

Kansas Coalition of Public Retirees



KPERS is Not Like Social Security

KPERS is NOT like Social Security which funds the benefits of current retirees with the contributions of current workers. KPERS benefits are pre-funded. Current contributions are invested to pay future benefits. Over the past 20 years 51% of the KPERS Trust Fund has come from investment returns. Without the recent increase in funding and the 2015 bond issue, approximately 57% of funding would have been from investment returns.

KPERS is a 401a, IRS approved retirement system. It is set up in the following manner: The employer and employee contribute to the Trust Fund. This money is invested over time to increase the assets in the fund. The employer amount is set by the legislature as the actuarial suggested amount and the employee contribution is also established by the legislature. All KPERS retirees and members have paid every dime required and have met all requirements necessary to receive KPERS benefits as outlined by the Kansas legislature. The amount of contribution requested of them has only increased, never decreased. Of the 1,518 employers* who contribute to KPERS only one has failed to pay the required amount, the state of Kansas.

* (The 1,518 employers that contribute to KPERS are the state of Kansas, 105 counties, 363 cities, 61 townships, 286 school districts, 122 libraries, 83 conservation districts, 69 extension councils, 19 community colleges, 25 educational cooperatives, 43 recreation commissions, 29 hospitals, 13 cemetery districts, 96 Kansas police and fire groups, judges and 203 other groups.)

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