JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SECOND QUARTER MEETING April 27, 2017

JCPER

The Joint Committee on Public Employee Retirement held its 2nd Quarter Meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 9:00am in House Hearing Room 1. The meeting had originally been scheduled for HHR 7, but it was moved to HHR 1 when the previous meeting ran long and was not finished in time. With a quorum being established, Chairman Schaaf called the meeting to order. Joint Committee members in attendance were Senators Chappelle-Nadal, Koenig, Rizzo, Schaaf, Wallingford, and Walsh and Representatives Anders, Bernskoetter, Brown (27), Runions, Shull, and Walker (3).

Chairman Schaaf turned the meeting over to the Executive Director, Michael Ruff. The Director presented one action item requiring approval of the committee, the annual conference held by the Missouri Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems (MAPERS). The conference is to be held July 12 through July 14, 2017 at Tan-Tar-A. The Director indicated the committee must authorize the reimbursement of conference expenses for staff and/or committee members to attend. Chairman Schaaf made the motion for the committee to pay for MAPERS expenses, and Vice-Chairman Walker seconded. The motion passed by acclamation of the committee.

The Director then discussed plan developments beginning with a review of municipal election results from early April. Several political subdivisions had tax levy increases on the ballot for pension funding, in whole or in part. The first plan discussed was the City of Webster Groves Police & Fire / General Employees, and its Proposition R. The City joined LAGERS in 2013, and with this ballot issue it sought to upgrade the LAGERS' retirement benefit program for the general employees from a 1.5 multiplier to a 1.75. The Police & Fire benefit program would increase from a 2.0 multiplier to a 2.5. Police and Fire employees are not in Social Security, so the City believed the 2.5 multiplier is a more appropriate level and would eliminate high employee turnover. Voters adopted the tax levy increase from 12 cents to 20 cents. The second plan discussed was Affton Fire Protection District. It was on the November 2016 watch list and had not met its full actuarially determined contribution. The district sought a general tax levy increase of up to 25 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, and voters approved, for general operations with a portion of the proceeds to fund the pension. The third plan seeking a tax levy increase in April was Overland Police. The plan's actuary had noted insufficient tax revenue, and Overland attempted to increase the tax levy from 12 cents to 24 cents for residential and to 36 cents for commercial. The increase failed to pass. However, the Overland City Council modified three components of the plan through ordinance change that did not require voter approval: refund of contributions upon retirement, increase employee contributions, and retroactive COLA. The Committee requested that the Director follow up with Overland to determine whether the changes to its benefit structure will improve

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SECOND QUARTER MEETING April 27, 2017 (Continued)

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plan solvency and to inquire about the City's tax base. Also, the Fenton Fire Protection District passed a tax levy increase of 39 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation for general operations; however, the District has not ruled out future use of the tax increase for its pension.

The Director then discussed the Sheriffs' Retirement System as a result of a series of articles published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. The articles focused on the funding mechanism of the system, which is a \$3 surcharge in all civil actions filed in the courts of the state and in all criminal cases, and whether the surcharge applies to municipal courts. The plan is currently 87% funded, but if the municipal court surcharge were to be discontinued, the fund would potentially need to address its funding mechanism. As Sheriffs' is a statutory plan, any changes to the funding mechanism would need to come from an act of the General Assembly.

The Director shared correspondence received from Matthew J. Gierse, an attorney representing the Public School Retirement System of the City of St. Louis. The correspondence requested that the JCPER oppose current legislation which would impact this retirement system. The Director explained that the JCPER has generally not taken a position on legislation with one notable exception being legislation in 2014 that modified the JCPER's governing statutes and requirements for information that must be included in actuarial cost statements. Committee members believed it was inappropriate for the JCPER to take a position on such legislation; the only legislation in which the JCPER should take a position is legislation directly affecting the JCPER.

Pension-related legislation was reviewed. There are currently two omnibus bills moving through the legislative process. SCS/HCS/HB 831, the St. Louis Airport Police bill, passed through the Senate Health & Pensions Committee with additional provisions of CERF funding, PACARS provisions, MOSERS/MPERS vesting and terminated vested cash-out, CURP contributions, PSRS/PEERS divorce pop-up, PSRS/ Kansas City PSRS return to work, third party/independent contractor provision. HCS/SS/SB 62 also includes CURP, CERF funding, MOSERS/MPERS terminated vested cash -out, PSRS/PEERS divorce pop-up, and one non-retirement provision for an extra one -dollar Recorder of Deeds fee. The MOSERS funding of the plan's full actuarially determined contribution (ADC) was not appropriated by the House. However, the Senate increased the appropriation to the full ADC. JCPER staff will be following this budget item through the end of session.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SECOND QUARTER MEETING

April 27, 2017 (Continued)

Quarterly plan investment reporting was reviewed for the first quarter of 2017, ending March 31. Many of the plans do not have their information available yet, but those who have reported show positive returns.

No further business being presented, the committee adjourned.

JCPER

Michael Ruff // Executive Director



JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

2nd QUARTER MEETING April 27, 2017 9:00 a.m.— House Hearing Room 7

AGENDA

Roll Call

Budgetary Item* MAPERS Approval

Plan Developments LAGERS / Webster Groves Affton Fire Protection District Retirement Plan Overland Police Retirement Plan Fenton Fire Protection District Retirement Plan Sheriffs' Retirement System

Legislative Update

Quarterly Reporting

Other Business

*Action Item



Conference Agenda



Conference

Registration

Sponsorship Attendees

Lodging

Current Agenda

Conference Dates

Missouri Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems

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Conference Contact

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Conference Agenda



(Tentative Agenda)

Wednesday, July 12, 2017 - Salon A, 6th Floor

10:00 - 5:00 pm	Registration/Courtesy Desk Open
12:00 - 12:50 pm	Sunshine Law - Omar Davis, Investment Legal & Compliance
Counsel, PSRS	
1:00 - 1:50 pm*	Beginning Investments - Brian Collett
1:00 - 1:50 pm*	Advanced Actuary - Ken Alberts and Heidi Barry, Gabriel Roeder
Smith and Compan	У
2:00 - 2:50 pm*	Advanced Investments - Brian Collett
2:00 - 2:50 pm*	Beginning Actuary - Ken Alberts and Heidi Barry, Gabriel Roeder
Smith and Compan	У
2:50 - 3:15 pm	Afternoon Break
3:15 - 4:00 pm	Fiduciary Responsibilty - Jason Palmer, Senior Managing
Consultant, Multi-A	sset Class Portfolio Specialist,
	PFM Asset Management
4:00 - 4:45 pm	Capitol Report - Michael Ruff, Executive Director, Joint Committee-
Public Employee R	
5:30 - 7:00 pm	Whole Hog Reception - Open to all Attendees/Guests/Family (Name
Tags Required) - Sa	Ion B

* Beginning Investment participants will go to Beginning Actuary and Advanced Actuary participants will go to Advanced Investments

Thursday, July 13, 2017 - Salon A, 6th Floor

Breakfast Buffet - Open to all Attendees/Guests/Family (Name Tags 7:00 - 8:15 am Required) - Salon B Registration/Courtesy Desk Open 7:30 - 4:00 pm Opening Remarks - Jennifer Johnson, MAPERS Board President 8:00 - 8:15 am Current Economic Outlook - Kennedy Capital 8:15 - 9:00 am Media Relations, Messaging - Mack Reynolds, Public Relations, 9:00 - 9:45 am

Conference Agenda

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9:45 - 10:10 am	Morning Break
10:10 - 11:10 am	Courageous Leadership: Unconscious Bias and Emotional
Intelligence - Shawn	a Ferguson, Wellington Management
11:10 - 12:00 pm	Geopolitics - Steve Malin, Allianz
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch "Cheeseburgers in Paradise" - Open to all
Attendees/Guests/Fa	amily (Name Tags Required) - Salon B
1:00 - 2:30 pm	THE ART OF DECEPTION: How Hackers and Con Artists
Manipulate You - Key	
2:30 - 3:00 pm	Afternoon Break
3:00 - 3:50 pm	CIO Panel
3:50 - 4:00 pm	Break
4:00 - 5:00 pm	Low Volatility Equities - Brian Morandi, Invesco
5:30 - 7:00 pm	Surf, Turf & Pasta Reception - Open to all Attendees/Guests/Family
(Nome Tone Dequired)	

(Name Tags Required) - Salon B

Friday, July 14, 2017 - Salon A, 6th Floor

7:00 - 8:15 am Breakfast Buffet - Open to all Attendees/Guests/Family (Name Tags Required) - Salon B 8:15 - 9:10 am Ethics - Frank Bucaro 9:10 - 9:20 am Morning Break 9:20 - 10:20 am Futurist - New Regimes for a Changing World - Hal Hershfield, Assistant Professor, Marketing Department, Anderson School of Management, UCLA 10:20 - 10:45 am Break 10:45 - 11:15 am Strategic Planning, Risk Controls - Greg Beck MPERS 11:15 - 11:45 am Public Pension Award and General Business Meeting, Close of Conference - Jennifer Johnson 11:45 - 12:15 pm Lunch on the Run - Open to all Attendees/Guests/Family -**Registration Foyer**

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Webster Groves - Proposition R April 4, 2017 Ballot Issue Summary

	Current	New
	Benefits	Benefits
Webster Groves Police & Fire:		
LAGERS Benefit Program	L-6	L-11
Multiplier	2.0%	2.5%
Social Security	No	No
Rule of 80	No	No
Employer Contribution Rate	4%	4%
Webster Groves General Employees:		
LAGERS Benefit Program	L-7	L-12
Multiplier	1.5%	1.75%
Social Security	Yes	no change
Rule of 80	No	no change
Employer Contribution Rate	4%	no change

Prior property tax levy to fund police & fire retirement: 12 cents (per \$100 of assessed valuation)

Approved property tax levy to fund police & fire retirement: 20 cents (per \$100 of assessed valuation)

With an average home value of \$271,000 in Webster Groves, the 8 cent property tax increase will cost the homeowner an additional \$41.19 annually. *

* According to ballot information provided by the City of Webster Groves.

