



Update

Dear Friends,

September 14, 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 September MEETING

This Update will be brief:

1. Re the brochure: The latest brochure will always be posted on the website. We have updated it with minor changes. Whenever you receive a Brochure, please save it and discard the previous one! We sincerely hope that this brochure will be helpful in your discussions with legislative candidates. We will have this posted on the website as well (www.ksretirees.org) in printable form. You will find a reprint of email contact ideas below!
2. We are of the understanding that there may be an interest in the legislature that a COLA may now be of interest. Certainly, the present inflation rate has something to do with the change of heart. We would also guess that your "cards and letters" which we understand were many did help. (In a close race no candidate would not want to lose because they did not support a COLA!) Latest inflation rate August to August is 8.3!
3. We set out a path for developing this year's COLA strategy. Since we have legislators suggesting that a COLA may be appropriate, we are going to suggest an CPI indexed COLA of some type and modify last year's 1-5% proposal. The group feels that since we have been unsuccessful in the past, we might try something new since the ideas has come from the legislators this time.
4. What can you do to help:
 - A. I have attached a copy of who will be on the general election ballot for each district. This contains a slight correction in District 102 and District 123.
 - B. Please contact each one. Contact the candidates, if your representative does not have further opposition, contact them now!
 - C. Then contact the winners again.
 - D. Be sure that they commit to supporting a COLA. *One of our steering committee members has already made that demand and received the promise of support in writing!*
 - E. YOU need to know that because of Kansas Statute, the total cost of a COLA must be stated in the bills required fiscal note. There was great misunderstanding last year as apparently numerous legislators thought that the \$317.4 Million cost in the fiscal not was an annual cost, not the annuitized cost! (*If you have questions about this please contact me!*)
5. Why is the above (#4) suggested:
 - A. We must have more votes. Legislation is not passed w/o affirmative votes.
 - B. You need to know where your representative stands.
 - a. We have discovered many have a different persona at home that in Topeka.
 - b. Many of us tend to think that the problem tends to be the neighboring districts Representative, not their own.
 - c. We are repeatedly promised support, and then the vote/support does not come.
 - d. We suggest you try to get the Representative promise of support in writing!

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6. Be sure you contact your State Senator as well. Please note that only one up for re-election. He was appointed because of a death.
7. BE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE!!

We are closing with 'Stay COOL!' 😊

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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!!