



Update

Dear Friends,

September 13, 2017

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)

TODAY'S MEETING

September is the election month for KCPR officers. Ernie Claudel and Dennis Phillips were re-elected as Co-Chairs of the organization as were Secretary Donna Freel and Treasurer Kent Dederick.

Lengthy discussions regarding the underfunding of KPERS and the possibility of a COLA continue to be the main agenda topics of conversation and concern. The following were the main points of discussion:

1. The underfunding of KPERS by the legislature is in its 23rd year. The failure to properly fund the KPERS Retirement System has led to the concerning Unfunded Actuarial Liability (UAL). According to the KPERS Actuary, the following levels would be present if KPERS had been adequately funded:
 - a. KPERS would be funded at the ratio of 80% rather than 65%;
 - b. The unfunded actuarial liability would be \$3.6 billion instead of \$6.3 billion;
 - c. The employer contribution would be at 7.95% rather than 13.23%.
2. Because of the UAL, the legislature was required to issue two bond issues, one in 2004 for \$440 million and one in 2015 for \$1 billion, just to achieve the present level of funding as listed in number 1.
3. KPERS originated in 1962 and merged with the Kansas Teacher's Retirement System in 1971. (The statutes require that any organization joining KPERS must be fully funded. The legislature made the decision to join the two programs, and subsequently contributed an additional \$10 million a year to fully fund the Kansas Teacher's Retirement System portion of KPERS from 1971-1982, at which time they stopped the "extra" contribution.) (This action has led to our comments that KPERS School has been underfunded two times in the past and now is another underfunding about to begin?)
4. **The result of the KPERS Commission in 2011 was legislation which created the "Cash Balance" retirement plan known as Tier III.** A statutory Contribution rate for paying off the UAL was established by 2012 legislation. It was designed to incrementally increase until 2020. In 2020 the statutory rate was projected to equal the actuarial suggested rate. Note: The Statutory rate adopted by the 2012 legislature was a "scheduled" rate, not the actuarial rate. Therefore, the 2012 legislation was actually an 'underfunded' rate. THEREFORE, the ADDITIONAL REDUCTION IN EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION is actually 'underfunding' the initial 'underfunded' amount.
5. The determination of the 2011 KPERS Commission (which was established by the Governor) was that the employer KPERS contribution would need to be paid. All the while the Governor has attempted to find ways to not pay the KPERS contribution.
6. The Supreme Court of Kansas has not yet made a final ruling on school funding. If there should be a ruling that more school funding was needed, this would likely put pressure on KPERS funding once again. This possibility continues to be a real concern. **Please continue to communicate with your elected representatives the necessity to 'keep their hands off' the KPERS contributions.** Sighting an old commercial, "They will have to pay now or pay later!"

IMPORTANT DATE

At this day and time, the KCPR Rally in support of KPERS is scheduled on Monday, February 5, 2018. The back-up (weather date) will be Wednesday, February 7. The event is scheduled from 10:00 am to 11:30 am in the Rotunda in the Capitol in Topeka. [This date is yet to be officially confirmed, but we are fairly confident that this date will be officially confirmed.]

ELECTION DATES 2017 & 2018

(Any questions you have about your particular situation can be addressed to your local election office. Johnson County, Shawnee County, Sedgwick County and Wyandotte County have election offices. In all other counties election responsibilities rest with the Office of the County Clerk.)

General Election – November 7, 2017

Primary Election – August 7, 2018 General Election – November 6, 2018

June 1

Filing and Withdrawal Deadline (12 noon) (K.S.A. 25-205, K.S.A. 25-305(a), K.S.A. 25-306a)
Deadline for questions to be placed on the Primary Election ballot

July 17

Registration books close - last day to register (K.S.A. 25-2311(a)(3))

[Be sure you are registered!! Name change, address change, party affiliation change will require re-registration!]

July 18

Advance voting by mail begins - 20 days prior to Election Day
(K.S.A. 25-1123(a))

July 23

Advance voting in person begins (K.S.A. 25-1122(g))

[THE ADVANCE VOTING PEREMITERS MAY VARY FROM COUNTY TO COUNTY. CHECK ON THESE LOCALLY!! – The dates listed above are Johnson County Dates!!]

August 6

Advance voting in person closes (12 noon) (K.S.A. 25-1122(g))
Filing deadline for Independent nominations (12 noon) (K.S.A. 25-305(b))
Filing deadline for District Court Judges Retention of Judges (12 noon) (K.S.A. 20-2908)

August 7

FALL PRIMARY ELECTION

First Tuesday in August in even numbered years (K.S.A. 25-203, K.S.A. 25-2502(b))

August 13

Primary Canvass (K.S.A. 25-3104)

September 1

Deadline for questions to be placed on the General Election ballot
Deadline for State Board of Canvassers to meet (Primary) (K.S.A. 25-3205)

September 7

Filing deadline for Supreme Court and Court of Appeals judges to file for retention
Kansas Constitution Article 3 Section 5(c) (K.S.A. 20-3006(a))

October 16

Registration books close - last day to register (K.S.A. 25-2311(a)(3))

October 17

Advance voting by mail begins - 20 days prior to Election Day (K.S.A. 25-1123(a))

October 22

Advance voting in person begins (K.S.A. 25-1122(g))

November 5

Advance voting in person closes (12 noon) (K.S.A. 25-1122(g))

November 6

FALL GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even numbered years

(K.S.A. 25-101, K.S.A. 25-2502(a))

November 12

General Canvass (K.S.A. 25-3104)

We sincerely hope you have a wonder Fall!!

- 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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