Unofficial Election Results - April 4, 2017 Election

	Votes	Percent
WEBSTER GROVES - PROPOSITION R		
TAX - POLICE & FIREFIGHTERS PENSION		
(Vote for) 1		
(WITH 13 OF 13 COUNTED)		
YES	3,372	64.49
NO	1,857	35.51

DIRECTOR WEBSTER GRO (Vote for) 3 (WITH 27 OF 27 COUN			CHO	OL I	DIS	FRI (СТ		
AMY CLENDENNEN	•	•	•	•		•	•	3,903	24.50
JO BETH DOLL	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	4,052	25.44
THOMAS (TOM) NEWPORT	Г.			•	•	•	•	2,906	18.24
DAVID ADDISON	•	•	•	•			•	3,104	19.49
MICHAEL J. ROSE .	•	•	•	•		•	•	1,848	11.60
WRITE-IN	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	116	.73

ST. I **SAI											TY*	*		
(Vote					~									
(WITH	1 8	22	OF	822	C	NUO:	TED	1						
YES		•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	101,964	63.18
NO.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	59,433	36.82

BILL NO. 8975

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #8965 RELATED TO REVISING THE PROPOSITION TITLE FOR THE APRIL 4, 2017 ELECTION BALLOT FROM PROPOSITION <u>"P" TO PROPOSITION "R" REFERENCED THROUGHOUT SAID ORDINANCE</u>

WHEREAS, the City Council placed Proposition "P" on the April 4, 2017 election ballot and thereafter discovered from the St. Louis County Election Board that St. Louis County also has a proposition on the same April 2017 ballot that is also denominated as Proposition "P"; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to avoid any confusion between the City's ballot proposition and that of St. Louis County, and the City Council wishes to revise its own Proposition "P" to Proposition "R", consistent with actions already taken by the St. Louis County Election Board to revise the City's Proposition on its printed ballot to Proposition R;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. An election is hereby ordered to be held in the City on April 4, 2017, on the following propositions:

PROPOSITION R

Shall the City of Webster Groves impose a tax upon all real property within the City at a rate of not more than (20) cents per hundred dollars assessed valuation for the purpose of funding police and firefighters' pensions completely and to supplement the pensions of other employees?

[]YES

[]NO

If you are in favor of the question, place an "X" in the box opposite "YES". If you are opposed to the question, place an "X" in the box opposite "NO".

Section 2. The form of the Notice of Real Property Tax Election for said election, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof, is hereby approved.

Section 3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized to request a wall chart be placed at all polling places with the following additional information about Proposition R:

Passage of Proposition R will authorize the levy and collection of an annual tax in the City sufficient to fund the police and firefighters' pension at current levels under an existing tax that will be subsumed within the new tax, plus an additional sum designed to partially replace social security benefits that the police and firefighters of Webster Groves do not receive (no social security taxes are paid by the City for police and fire personnel) and also to provide some supplementary benefits to provide an equitable pension benefit for all City employees.

Section 4. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Director of Elections of St. Louis County, Missouri, of the adoption of this Ordinance.

Section 5. Should Proposition R be passed, the previous levy under the existing tax funding the police and firefighter's pension shall be subsumed by the levy imposed pursuant to Proposition R; but if Proposition R fails, the existing tax approved in 1981 shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect immediately after its adoption by the City Council and approval by the Mayor.

Section 7. This Ordinance shall not be published in the Code of Webster Groves.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 7 day of March 2017.

la Mayor

ATTEST: City Clerk

(SEAL)

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF REAL PROPERTY TAX ELECTION CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of the City of Webster Groves, Missouri (the "City"), that the City Council of the City has called an election to be held in the City on April 4, 2017, commencing at 6:00 a.m. and closing at 7:00 p.m., on the proposition contained in the following sample ballot:

OFFICIAL BALLOT MUNICIPAL ELECTION CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI

APRIL 4, 2017

PROPOSITION R

Shall the City of Webster Groves impose a tax upon all real property within the City at a rate of not more than (20) cents per hundred dollars assessed valuation for the purpose of funding police and firefighters' pensions completely and to supplement the pensions of other employees?

YES	
NO	

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: If you are in favor of a proposition, place an X in the box opposite "YES." If you are opposed to a proposition, place an X in the box opposite "NO."

The election will be held at the following polling places in the City:

PRECINCT

POLLING PLACE

DATED: _____, 2017.

Director of Elections of St. Louis County, Missouri



Proposition R

Q and A

Q: What is Proposition R?

A: Proposition R is an April 4 ballot issue that asks voters to approve an 8-cent property tax to increase retirement funding for Webster Groves police, fire, and non public safety staff.

Q: If approved, how will this 8-cent increase be used?

A: The City joined LAGERS (Local Government Employees Retirement System), a Missouri nonprofit, in 2013. LAGERS provides various levels of contribution formulas that determine retirement funding. The 8-cent increase will allow for a better formula for police, fire, and non public safety employees.

Q: Tell me more about LAGERS.

A: LAGERS is the largest pension system for local government employees in the state. Over 670 member employers belong and it has \$6 billion in assets. The pension is funded at 94.7%.

Q: Why did the City join LAGERS?

A: Prior to LAGERS, City employees managed their own retirement accounts. With LAGERS, employee pension investments are professionally managed rather than managed by employees who may have limited knowledge about investment strategies. LAGERS ensures some level of income in retirement.

Q: Do other cities in the area belong to LAGERS?

A: Yes. Many cities in the area belong to LAGERS or another defined benefit plan and provide the higher formula level that the 8-cent tax increase will enable the City to fund. The cities with the higher formula can provide better benefit packages for employees.

Q: Is employee retention a factor in asking for the 8-cent tax increase?

A: In 2016, the City lost 21 employees, including 14 in police and fire. The 8-cent increase will allow the City to offer a benefit package comparable to other cities in the region and help to retain experienced staff.

Q: Why is retention so important?

A: Retention of staff is cost effective for the City. New employees, particularly police and fire, cause the City to invest in hiring, testing, training, and specialized equipment costs. When a firefighter leaves, for example, the City must reinvest in another firefighter who will require specialized equipment among other costs. Retention also provides experience levels that result in better responses. With time on the job, police and fire, for example, know the City – roadblocks that reduce response time, school buildings, and more.

Q: Are police and fire part of the Social Security System?

A: Here is an important issue. In Webster Groves, police and fire personnel do NOT belong to or contribute to Social Security and as a result cannot count on the monthly income that Social Security provides. The 8-cent increase will raise the retirement funding formula to a level that will help to compensate for not belonging to Social Security.

Q: How much will Proposition R cost me?

A: The average home in Webster Groves is valued at \$271,000. This means that the additional cost for the average home owner is \$41.19 annually, or \$3.43 per month. Homes valued at less than the average will pay less than \$3.43 per month.

Q: I hear about Fire Protection Districts. Why don't we join one?

A: In a municipal department such as the Webster Groves fire department, fire and paramedic service is paid for out of the City's general budget. In a Fire Protection District there is a separate property tax levy that property owners pay. In some cities this is as much as \$3.22 per \$100 of assessed valuation. It is an advantage to property tax payers to retain the municipal department.

Q: Is the annual cost for LAGERS more or less expensive than the old retirement plan?

A: The cost for LAGERS is less.

Q: Why don't we just enroll police and fire in Social Security rather than upgrade the LAGERS formula?

A: An agreement was signed in 1951 that excluded Police Officers and Firefighters from participation in Social Security. If that agreement changed, there would be some retroactive payments by both the City and the employees. In addition, it is less expensive to upgrade LAGERS.

Q: Why does the ballot say that there will be an increase of up to 20-cents?

A: Property owners currently pay 12 cents to fund police and fire retirement. The change to 20 cents allows for the 8-cent increase. The City also has a ¼ cent sales tax for fire funding.

Proposition R

The City of Webster Groves has placed Proposition R on the April 4 ballot that would, if passed, increase retirement funding for the City's firefighters, police officers, and non-public safety staff.

Proposition R is an 8 cent property tax increase per \$100 of assessed valuation that would allow Webster Groves to increase the formula used to calculate LAGERS retirement benefits. It would bring Webster Groves in line with several comparable cities in the area that offer better levels of benefits for police, fire, and other employees.

Funding from Proposition R could be of assistance in retaining staff.





To retain public safety staff, Webster Groves needs to provide benefits comparable to other cities.

Why is Proposition R on the Ballot?

Retention of staff, especially staff that require specialized training, is cost effective for Webster Groves. With each new hire, there is an investment in hiring costs such as testing, training, personalized equipment, and more. In 2016, the loss of 7 firefighters meant that the City's investment in these individuals was gone and new reinvestment dollars were needed.

Experienced staff simply provide better service. They know the community, the individuals who need repeated assistance, and can respond more effectively. With experience, they know how school buildings are configured, where roadblocks can slow response time, and how to access back doors to businesses. Frequent turnover of staff, such as the loss of 14 police officers and firefighters in 2016, means that the experience levels are lost.

The benefit package that is offered to employees affects retention. With a sufficient retirement plan, the City should be able to retain its experienced staff.

What is LAGERS?

In July 2013, the City joined the non-profit Missouri Local Government Employees Retirement System (LAGERS), the largest pension system for local government employees in the state. LAGERS has over 670 member employers and \$6 billion in assets.

Webster Groves joined LAGERS for several reasons. With this program, employee pension investments are professionally managed rather than controlled by employees who may have limited knowledge of investment strategies. LAGERS ensures that long-time employees who retire from the City have some level of income in retirement.

Webster Groves also joined LAGERS to provide retirement benefits comparable to other cities



in the region that provide better benefit packages for their employees, especially the disability benefit for public safety employees.

Prop R moves non-public safety to 1.75% and public safety to 2.5%.

City or District	Benefit Multiplier (a)	Employee Contribution	Social Security Participant
Nonpublic safety/ general employees			
Clayton	1.5%	3%	Yes
Hazelwood	2.0%	0%	Yes
Maplewood	2.0%	4%	Yes
Maryland Heights	2.0%	0%	Yes
Richmond Heights	2.0%	0%	Yes
Webster Groves	1.5%	4%	Yes
Police and Fire			
Clayton	2.0%	5%	Yes
Maplewood	2.5%	4%	No
Maryland Heights	2.0%	0%	Yes
Richmond Heights	2.33% (b)	3%	Yes
West Overland Fire Protection District	2.0 %	0%	Yes
Webster Groves	2%	4%	No



(b) Richmond Heights Police and Fire formula is 70% of salary to a maximum of 30 years service.



Social Security and Police and Fire

In Webster Groves, police and fire personnel do NOT participate in Social Security, which provides a stable monthly income in retirement. Non-public safety employees do participate in Social Security. As a result, the LAGERS formula for calculating retirement benefits for police and fire is higher than the formula for other employees.

City of Webster Groves

Municipal Fire Departments and Fire Protection Districts – How do the Costs for Taxpayers Differ?

Fire service in St. Louis County is provided by either a municipal fire department or a fire protection district. The funding for a department and the funding for a district are different and affect tax payers differently.

