!!!

- Remember to send us your updated email address...also if for any reason you should no longer wish to receive this update, let us know at the address(es) listed at the end of this "update," and we will contact you and remove you from the official mailing lists.
- Just a reminder, that this email is an official report of the Kansas Coalition of Public Retirees. If Ron and I editorialize, we will indicate that fact.
- Remember that we want you to forward this to other retirees and the "working" who will benefit from this information.
- The KCPR website is www.ksretirees.org

Ernie Claudel
eclaudel1@comcast.net
913-481-6923

Ron Gardner
rongardner1811@comcast.net.