



Update

Dear Friends

July 13, 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 Wednesday, July 13th. Before we forget to mention this, we have scheduled our next Meeting for MONDAY, August 8th. Some of the major discussions today centered on the content of the Annual Report to the Legislature by KCPR. We also decided that we should finally try to put together some of our historical documents so that the information was saved in more than one place. We will work on these objectives during the next meeting.

The rest of the meeting was taken up on encouraging people to vote in the primary and, of course, in the general election as well. We have always tried to be factual, so here goes:

1. It is widely understood that Kansas is not producing enough revenue to fund the present State budget.
2. We at KCPR are fearful that once again, the State employer contribution will be tapped as a source of this much needed revenue. The legislature has done much to put the KPERS contributions back on track, but we fear another round of short funding.
3. Everyone in the State (and most in the country) knows of our Governor's low approval rating. He is our Governor through 2018. It has also been shared widely that of what we know as of this minute, he is not a candidate for impeachment.
4. The only way that his apparent goals can be thwarted is to elect people who will not support his agenda.
5. If you share our concern, you must carefully evaluate who you choose to vote for in the upcoming primary elections. We have noted that in the past there is a tendency to blame everyone else's Representative or Senator and not your own. You must figure where your candidates stand. There are many sources of this information.
6. When you "vet" (evaluate) the candidates, we suggest two questions:
 - a. Since there are only 50% of the candidates still running for office who voted for the Governor's tax cut in 2012; did the candidate vote for the tax cut?
 - b. Would the candidate favor a KPERS benefit adjustment for inflation?
7. One of the concerns in our county is that many of the candidates are patting themselves on the back for solving the recent school funding compromise. There were in fact only 9 representatives who did not vote for the school funding solution. Six voted against it and three were absent or did not vote. Only one Senator voted against the compromise solution. Obviously the legislature bowed to tremendous pressure and passed overwhelmingly the compromise bill. Be sure this was not their first positive vote on the matter, and really only voted in favor of the bill JUST because it is an election year!
8. Please vote and be watchful for whom you vote. Do not be tricked! Be wary of "spin" and out right "lies"! Up until this final vote, a majority of the Representatives and Senators were voting against any compromise plan. This tells us that the pressure on them between adjournment and the "special session" was extremely great; the sense was undoubtedly exacerbated by the fact that it is an election year!!!
9. Additionally, we have been informed that it is not wise to base your decision on whether or not to vote because of the results of polls as reported by the news media. VOTE!!!!!!!
10. Finally and sadly, there are more likely more serious ramifications (financial pain) to come! We read that a state the size of Kansas should have a 400 to 500 million dollar reserve. Kansas has none! We have not seen the end of the scary financial news!

Important Dates

Important Dates for Primary Election

Friday, July 29 – Deadline to apply for an advance ballot to be mailed

Tuesday, August 2 – Primary Election

Important Dates for General Election

Tuesday, October 18 – Deadline to register to vote

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

Tuesday, November 8 – General Election

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

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