In a municipal department, such as Webster Groves, funding for fire and paramedic services comes from the City's general budget. In a fire protection district, funding comes from a separate property tax levy. For example, property owners in Creve Coeur pay an additional \$1.18 per \$100 of assessed valuation to fund fire services and some communities in north county

In 2016, 14 police and fire left the employ of Webster Groves. This included 5 firefighters who joined other departments, 2 firefighters who retired from the city, 5 police officers who chose an alternative position, and 2 police officers who retired from the force. In addition 9 non-public safety staff left the City. pay up to \$3.22 per \$100 of assessed valuation. (Webster Groves does have a 12 cent levy for police and fire pensions and a ¼ cent fire sales tax.)

Providing fire service in a municipal department is less costly for taxpayers than providing it in a fire protection district.













COST PER RESIDENT FOR FIRE/PARAMEDIC SERVICES FIRE DEPARTMENTS (FD) and FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS (FPD)

City or District	Department Budget	Area Population	Number of Staff	Cost per Resident
Creve Coeur FPD	\$16,413,604	40,000	54	\$410
Maryland Heights FPD	\$9,543,249	27,436	47	\$348
West Overland FPD	\$3,250,034	8,000	19	\$406
Clayton FD	\$4,653,243	15,978	35	\$291
Maplewood FD	\$2,929,599	8,046	20	\$578
Kirkwood FD	\$6,486,319	27,540	53	\$236
Webster Groves FD	\$4,336,838	22,995	38	\$188

City of Webster Groves



City of Webster Groves 4 East Lockwood Ave Webster Groves, Missouri 63119

See inside for important information regarding Webster Groves Proposition R to appear on the upcoming April 4th ballot.

Prsrt Std U.S. POSTAGE PAID ST. LOUIS, MO PERMIT NO. 4400

The cost of this proposition is 8 cents.

Prop R: Q&A

Q: What factors determine the annual LAGERS cost?

A: The annual cost is determined by an actuarial evaluation performed by a firm hired by LAGERS.

Q: Is the annual cost for LAGERS more expensive than the old 401a style retirement plan that we used to have?

A: No. The cost is for LAGERS is less.

Q: Why don't police officers and firefighters participate in Social Security?

A. An agreement was signed in 1951 that excluded Police Officers and Firefighters from participation in Social Security. Prior to 1951, Social Security coverage was unavailable to state and local government employees, which included uniformed personnel. Q: Is this the same for all police officers and firefighters in other neighboring communities?
A: No. Very few municipalities have this type of agreement where police and fire do not pay into Social Security.

Q: If the City purchased Social Security for police officers and firefighters, would it have to back pay all of the years where they did not participate in it? A: These modifications can be

effective retroactively, but the maximum number of years covered would be 5 years. Police and Fire employees would also have to back pay those years.

Q: Would it be less expensive to enroll everyone in Social Security or to upgrade LAGERS?

A: It would be cheaper to upgrade LAGERS. (The difference in cost would be a 4-5% increase in total contributions to fund Social Security over the LAGERS cost to upgrade.)



How Much Will Prop R Cost Homeowners?

Prop R will cost property owners an additional 8 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. The average home in Webster Groves is valued at \$271,000. This means that the additional cost for the average home owner is \$41.19 annually, or \$3.43 per month.

LISA BRENNER . GEORGE LENARD . DIARRA K. MORRIS CHELSEA ADDISON WRITE-IN								1,976	26.11 20.02 10.17 24.97 .43	
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PETER TOBIN COAT								639	18.25	
JEREMY SCOTT PIC								727	18.25 20.76	
DAVID FOWLER .					•			791	22.59	
JEANINE SABATINO		•		•	•			800	22.84	
MIKE KEEHNAST . WRITE-IN	• •	•	•	٠	·	•	•	523	14.93	
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YES		•						395	25.13	
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http://www.stlouisco.com/Portals/8/docs/document%20library/elections/eresults/el170404/e... 4/6/2017

(PLEASE SUBMIT IN DUPLICATE)

CERTIFICATION OF PROPOSITIONS

Board of Election Commissioners of St. Louis County

District: Affton Fire Protection District

:

:

Type of Election: General Municipal Date of Election: April 4, 2017

Majority Required: Simple Two-Thirds Four-Sevenths

It is hereby certified that the following propositions are to be placed on the ballot for this election.

<u>TYPE PROPOSITIONS EXACTLY AS THEY ARE TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT.</u> INCLUDE TITLE, QUESTION AND RESPONSE. Refer to Ballot Wording Memo for additional guidance.

PROPOSITION A

Shall the Board of Directors of the Affton Fire Protection District be authorized to levy an additional tax of not more than twenty-five cents on the one hundred dollars assessed valuation to provide funds for the support of the District?

For the Proposition

Against the Proposition _____

ι



Affton Fire Protection District Proposition "A"

is a 25 cent property tax increase placed on the April 4th, 2017 ballot

Affton Fire Protection 9282 Gravois Road St. Louis, MO 63123 314-631-1803

Photogallery

Car Seat Inspection

Employment



Passage of Prop A will cost the homeowner of a \$100,000 home less than \$4.00 per month

Affton Fire District tax rate will still be below the average rate of fire districts in St. Louis County

Current tax rate of AFPD homeowner: \$1.24

New proposed Affton FPD tax rate

Prop A

\$1.49

\$.25

Average tax rate of Fire Districts in St. Louis County 1.59 <u>Above figures from Better Together Study September 2015</u>

Passage of Prop A will allow the fire district to purchase an ambulance every 2 years as needed to address the 18% call increase in the District over the past 5 years. These ambulances equipped cost the District approximately \$250,000. The 2 ambulances currently serving our residents put 50,000 miles a year on them, each.

Passage of Prop A will allow for replacement of Engine House 2 that is over 50 years old and cannot accommodate some current equipment safely that the District Currently has. The replacement cost of this Fire Station will be between 2.5 and 3 million dollars.

Passage of Prop A will allow the Fire District to put new tax revenue away to replace the current ladder truck at station 1 at an estimated cost of over 1 million dollars.

Passage of Prop A will allow the District to supplement the Firefighters Pension Plan as it is substantially underfunded.

The assessed valuation has trended downward over the past several years and while incomes have fallen, the cost of running the District has risen dramatically.

Welcome to the Affton Fire Protection District

The Affton Fire Protection District covers an area of approximately 8.5 square miles with an approximate population of 40,000 residents. We serve the residents of Grantwood Village, Marlborough, Lakeshire, Wilbur Park, Village of Mackenzie, parts of Crestwood and unincorporated St. Louis County.



HOME · NEWS · DIVISIONS · COMMUNITY SERVICES · PRIVACY POLICY · CONTACT US

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Recommended by: Uniform Pension Board

 Bill No.
 03-2017

 Ordinance No.
 2017-03

AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE PROPERTY TAX RATE FROM \$0.12 TO \$0.24 FOR RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE, FROM \$0.12 TO \$0.36 FOR COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE, AND FROM \$0.12 TO \$0.36 FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION TO BE USED SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE RETIREMENT PLAN FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF OVERLAND, MISSOURI, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL BY THE VOTERS OF THE CITY; CALLING FOR AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON APRIL 4, 2017; PROPOSING THE FORM OF THE BALLOT AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO DO ALL THINGS CALLED FOR BY THE LAW IN CONNECTION WITH HOLDING SAID ELECTION.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Overland, Missouri, has determined that it would be in the best interest of the City of Overland, Missouri to increase the residential, commercial, and personal property tax rates solely to fund the Retirement Plan for the Police Department of the City of Overland, Missouri, and to submit such issue to the voters of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OVERLAND, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

<u>SECTION 1</u>. That the property tax rate of the City be increased from 0.12 to 0.24 for residential real estate, from 0.12 to 0.36 for commercial real estate, and from 0.12 to 0.36 for personal property per 0.00 of assessed valuation solely for the purpose of funding the Retirement Plan for the Police Department of the City of Overland.

<u>SECTION 2</u>. That such property tax increase is hereby imposed, levied, and submitted to the voters and shall be collected if approved by said voters, and all such property tax received by the City of Overland shall be segregated from the other general property tax revenues and used solely for the Retirement Plan for the Police Department of the City of Overland.

<u>SECTION 3</u>. That such property tax increase is to be effective with the assessed valuation as determined for the year beginning January 1, 2017, which is due by December 31, 2017.

<u>SECTION 4</u>. That such property tax increase shall not be effective unless approved by a majority of the votes cast by the qualified voters voting thereon at an election to be held Tuesday, April 4, 2017.

<u>SECTION 5</u>. That the proposition imposing such property tax increase shall be placed on the ballot at the regularly scheduled election to be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017.

SECTION 6. That the Board of Election Commissioners of St. Louis County, Missouri, be and hereby is authorized and directed to give notice of said election by causing to be published in one newspaper published in St. Louis County, Missouri, and qualified by law for the publication of such notice under Chapter 493 R.S.Mo., as amended, said notice to be published twice, the first publication occurring in the second week prior to the election, and the second publication occurring within one week prior to said election.

<u>SECTION 7</u>. That the Board of Election Commissioners of St. Louis County, Missouri, shall provide the ballot and ballot labels, conduct the election and cause the results thereof to be certified to the City Council as provided by law.

SECTION 8. That the ballots to be used at said election shall be in substantially the following form:

SAMPLE BALLOT FOR SPECIAL ELECTION IN THE CITY OF OVERLAND, MISSOURI ON TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017

QUESTION

Shall the City of Overland increase the property tax rate of the City from \$0.12 to \$0.24 for residential real estate, from \$0.12 to \$0.36 for commercial real estate, and from \$0.12 to \$0.36 for personal property per \$100.00 of assessed valuation solely for the purpose of funding the Retirement Plan for the Police Department of the City of Overland?

YES []

NO []

INSTRUCTION TO VOTERS

If you are in favor of the question, fill in the oval on the ballot card below the number that corresponds to YES. If you are opposed to the question, fill in the oval on the ballot card below the number that corresponds to NO. SECTION 9. That the City Clerk shall deliver to the Board of Election Commissioners of St. Louis County, Missouri, a certified copy of this Ordinance which shall be the authority for said Board to conduct said election as hereinbefore provided and as provided by law.

SECTION 10. That the City Clerk is further authorized to do all other things called for by law in connection with the holding of said election.

SECTION 11. That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval according to law.

PASSED THIS 9th DAY OF JANUARY 2017, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OVERLAND, MISSOURI.

Mayor of the City of Overland, Missouri

ATTEST:

APPROVED - FORM AND LEGALITY:

City Counselor

REVIEWED BY:

City Administrator

1465991v.2

Sponsored By: Staff

 Bill No.
 04-2017

 Ordinance No.
 2017-04

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OVERLAND, MISSOURI, AMENDING CHAPTER 200: POLICE, ARTICLE V. RETIREMENT AND PENSIONS

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OVERLAND, COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS, STATE OF MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

<u>Section 1:</u> The City Council hereby amends Section 200.380 of the Municipal Code of the City of Overland, Missouri by the addition of a new subsection 4 in the definition of "Code Section 415 Compensation" after the existing subsection 3, as follows:

4. Notwithstanding any other provision of the plan to the contrary, if a covered employee is absent from employment as an employee to perform service in the uniformed services (as defined in Chapter 43 of Title 38 of the United States Code), his Code Section 415 Compensation will include any differential pay, as defined hereunder, he receives or is entitled to receive from his employer. For purposes of this paragraph, "differential pay" means any payment made to the covered employee by the employer with respect to a period during which the covered employee is performing service in the uniformed services while on active duty for a period of more than 30 days that represents all or a portion of the wages the covered employee would have received if he had continued employment with the employee.

Section 2: The City Council hereby amends Section 200.400 of the Municipal Code of the City of Overland, Missouri by the deleting the current Section 200.400 and inserting the following in lieu thereof:

Section 200.400 Employee Contributions

Every covered employee of the Police Department of the City shall be assessed and required to pay into the Police Retirement Fund, herein created, a sum equal to five percent (5%) of his/her salary paid prior to April 1, 2017 and seven and one-half percent (7½%) of his/her salary paid on or after April 1, 2017. The City in making up its payroll for covered employees of the Police Department shall be authorized and is hereby required to deduct from the compensation and salary due each covered employee for each payroll period a sum representing employee contributions from compensation and such deduction shall be placed in a special fund and shall be paid monthly to the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. All contributions made by covered employees on or after April 1, 2017 shall be deemed to be "pick-up" contributions under Code Section 414(h)(2). Each covered employee of the Police Department shall execute and deliver to the City Clerk an authorization, in proper form, for the deduction herein described, and no covered employee shall be employed in covered services in the Police Department unless he/she shall execute such authorization.

Section 3: The City Council hereby amends subsection A of Section 200.440 of the Municipal Code of the City of Overland, Missouri by the deleting the subsection A of Section 200.440 and inserting the following in lieu thereof:

A. A covered employee whose retirement is approved by the Board of Trustees after November 15, 1994 under Section 200.410 or Section 200.430 shall be paid, at the time the first (1st) monthly payment is received, a payment equal to the total of all contributions which the covered employee made prior to April 1, 2017 pursuant to Section 200.400, without interest. No refund of contributions made by a covered employee on or after April 1, 2017 pursuant to Section 200.400 will be paid.

<u>Section 4:</u> The City Council hereby amends Section 200.490 of the Municipal Code of the City of Overland, Missouri by the deleting the current Section 200.490 and inserting the following in lieu thereof:

Section 200.490 Benefit Adjustments

The retirement or death benefits of a covered employee who retires or dies on or after April 1, 1993 shall be annually adjusted for cost of living increases or decreases. Adjustments shall be made to the first (1st) benefit payments which are made after April first (1st) of each calendar year commencing with the benefit payments made after April 1, 1993. Benefits shall be increased or decreased by sixty percent (60%) of the change in the Consumer Price Index for all St. Louis metropolitan area consumers as published by the Department of Labor Statistics, for the immediately preceding calendar year. The maximum adjustment shall not exceed three percent (3%) for a calendar year. In no event shall a covered employee's benefits under this Section be reduced to less than the amount of benefits payable to such employee after the date of his/her retirement or, in the event he/she dies before retirement, to his/her beneficiary after his/her death. The benefits of a covered employee who retires prior to age sixty (60) shall not be subject to adjustment under this Section until the April first (1st) immediately following the date upon which such employee attains age sixty (60). The benefits payable to a beneficiary or beneficiaries of a deceased employee shall not be

subject to adjustment under this Section until the April first (1st) of the calendar year immediately following the date the employee would have attained age sixty (60) had he/she survived. With respect to covered employees first participating in the plan prior to April 1, 2017, an initial retroactive adjustment of benefits, the payment of which commences as of the April first (1st) immediately following an employee's sixtieth (60th) birthday, under this Section 200.490 shall be the cumulative total of the adjustments under this Section 200.490 which would have been made if such adjustments were made starting with payments made on or after the April first (1st) immediately following the date which payment of such benefits commences. No retroactive adjustment (as described in the preceding sentence) shall be made for any covered employee first participating in the plan on or after April 1, 2017. Any covered employee who participated in the plan prior to April 1, 2017 and received a distribution of his/her investment account pursuant to Section 200.440 and again becomes a covered employee on or after April 1, 2017 shall not be eligible to receive an initial retroactive adjustment of benefits.

Section 5: The City Council hereby amends subsection C.5 of Section 200.500 of the Municipal Code of the City of Overland, Missouri by the deleting the current subsection C.5 of Section 200.500 and inserting the following in lieu thereof:

- 5. Adjustment for excessive annual additions. If for any limitation year the annual additions allocated to a covered employee's account exceeds the maximum amount permitted under Section 200.500(C) above because of an allocation of forfeitures, a reasonable error in estimating a covered employee's compensation, a reasonable error in determining the amount of elective contributions (within the meaning of Code Section 402(g)(3)), or because of other limited facts and circumstances that the Commissioner finds justify the availability of the rules set forth in this Section, then such covered employee's account will be adjusted as follows in order to reduce the excess annual additions:
 - a. For plan years beginning on or after July 1, 2007, the employer will follow the rules of any Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System (EPCRS) that is issued by the Internal Revenue Service.
 - b. For plan years beginning prior to July 1, 2007, the employer will utilize the following procedures:
 - i. Return of elective deferrals and employee contributions. The administrator will first return any elective deferrals

and/or employee contributions (whether such contributions are voluntary or mandatory), and will distribute gains attributable thereto, to the extent that would reduce the excess amount.

- ii. *Reallocation in the current year.* After the return of contributions and the distribution of gains specified in paragraph (i) above have been made, and prior to the creation of a Section 415 Suspense Account as set forth in paragraph (iii) below, any excess will be reallocated to all covered employees who have not yet attained their maximum annual addition. If necessary, the administrator will repeat the reallocation until all covered employees have reached their maximum annual addition.
- iii. *Remaining excess.* If an excess still remains in a covered employee's account, then (1) if the covered employee is employed by the employer at the end of the limitation year, the administrator will hold the excess in the Section 415 Suspense Account and use it to reduce employer contributions (including any allocation of forfeitures) for the next limitation year (and each succeeding limitation year if necessary) for the covered employee; and (2) if the covered employee is not employed by the employer at the end of a limitation year, the excess cannot be distributed to the covered employee but will be held in the Section 415 Suspense Account and be used to reduce future employer contributions (including the allocation of forfeitures) for all remaining covered employees in the next limitation year (and each succeeding limitation year if necessary).
- iv. *Earnings, losses and reallocation.* If the Section 415 Suspense Account is in existence at any time during a limitation year, it will not share in the allocation of the earnings or losses of the Trust Fund. If the Section 415 Suspense Account is in existence at any time during a particular limitation year, all amounts in such account must be allocated and reallocated to covered employees' accounts before any employer contributions or any employee contributions may be made to the plan for that limitation year. Excess amounts in the Section 415 Suspense Account may not be distributed to covered employees or former covered employees.

Section 6: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval according to law.

PASSED this 27th day of February, 2017.

MAYOR

February 27, 2017 Date of Approval

ATTEST:

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T	HOMAS (TOM)	NEWPO	DRT.							2,906	18.24	
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M	O BETH DOLL HOMAS (TOM) AVID ADDISON ICHAEL J. RO	JSE .	• •	•	•	·	•	•	•	1,040	11.00	
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W	RITE-IN	• •	•	•	٠	•	•	·		116	.73	
TR	RITE-IN USTEE ST. LO	· ·	•	•	٠	•	•	·		116	.73	
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BALLOT STYLE

END OF BALLOT

Michele Fehlings

From: Sent: To: Subject: Tom Steitz <tsteitz@fentonfire.org> Thursday, April 13, 2017 9:51 AM Michele Fehlings Re: Prop E

Michele,

We are working on you request. A couple things, we are not associated with the City of Fenton. We cover the City of Fenton with in the fire District borders. We also cover the City of Sunset Hills, a portion of the City of Valley Park and a large area of unincorporated areas. Since the tax prop. Passed for the support of the general fund and operations of the fire district we don't have any immediate plans for the pension fund, however I can't rule that out in future years to maintain funding percentages.

Thank you, Tom Steitz

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From: Michele Fehlings <Michele.Fehlings@senate.mo.gov> Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 8:41:27 AM To: Kimberly Smith; Tom Steitz Subject: Prop E

Chief Steitz & Kimberly,

Our office regularly follows local elections impacting municipalities, fire districts, etc, which have public employee retirement funds. We see that the Fenton Fire Protection District Proposition E was passed – congratulations!

Could you email a copy of the City of Fenton bill/ordinance with the sample ballot language to us? We are going to prepare a summary of any plans having tax levy ballots within their districts or cities, and present that during our second quarter joint committee meeting later this month.

In reading a couple of news articles, it seems that the 39 cent tax increase will be used for continuing operations of the fire district. Do you see some of that additional revenue going towards contributions to the members' retirement?

Thank you for your assistance.

Michele Fehlings, MBA Pension Analyst Joint Committee on Public Employee Retirement State Capitol, Room 219-A Jefferson City, MO 65101 Telephone – (573) 751-1280 Fax – (573) 526-6459 Source: Times Newspapers Combined

Remove Images

Fenton Fire Protection District: Prop E 39-Cent Tax Increase District says funds would help maintain services

March 31, 2017

The Fenton Fire Protection District has put Proposition E on the April 4 ballot, asking for an additional 39 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation on the general fund tax levy.

Prop E funds would be used to maintain current fire and emergency medical services.

The Fenton Fire Protection District covers Fenton, Sunset Hills and unincorporated areas of St. Louis County outward west of Highway 141 and south of Highway 30 to the Jefferson County border.

According to fire district figures, a home with an appraised value of \$150,000 (assessed value \$28,500) will see an average cost increase of \$9.26 per month or about \$111 per year.

If passed, Prop E would be the first tax increase levied for the fire protection district in more than 30 years. Advocates for passage of Prop E cite an increase in day-to-day costs of operation, budget shortfalls resulting from tax abatements, tax increment financing (TIF) and a decrease in assessed property values.

Add to that the closure of the Chrysler plant in Fenton and other associated businesses, and district officials say the loss of tax revenue will mean a \$1 million deficit in the 2017 budget.

FENTON FIRE DISTRICT 845 Gregory Lane Fenton, MO 63026

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FENTON FIRE DISTRICT NEWS Mark 2017 Edition





Paid for by The Fenton Fire District 845 Gregory Ln. Fenton MO 63026 Treasurer Jennifer Grimes



It has been 31 years since the Fenton Fire Protection District has approached our community for a tax increase. During that time, we have added highly trained paramedics, firefighters and lifesaving equipment. We are also the only internationally accredited fire department in the state of Missouri with an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 1.

ETTER FROM FIRE CHIEF - TOM STETZ

As taxes are the primary source of revenue for the FFPD, budget shortfalls have resulted from tax abatements, tax increment financing (TIF), and a decrease in assessed property values. Day-to-day costs from medical supplies, fire equipment, and fuel have all increased. In 2009, the Chrysler Plant in Fenton permanently shut its doors which also led to the closure of several supporting businesses. Even with 31 years of fiscal responsibility, our 2017 budget is projected to be a million (\$1,000,000) dollar deficit.

On April 4th the Fenton Fire Protection District will place a proposal on the ballot. Proposition E is a General tax increase of \$0.39 per hundred dollars assessed valuation to fund the current operations of all four engine houses, emergency equipment, and trained personnel. This will secure sufficient funding for the FFPD to continue providing the highest trained EMS and fire services available. With this proposal, a home with an assessed value of \$150,000 will see an average cost increase of \$9.26 a month. We look forward to continuing our long standing tradition of excellence in EMS, fire protection, and community service.

Thank You - Fire Chief Tom Steitz

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COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES







The Fenton Firefighters participate in many public relation events on and off duty to help support our community.

- · Building handicap ramps
- Adopt a family
- · Cookies and milk with Santa at the Fire House
- Food drives
- · Paint the Town Pink Breast cancer awareness fund raiser with donation to St. Clare Auxiliary
- · Educational events CPR, first aid, fire safety, and car seat installation, etc.
- Collection for Muscular Dystrophy
- · Community events Fenton Days, EMS Open House, 911 exhibit escort, block parties



FENTON FIRE DISTRICT RECEIVES ISO CLASS 'I

The Fenton Fire Protection District is proud to announce the Insurance Services Office (ISO) has awarded the district a Class 1 Public Protection Classification rating effective April 1. 2016.

The Fenton Fire Protection District is currently one of two agencies in the State of Missouri to enjoy this extraordinary rating for fire protection. The Class 1 rating is the highest score awarded to fire protection agencies in the United States and represents the best

Less than 160 of the 48.000 rated fire protection agencies in the United States are rated Class 1.

ISO ratings are used by insurance companies in

TERMATIONALLY ACCREDITED....

First in the

State of

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District has received Accredit- accreditation, and only the ed Agency status with the second in the state of Commission on Fire Accredita- Missouri. Internationally tion International (CFAI). The there are only 162 district met the criteria agencies that have established through the CFAI's received International voluntary self-assessment and Agency Accreditation accreditation program. The status with the CFAI and Fenton Fire Protection District the Center for Public is the first fire department in St. Safety Excellence.

Stantionally, The Fenton Fire Protection Louis County to achieve



the establishment of commer- the processes addressed cial and residential insurance through the accreditation by a detailed evaluation of the Accreditation

rates. The rating is based on the Commission on Fire International district's operations, water (CFAI) and through the possible fire protection services. supplies, emergency commu- dedicated efforts of the nications center, firefighters, paramedics, chief and community officers, and staff of the Fenton Fire Protection District, Missouri American district's Water Company, and Central improvement to County Emergency 911.

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	Sheriffs' Retirement System												
	Revenues by Source												
Plan	County	% of	Investment	% of									
Year	Contributions	Total	Income	Total		Total							
2015	\$ 2,348,981	62%	\$ 1,428,610	38%	\$	3,777,591							
2014	2,383,991	47%	2,690,647	53%	\$	5,074,638							
2013	1,790,827	24%	5,736,373	76%	\$	7,527,200							
2012	1,674,091	31%	3,764,594	69%	\$	5,438,685							
2011	1,653,864	93%	127,822	7%	\$	1,781,686							
2010	1,696,393	33%	3,448,041	67%	\$	5,144,434							
2009	1,771,298	29%	4,426,192	71%	\$	6,197,490							
2008	1,761,091	72%	686,698	28%	\$	2,447,789							
2007	1,703,656	47%	1,959,109	53%	\$	3,662,765							
2006	1,677,582	51%	1,594,421	49%	\$	3,272,003							
2005	1,723,327	49%	1,767,646	51%	\$	3,490,973							
2004	1,746,297	51%	1,686,963	49%	\$	3,433,260							



Tony Messenger

From City Hall to the Capitol, Tony shines light on what public officials are doing, tells stories of the disaffected, and brings voice to the issues that matter.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/columns/tony-messenger/messenger-dispute-over-fee-pits-sheriffs-vs-judges/article_9b11189b-4758-5065-8264-addd8b47de7f.html

Messenger: Dispute over \$3 fee pits sheriffs vs. judges

By Tony Messenger St. Louis Post-Dispatch Mar 26, 2017

Courts



Missouri Sen. Michael Parson, R-Bolivar

First in a five-part series about how all three branches of Missouri government helped prop up the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund by charging a court fee that many judges and legal scholars find unconstitutional.

Up until 2014, the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund in Missouri was like many other public pensions in America, struggling to keep pace. But then something unusual happened.

After then-Attorney General Chris Koster issued a third opinion in less than two years that indicated the \$3 court fee that funds the sheriffs' pensions should be applied to municipal courts in the state, the Missouri Supreme Court <u>reversed course</u>.

The court had never applied the fund to municipal courts, and it had ignored two Koster opinions to the contrary. But in 2013, the court added the fee to charges municipal courts were to attach to traffic tickets and other cases facing Missourians, even though sheriffs played no role in the application of justice in municipal courts. The change applied to all municipal courts in the state except those in the city of St. Louis and St. Louis County.

The results were immediate.

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Messenger: Dispute over \$3 fee pits sheriffs vs. judges | Tony Messenger | stltoday.com

Between 2012 and 2015, the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund — which currently serves 122 retired sheriffs in the state — showed an increase of more than \$10 million in assets.

Today, compared to most public employee pension funds, it's flush with cash.

It's not a bad thing that sheriffs in the state, many of whom make relatively low wages in poor, rural counties, have a strong pension fund. But how that fund came to balance its books is a tale of intrigue that involves all three branches of Missouri government.

In the months before the nation would learn of municipal court abuses in Missouri because of unrest in Ferguson, the combination of pressure from key senators and the attorney general's office would lead the state's top court to reverse course on a position that many of the state's judges still believe was the proper one.

And it has created an ongoing dispute that now has dozens of municipal judges standing up against what they believe is the unconstitutional action of the Missouri Supreme Court.

Of the 608 cities, towns and villages in Missouri with a municipal court, as many as 362 of them may be refusing to add the \$3 sheriffs' fund surcharge to municipal court cases. And now, despite the financial strength of the pension fund, the Sheriffs' Retirement System is asking for help to get them to pay up.

On March 6, C.F. Barnes, executive director of the retirement system, sent letters to circuit clerks in 102 Missouri counties, copying state Auditor Nicole Galloway on all of them, asking them to enforce the Missouri Supreme Court's August 2013 order that the \$3 surcharge applies to municipal courts.

If the Sheriffs' Retirement System wants a fight, it's about to get one.

Most of the courts that aren't collecting the fund have judges who have filed their own orders — called "sua sponte" orders, which argue that collecting the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund surcharge is unconstitutional.

One of the cities that isn't collecting the fee is Nevada, Mo., where the municipal judge, Bryan Breckenridge, signed a sua sponte order on Aug. 26, 2013, ordering that the \$3 fee not be charged in any municipal cases. If Breckenridge's name sounds familiar, that's because he is married to Patricia Breckenridge, who is the chief justice of the Missouri Supreme Court. Breckenridge sent me a copy of his order when I emailed to ask about the March 6 letter from Barnes.

"It is still in place," the judge wrote.

"This Court finds that the imposition of the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund surcharge ... would entail a sale of justice," Breckenridge wrote in his order.

The idea that unnecessary surcharges stand as an impediment to justice is one that has its origin in a document that existed long before Missouri was a state or the United States was a nation. Rooted in Article 40 of the <u>Magna Carta</u>, the English document that inspired much of today's modern American law, is the concept that the courts shall be open to all, that they shall not erect financial barriers that bar access to the court for poor people.

It is also an idea that is at the core of the <u>municipal court reforms</u> implemented by the Missouri Supreme Court last year after months of protest in Ferguson and north St. Louis County. Poor, black residents complained of being jailed because they couldn't afford increased costs in cities relying on court fees as a source of revenue.

In its various responses to Ferguson, the state's high court worked to fix this problem, coming to the recognition that municipal courts were being used in some cases as revenue centers. All along, the court had its own secret.

Outside of St. Louis and St. Louis County, the court was involved in helping the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund balance its books by violating the very principles inherent in its report requiring changes to municipal court rules.

At the heart of the scheme was a hearing in February 2013 in which former state Sen. Mike Parson, a southwest Missouri Republican who is now the lieutenant governor, threatened the court during a budget hearing that should have had nothing to do with the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund. That former senator is also a former sheriff. He is a close friend of former Attorney General Koster, a Democrat, who issued the three opinions

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that ultimately led a skittish Supreme Court to flip its position in direct violation of its own case law interpreting the Missouri Constitution. Koster declined to comment for this series.

The result is a status quo that few in Missouri government want to talk about, because the truth could unravel a budget knot that will threaten more than a retired sheriff's pension. It calls into question the bedrock trust in the checks and balances built into Missouri's government.

A Toll on Justice Today: Judge vs. judge. Monday: The hearing. The threat. The change. Tuesday: A Columbia judge takes action. Wednesday: A judge stands up for the poor. Thursday: More than sheriffs' pensions at stake.



Messenger: A senator's budget threat precedes flip of Missouri's top court

Tony Messenger

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Messenger: A senator's budget threat precedes flip of Missouri's top court

By Tony Messenger St. Louis Post-Dispatch Mar 27, 2017

Lt. Gov. Mike Parson

Missouri Lt. Gov. Mike Parson, shown here on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016, in Springfield, Mo. Photo by J.B. Forbes, jforbes@post-dispatch.com J.B. Forbes • jforbes@post-dispatch.com

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Attorney General Chris Koster

Chris Koster concedes the race for governor to Eric Greitens as he addresses his supporters at the Chase Park Plaza on election night in St. Louis on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016. Photo by David Carson, dcarson@post-dispatch.com

David Carson

Second in a five-part series about how all three branches of Missouri government helped prop up the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund by charging a court fee that many judges and legal scholars find unconstitutional. It was a typical early-session appropriations hearing in a first-floor hearing room in the Missouri Capitol.

The date was Feb. 14, 2013. Greg Linhares, the head of the Office of State Courts Administrator, or OSCA, was there to outline the proposed budget for the Missouri court system.

He walked through some numbers. Senators asked a few questions.

One of them, though, had a different agenda. Call it the Valentine's Day Surprise.

"You're familiar with the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund?" asked Sen. Mike Parson, R-Bolivar.

The question had nothing to do with the matter at hand. The state's court budget doesn't affect sheriffs or their pensions. But Linhares knew where Parson was headed.

Parson, a former sheriff, was one of several lawmakers backing proposals in the Legislature that year to change the state statute that established a \$3 court fee "in all civil actions filed in the courts of this state ..." so that it would more clearly apply to municipal courts.

The original statute to create the revenue source for the sheriffs passed in 1983 and had been amended several times, at one point specifically excluding municipal courts.

The most recent version of the law, passed in 1996, had never been interpreted by the Missouri Supreme Court nor OSCA, its administrative body, to apply to municipal courts.

Lawmakers wanted to change that, but their bills weren't gaining any traction.

Twice in the past three years, at the urging of the Missouri Sheriffs' Retirement System, state Rep. Kenny Jones, R-California, had asked then-Attorney General Chris Koster to issue an opinion that municipal courts had to collect the fee. If all municipal courts in the state charged the \$3 for each case before them, it could raise about \$3 million a year.

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Jones is a well-respected, almost iconic former sheriff of Moniteau County, whose wife was killed along with another sheriff and two deputies in a 1991 killing spree that drew national media attention. He is currently the chairman of the Missouri Sheriffs' Retirement System and was recently appointed by Gov. Eric Greitens as chairman of the state's Board of Probation and Parole.

Jones' son, Caleb, would later replace him in the Legislature. The younger Jones, now a deputy chief of staff to Greitens, was one of the sponsors of the 2013 bills seeking to apply the sheriffs' surcharge to municipal courts.

Like Parson, Kenny Jones was close to Koster, a Democrat who made a political habit of backing sheriffs' issues, including advocating for higher pay for them.

Koster's office issued one opinion in June 2010, and less than a year later issued a similar opinion on the same issue. Neither opinion addressed the constitutionality of charging the \$3 fee on municipal courts — which have no connection to sheriffs. Both said the statute should be interpreted to apply to municipal courts, though the second opinion called the question "a very close one."

Neither opinion caused OSCA, which advises the Supreme Court on issuing orders outlining court fees throughout the state, to change its position.

After the second opinion was issued, Linhares wrote the attorney for the sheriffs' fund to explain why the state would not ask municipal courts to start collecting the fee.

"The modification of the Attorney General's opinion has not pointed out any new case law or new statutory change," Linhares wrote. "Therefore, we do not believe it would be proper to provide courts guidance advising them to assess this surcharge in municipal cases."

It was the crux of this letter that Parson wanted to discuss with Linhares on Valentine's Day two years later.

"I've supported the courts when they've wanted raises, but yet you guys will not collect from the municipalities that fee," Parson said. "The attorney general has given two opinions on that already saying that it should be being collected. And yet we don't collect that and the courts have done nothing to help with that. It becomes a little frustrating to me as I keep supporting your agenda to a certain degree that we don't do that. That is going to be an issue to me and a burden to me if we don't change what we're doing on that. All I'm asking is to collect what should be collected, what I believe the statute says."

Linhares stood his ground.

"As much as I respect the attorney general," he said. "An attorney general's opinion is not law."

But soon, things would change.

On April 15, 2013, state Sen. Brian Munzlinger, R-Williamstown, requested an unprecedented third opinion from the attorney general on the sheriffs' retirement fund surcharge. Two days later, Koster's office issued for the third time guidance that the charge should be applied to municipal courts.

"I don't remember that ever happening, where there were three opinions issued in such short order," said former solicitor general James Layton, who wrote all three opinions and is now a lawyer in private practice in St. Louis.

Parson's threat to withhold support for the court's budget unless it made a change on the sheriffs' retirement surcharge had its desired effect.

Bill Thompson had been the attorney for the Supreme Court during the time the previous attorney general's opinions had been issued on the retirement fund. Now he was the court's clerk, having replaced Tom Simon, who had died. Thompson said Parson's question spurred action.

"In light of the discussion, I felt an obligation to determine what the statute required," said Thompson, who retired from the court earlier this year. "It was clear from the legislative history that at one time the municipalities were not required to collect the fee, but under the current statute the law did require them to collect the fee."

Thompson said he felt "no pressure" from Parson or any other lawmaker.

Parson declined comment for this series.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/columns/tony-messenger/messenger-a-senator-s-budget-threat-precedes-flip-of-missouri/article_f5a2f577-617f-5e2b-a7c6.. 2/4

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In August 2013, the Missouri Supreme Court issued its order that outlines fees each court in the state must collect. The \$3 surcharge for the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund was included for municipal courts.

The real battle was just beginning.

Sunday • Judge vs. judge.

Today • The hearing. The threat. The change.

Tuesday • A Columbia judge takes action.

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Messenger: Dispute over \$3 fee pits sheriffs vs. judges

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Messenger: Sheriffs' Retirement Fund had its day in court; it didn't show up

By Tony Messenger St. Louis Post-Dispatch 2 hrs ago

Gavel

Third in a five-part series about how all three branches of Missouri government helped prop up the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund by charging a court fee that many judges and legal scholars find unconstitutional.

Cities all around the St. Louis region are facing a legal threat from their county sheriffs.

On March 6, the executive director of the Missouri Sheriffs' Retirement System sent letters to 102 circuit clerks in Missouri. The letters listed municipal courts that are allegedly not in compliance with state law by refusing to collect and remit to the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund a \$3 charge. The sheriffs want that charge attached to every traffic ticket in Missouri, every noise violation, every civil or criminal case no matter how small.

The threatened cities include Arnold and De Soto in Jefferson County; Wentzville in St. Charles County, Troy in Lincoln County, Washington and Pacific in Franklin County. They are not alone. Missouri cities from Lexington to Liberal, Birch Tree to Buffalo, Gower to Gainesville, are being threatened with some sort of action.

What the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund plans to do isn't clear. The letters from C.F. Barnes only tell the circuit clerks that the sheriffs will "consider our options," if the allegedly scofflaw cities don't pay up.

There is a delicious irony in the threat.

In 2013 when one Missouri city refused to collect the fee, officials from the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund had a chance to plead their case.

They didn't show up.

In July 2013, reversing its previous position, the Office of State Courts Administrator sent notice on behalf of the Missouri Supreme Court to municipal courts throughout Missouri telling them they had to start charging the \$3 fee. In Columbia, home of the University of Missouri and its flagship campus, Judge Robert Aulgur posted a notice that on Aug. 28 the new \$3 fee would go into effect.

Before it could, however, Columbia public defender Mick Wilson filed a lawsuit on behalf of Lavon D. Freeman, and other indigent defendants like him, alleging the fee was unconstitutional and that both Attorney General Chris Koster and the State Courts Administrator had misinterpreted the statute in applying it to municipal courts. Key to Wilson's argument was the Missouri Supreme Court's unanimous 1986 decision in *Harrison v. Monroe County*, in which the court ruled that a Senate bill that would create new court fees to supplement county government salaries — including sheriffs — could not be implemented in the state's circuit courts.

"The proper test is whether the court costs required are reasonably related to the expense of the administration of justice," the court wrote. "Examined under this test, S.B. 601 civil court costs bear no reasonable relationship to the expenses of the administration of justice; S.B. 601 civil court costs are collected to enhance the compensation of officials of the executive department of county government. We, therefore, hold that the fees imposed in civil cases by S.B. 601 are unreasonable impediments to access to justice, in violation" of the Missouri Constitution.

Aulgur put the fee on hold and set a hearing for Nov. 12. He served notice to the Missouri Sheriffs' Retirement System so it could defend the fee. http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/columns/tony-messenger/messenger-sheriffs-retirement-fund-had-its-day-in-court-it/article_a1214592-e36b-59f8-bc15-27b... 1/3

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Messenger: Sheriffs' Retirement Fund had its day in court; it didn't show up | Tony Messenger | stltoday.com

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The retirement system didn't file any briefs or show up at the hearing.

Wilson made his argument.

On Dec. 17, 2013, Aulgur issued an order that the city of Columbia would not be charging the \$3 fee to prop up the sheriffs' pensions.

"A clear statement that the surcharge ... applies to municipal ordinance violation cases does not exist at this time," Aulgur wrote.

Ironically, as other municipal judges in the state were unilaterally declaring the sheriffs' pension fee unconstitutional based on the court's Harrison ruling, Aulgur ruled that he didn't have the authority to come to that conclusion. But he stopped the fee anyway.

"As far as I know, I'm the only judge who has ever held an evidentiary hearing on the issue," Aulgur said in an interview. He retired from the bench last year. "I'm the lowest court. I shouldn't be the final answer."

In his order halting collection of the fee, which is still in effect, Aulger referred to comments made by Municipal Judge Bob McDonald, who testified against the fee to a committee the Missouri Supreme Court had set up around the same time to examine court costs in the state.

McDonald, the judge in Lake Tapawingo, a suburb east of Kansas City, had issued his own "sua sponte" order refusing to collect the fee because he found it unconstitutional.

Dozens of other judges signed similar orders, and that's why the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund is now threatening legal action against cities that aren't collecting.

"The Supreme Court wants us to collect money from people who don't have it to pay for the retirement fund of sheriffs who have nothing to do with our courts," McDonald said in an interview last week. "It's even more ludicrous that this is going on in the wake of all the things the court has done in the past year (since Ferguson) to try to protect people from unfair charges in the court."

McDonald says he welcomes the fight that appears to be coming.

"They're going to have to sue somebody to win this," McDonald said, "and it appears to me that the court doesn't want to touch it."

Sunday • <u>Judge vs. judge.</u>

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Columbia lawsuit

A Toll on Justice Sunday • Judge vs. judge. Monday • The hearing. The threat. The change.

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Messenger: Under fire during Ferguson, judge waged battle behind the scenes

By Tony Messenger St. Louis Post-Dispatch 2 hrs ago



Overland Municipal Judge Frank Vatterott poses for a photo in his law office in Maryland Heights on Monday, March 27, 2017. Vatterott is in a dispute with the Missouri Supreme Court over a \$3 court fee. Photo by J.B. Forbes, jforbes@post-dispatch.com

Fourth in a five-part series about how all three branches of Missouri government helped prop up the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund by charging a court fee that many judges and legal scholars find unconstitutional.

Walk into Frank Vatterott's law office and two images hit you right away.

The first is the crucifix, prominently placed to make it clear that Vatterott's Catholic faith informs his vision of justice. Next to it is a framed certificate, an award Vatterott received in October 2015 from the chief justice of the Missouri Supreme Court, Patricia Breckenridge.

The award honored Vatterott's work for improving trust and confidence in Missouri courts.

At the time he received it, the lawyer and municipal judge was waging a quiet battle against the very court that was praising him.

It started in earnest at a May meeting of the <u>Missouri Municipal and Associate Circuit Judges Association</u> in 2013. The judges were worried that the Missouri Supreme Court was going to ask the courts to add a \$3 surcharge to every municipal court case to fund the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund. Vatterott was convinced undue political pressure was causing the 180-degree turn. He and other judges believed the charge to be clearly unconstitutional. Until 2013, it would seem, so did the Missouri Supreme Court.

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Vatterott wrote a model order for other judges to consider adopting. He filed one in Overland, to make sure the charge wouldn't be applied there. Dozens of judges all across the state followed his lead. Vatterott pestered the clerk of the Missouri Supreme Court, Bill Thompson. He wrote a four-page letter to the court's chief justice at the time, Mary Russell, to plead with the court not to apply the fee to municipal courts.

"We municipal judges are faced with a decision that is serious in content, and involves a lot of money," Vatterott wrote Russell. "I'm sure your Honor recognizes that many of our municipal court defendants are poor. This surcharge affects them the most. Some of our defendants have up to four cases in our courts arising out of the same incident. Twelve dollars is a lot of money for a person who makes eight dollars an hour. ... The issue here concerns a fundamental tenet of our State Constitution, which was shaped in part by six hundred years of constitutional history. There must be no sale of justice in our Missouri courts."

Russell, and the court, ignored his plea. They issued <u>an order</u> outlining court charges to take effect on Aug. 28, 2013, and the \$3 surcharge was applied for the first time to municipal courts throughout the state. The charge was at one point going to apply to the 90 municipalities in St. Louis County, even though the county's sheriff isn't a part of the retirement system, but Vatterott convinced Thompson that would have been a misapplication of the law.

On Aug. 28, Vatterott filed a lawsuit in Cole County Circuit Court seeking to stop the surcharge from being applied to municipal courts. The Missouri Sheriffs' Retirement System was represented by attorney Rich AuBuchon. At the time, AuBuchon's wife, Betsy AuBuchon, was the attorney for the Missouri Supreme Court. She had previously been the lobbyist for the Missouri Sheriffs' Association. Now, she is the court's clerk, having replaced Thompson when he retired.

What happened next says a lot about how hard the courts are running from this issue. For nearly three years, Vatterott's lawsuit — it was later refiled with the city of Slater as the lead plaintiff — bounced between the circuit court and the Court of Appeals. In May of 2016, the Court of Appeals for the Western District of Missouri tossed the lawsuit, without addressing the statutory or constitutional questions raised by it. Instead, the court said none of the plaintiffs had standing to sue. In August, the Missouri Supreme Court refused to take up the case on appeal.

Vatterott, frustrated at the court's inaction, and prodded by me, agreed to press his case in another court — the court of public opinion.

"I tried to go through the system," Vatterott said. "I thought for sure they'd take the case because of Ferguson."

One year after Vatterott filed the lawsuit, his life — and those of countless others — would forever change. On Aug. 9, 2014, after Michael Brown was <u>shot and killed</u> by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson, thousands of protesters took to the streets of various north St. Louis County municipalities, protesting decades of oppression at the hands of the law enforcement and court system. At the core of the protests was a system in which cities saw their municipal courts as revenue centers, with law enforcement agencies being used to shake down poor people by stacking traffic tickets and other municipal offenses on top of each other, and jailing those who missed court dates or couldn't afford to pay.

Vatterott, already a leader among municipal court judges in the region, became, fairly or not, <u>the face of a broken system</u>, working to reform it from within, while taking intense criticism from outside reformers who wanted more drastic action. As various advocates were challenging the Missouri Supreme Court to rein in municipal court abuses, Vatterott was fighting with the court behind the scenes over the same underlying issue, on behalf of Missourians across the state.

"One of the fundamental things we learned (from Ferguson) was that the courts were charging too much money," Vatterott says.

When Russell addressed the Missouri Legislature just four months after the initial Ferguson unrest, she told them that the court would make sure that municipal courts — which handle two-thirds of all Missouri court cases — would not be used as <u>"revenue generators."</u>

Since that time the court has issued new standards for municipal courts which put protections into place so the abuses that were rampant in some St. Louis County courts won't be repeated.

One abuse, however, remains unresolved in municipal courts in nearly every county in the state except for St. Louis. The courts are being asked to do something that Vatterott believes all the key players know is unconstitutional. It's one thing, he says, for the Legislature, or even the attorney general, to be involved in ignoring the constitution for a political purpose.

But the Supreme Court?

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Messenger: Under fire during Ferguson, judge waged battle behind the scenes | Tony Messenger | stitoday.com

"That's frightening," Vatterott says. Nothing less than the faith and confidence in the courts is at stake. That's what his award was about. He appreciated receiving it, but it would have deeper meaning if he wins this battle. It's time, he says, for the court to recognize its error and do something to fix it.

"They can take the damn award away from me," Vatterott says. "I don't care."

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http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/columns/tony-messenger/messenger-missouri-s-top-court-executes-scheme-to-fleece-the/article_ff586b3a-7bd6-5ded-9456-710e0de41b01.html

Messenger: Missouri's top court executes scheme to fleece the poor; it must end

By Tony Messenger St. Louis Post-Dispatch Mar 29, 2017



A Google snapshot of various Missouri sheriff's badges.

The Missouri sheriff's badge comes in different shapes and sizes.

Some have five points, some six, even seven. They are gold and silver.

All of them reflect the polished power of the office.

As long as they've been elected, county sheriffs, particularly in rural America, have wielded the sort of influence that has other elected officials often currying their favor. More than anything else, this explains how a \$3 fee to pad sheriffs' pensions in Missouri was applied to courts that have nothing to do with county law enforcement.

The scheme got its start six years ago:

In 2011, the sheriffs realized their pension fund needed an influx of cash.

They tried and failed to get the Legislature to change the law so that instead of just charging the fee in circuit courts, where they perform bailiff and service functions, it also would apply in municipal courts, where sheriffs perform no role at all related to the dispensation of justice.

So the sheriffs and their allies in the Legislature turned to another friend, Attorney General Chris Koster, and between 2011 and 2013, Koster issued three opinions saying that the fee should apply to municipal courts.

At first, the Missouri Supreme Court was resistant to the push. But in the summer of 2013, the judges of the Supreme Court <u>turned their backs</u> on a fundamental tenet of American justice, the concept that barriers cannot exist that keep access to the courts out of reach from those who lack resources.

4/3/2017

In doing so, the court failed to do that which one of its former members wrote in a dissenting opinion on another matter in 2011 is its primary duty, to be guided by the law.

That judge, St. Louis University law professor emeritus Mike Wolff, served for 13 years on Missouri's high court. Known for often being the conscience of the court, sometimes in fiery dissenting opinions, Wolff was at his best in one of the last opinions he wrote, a dissent in an adoption case that, in then end, took a child from his immigrant mother.

"At least Solomon had the option to decree that the child be cut in half," <u>Wolff wrote in that case</u>. "All we lesser judges have is the law, and it is our duty to make sure that the law is obeyed. Not in 90 more days or 900 more days, but now."

In the case of the \$3 pension fee for sheriffs, justice delayed is justice denied, suggests Wolff. The former dean of the SLU Law School agreed to examine the three advisory opinions issued by Attorney General Chris Koster on the issue and offer his perspective.

What Koster got right, Wolff says, is determining that municipal courts are "courts of the state," or divisions of the circuit courts. Indeed, for months after the Ferguson unrest, that was exactly the argument various legal reform advocates were making to the Missouri Supreme Court, that the court, and the circuits under it, <u>had a direct responsibility</u> to rein in the abuses taking place in municipal courts, particularly those in St. Louis County.

Wolff, however, finds it curious that while not weighing in on the constitutionality of the law that creates the \$3 surcharge, Koster referenced in a footnote the very Missouri Supreme Court case that clearly makes the application of the fee to municipal courts an unconstitutional overreach.

In that 1986 case, <u>Harrison vs. Monroe County</u>, a unanimous court ruled that a bill that would have created court fees to supplement county officials' salaries — including those of sheriffs — was a burdensome "sale of justice," a toll that might keep poor people from having access to the courts.

Wolff says the Harrison case is directly applicable to the current controversy over the \$3 fee for sheriffs pensions. "It couldn't be closer to being on point," Wolff says. "This is a fee that should not be collected."

Wolff is just one former judge offering his opinion.

But it is one shared by dozens of municipal judges who, starting in 2013, took the unusual action of issuing <u>"sua sponte"</u> orders to stop the collection of the fee. The Latin term translates to "of their own accord," which in this issue creates quite the image. Of their own accord, the least of the "lesser judges" in the state, led by Overland municipal Judge Frank Vatterott, stood up to the most powerful judges in Missouri, so convinced they were that the state's high court had taken an action based on political pressure and not the law.

The dilemma for the Supreme Court, though, is bigger than the dispute over whether one fee applies to municipal courts. Wolff suggests the court's 1986 opinion casts doubt on whether the \$3 charge can even exist.

"The Harrison decision says the fee is unconstitutional in its entirety," Wolff says. "It says you can't charge it at all."

Indeed, in a concurring opinion in that decision, former Missouri Supreme Court Judge Warren Welliver cast doubt on the increasing reliance by the Legislature on court fees to fund various pet projects, be they worthy or not.

"The now approaching \$100 court cost deposit in a circuit court civil case effectively bars many lower income Missourians from asserting meritorious claims in the court system," Welliver said.

This is not just a Missouri problem but a national one. A white paper published in 2012 by a committee of court administrators titled "<u>Courts Are</u> <u>Not Revenue Centers</u>" lays out a series of principles that would address rising court costs around the country, where legislatures and cities, hesitant to raise taxes, instead turn to the courts for cash.

This is why one \$3 fee matters so much. Its very existence adds to the perception that the courts in Missouri exist only for those with money. In choosing to apply the fee to municipal courts, the Missouri Supreme Court ignored its fundamental duty to uphold our constitutional rights by joining in a conspiracy to fleece the poor.

Today, that court may well still be worried about the political consequences of a proper ruling on the \$3 court fee. That, Wolff told his colleagues in 2011, should not be their concern.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/columns/tony-messenger/messenger-missouri-s-top-court-executes-scheme-to-fleece-the/article_ff586b3a-7bd6-5ded-945... 2/4

4/3/2017

Messenger: Missouri's top court executes scheme to fleece the poor; it must end | Tony Messenger | stltoday.com

The law is. If the politically powerful sheriffs lose their pension revenue source, they will need to get in line at the Legislature.

Just like everybody else.



A Toll on Justice: A Post-Dispatch Special Report

A Toll on Justice Sunday • Judge vs. judge. Monday • The hearing. The threat. The change. Today • A Columbia judge takes action. Wednesday • A judge stands up for the poor. Thursday • More than sheriffs' pensions at stake.

Tony Messenger

Tony Messenger is the metro columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

CIRCUIT CLERKS: CIRCUIT COURT – CIRCUIT COURTS: FEES: JUDGMENTS: MUNICIPALITIES: ORDINANCES: SHERIFFS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM:

1°

The exemption for municipal courts from the \$3 surcharge in §57.955, RSMo, was removed in 1996. Therefore, municipal court clerks must collect the surcharge in municipal ordinance violation cases.

OPINION NO. 20-2013

April 17, 2013

The Honorable Brian Munzlinger State Senator, District 18 State Capitol, Room 331-A Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Senator Munzlinger:

You asked whether § 57.955, RSMo,¹ relating to the Sheriffs' Retirement System, requires a municipality to collect a \$3 surcharge for municipal ordinance violations and remit the surcharge to the System. We previously opined in Opinion No. 8-2010 in response to a request from then-Representative Kenny Jones. We are providing this opinion after taking into consideration additional matters raised, reaching the same conclusion on different grounds.² We are withdrawing Opinion No. 8-2010.

¹ All statutory citations are to RSMo Cum. Supp. 2012, unless otherwise noted.

² We do not address the constitutionality of collecting this surcharge at all. See *Harrison v. Monroe County*, 716 S.W.2d 263, 267, 270 (Mo. banc 1986) (Welliver, J., concurring).

The Honorable Brian Munzlinger Page 2

Section 57.955, RSMo, provides as follows:

1. There shall be assessed and collected a surcharge of three dollars in all civil actions filed in the courts of this state and in all criminal cases including violation of any county ordinance or any violation of criminal or traffic laws of this state, including infractions, but no such surcharge shall be assessed when the costs are waived or are to be paid by the state, county or municipality or when a criminal proceeding or the defendant has been dismissed by the court. For purposes of this section, the term "county ordinance" shall not include any ordinance of the city of St. Louis. The clerk responsible for collecting court costs in civil and criminal cases, shall collect and disburse such amounts as provided by sections 488.010 to 488.020, RSMo. Such funds shall be payable to the sheriffs' retirement fund. Moneys credited to the sheriffs' retirement fund shall be used only for the purposes provided for in sections 57.949 to 57.997 and for no other purpose.

2. The board may accept gifts, donations, grants and bequests from public or private sources to the sheriffs' retirement fund.

The historical development of the statute shows that the legislative intent is that the surcharge be collected in municipal cases. The original version of this statute required the collection of the surcharge in all civil cases "filed in each circuit court and the divisions thereof, except the juvenile divisions" § 57.960, RSMo Cum. Supp. 1983. Because municipal courts are divisions of the circuit court, Art. V, § 27.2.d, Mo. Const., the fee was required in municipal cases under that statute.

1

The Honorable Brian Munzlinger Page 3

Finally, in 1996, the statute was amended to read as it does today, requiring collection of the fee "in all civil actions filed in the courts of this state" § 57.955, RSMo Cum. Supp. 1996. This change eliminated the exceptions for juvenile divisions and municipal divisions of the circuit courts. For the change to have any meaning, municipal court divisions must now be required to collect the fee. *S.S. v. Mitchell*, 289 S.W.3d 797, 799 (Mo. App. E.D. 2009) (in interpreting statutes, courts "presume that the legislature intended an amendment to have some effect"). Therefore, the historical development of the statute demonstrates that the legislature intended that the surcharge be collected in municipal court cases.

CONCLUSION

The exemption for municipal courts from the \$3 surcharge in §57.955, RSMo, was removed in 1996. Therefore, municipal court clerks must collect the surcharge in municipal ordinance violation cases.

truly you

CHRIS KOSTER Attorney General

Michael Ruff

From:	Matthew J. Gierse <mgierse@hghllc.net></mgierse@hghllc.net>
Sent:	Wednesday, April 26, 2017 10:53 AM
То:	Michael Ruff
Cc:	Jim Faul
Subject:	RE: SCS/HCS/HB 304, HCS/HB 619, and SCS/SB 409
Attachments:	Response to Request for Fiscal Note for HCS SCS SB 309.pdf; Letter to Senators to
	Oppose HCS-HB 619 & SCS-HB 304.pdf; PSRSSTL Proposed Amendment HCS HB 619.pdf

Mike,

I understand that JCPER will be having its Second Quarter meeting tomorrow. Thus, I wanted to provide you with some recent documents pertaining to the proposed legislation effecting the PSRSSTL. The first document is a Response to a Request for Fiscal Note for HCS SCS SB 309 that the PSRSSTL submitted today. The second document is a recent letter that our office sent to Senators this week regarding this legislation (a similar one was sent to Representatives). Finally, the third document is proposed language for this legislation that the PSRSSTL has presented to legislators that seeks to address both the PSRSSTL's and the St. Louis Public Schools' concerns.

Because one of the missions of JCPER is to make recommendations to the General Assembly necessary to provide adequate retirement benefits to state and local government employees within the ability of taxpayers to support their future costs, the JCPER should oppose this legislation.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Matthew J. Gierse Hartnett Gladney Hetterman, L.L.C. 4399 Laclede Avenue St. Louis, Missouri 63108 Telephone: (314) 531-1054 Direct: (314) 396-6479 Facsimile: (314) 531-1131 Email: <u>MGierse@hghllc.net</u>

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From: Michael Ruff [mailto:mruff@senate.mo.gov] Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:16 PM To: Matthew J. Gierse <MGierse@hghllc.net> Subject: RE: SCS/HCS/HB 304, HCS/HB 619, and SCS/SB 409

Thanks, Matt. I appreciate you keeping the JCPER informed of the discussion surrounding PSRS St. Louis.

From: Matthew J. Gierse [mailto:MGierse@hghllc.net] Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:15 PM To: Michael Ruff <<u>mruff@senate.mo.gov</u>> Cc: Jim Faul <<u>JFaul@hghllc.net</u>> Subject: SCS/HCS/HB 304, HCS/HB 619, and SCS/SB 409

Mike,

I wanted to send you a copy of a letter that our office sent to many Senators today regarding SCS/HCS/HB 304, HCS/HB 619, and SCS/SB 409. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Matthew J. Gierse Hartnett Gladney Hetterman, L.L.C. 4399 Laclede Avenue St. Louis, Missouri 63108 Telephone: (314) 531-1054 Direct: (314) 396-6479 Facsimile: (314) 531-1131 Email: <u>MGierse@hghllc.net</u>

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PLEASE RESPOND TO ST. LOUIS OFFICE

April 24, 2017

REGARDING PERFECTED HCS/HB 619 WITH REVISED COST STATEMENT

Dear Senator:

As you may know, our office represents the Public School Retirement System of the City of St. Louis ("PSRSSTL"). I am writing to you in response to the <u>blatant misstatements</u> contained in a letter that you received from representatives of the Special Administrative Board ("SAB") of the City of St. Louis Public Schools a/k/a the St. Louis Public School District ("School District"), dated April 19, 2017.

In the letter, the SAB states that the PSRSSTL "inexplicably" claims that HCS/HB 619 and SCS/HCS/HB 304 will increase benefits, decrease assets, and deny the Board of Trustees of the PSRSSTL the ability to act in a fiduciary responsible manner towards the PSRSSTL's participants. However, these claims are based on the SAB's own Cost Statement that was attached to its letter.

Indeed, this revised Cost Statement, the third one in two years, continues to state that the "<u>proposed change will impair the ability of the plan to meet the obligations</u> due to the employer contributions being lower than the actuarially determined contribution in years when the ... statutory employer contribution rate is lower than the actuarially determined contribution rate." (p. 2-3) (emphasis added).

Furthermore, the SAB mischaracterizes Perfected HCS/HB 619 as including a "cost savings", while failing to mention that this proposal will cost the PSRSSTL <u>\$71.2 Million</u> by 2028. (Exhibit II). Furthermore, the SAB inexplicably claims that HCS/HB 619 will increase the actuarial value of the PSRSSTL's assets to \$1.1 Billion. However, the SAB fails to recognize that <u>the increase will not occur because of HCS/HB 619</u>, but in spite of HCS/HB 619, because HCS/HB 619 would still increase the PSRSSTL's accrued liability by at least <u>\$65 Million</u> by 2030.

Additionally, the SAB in its letter fails to recognize, that just because the PSRSTL assumed an 8% return on investment in the past, does not mean that it is reasonable to assume an 8% return on investment in the <u>future</u>. Indeed, the PSRRSTL has begun assuming a 7.5% return on investment beginning in 2017 and the <u>SAB's own Cost Statement on page 3 describes an 8% return</u> <u>on investment as unreasonable and states that it would "consider an investment return assumption</u> in the 7.0% - 7.5% range to be more reasonable in the current economic environment." Finally, the SAB boldly claims that it met with the PSRSSTL in previous years, through meeting at least one trustee some years ago, and that the PSRSSTL refused to discuss any pension reform legislation unless it included a Cost of Living Adjustment. However, the SAB fails to recognize that the Board of PSRSSTL is made up of <u>eleven trustees</u>, not one, two of which are currently members of the SAB, and that the PSRSSTL has <u>opposed</u> recent pension legislation that included COLA's, such as HB 1085.

Instead, the SAB is simply willing to make any possible argument it can to justify the unnecessary harm it is willing to inflict on the PSRSSTL and its participants. <u>The SAB also failed</u> to mention that a tax increase was passed by St. Louis voters in 2016 giving the School District at least an extra \$18.9 million per year and that the School District still has the <u>lowest</u> tax levy for schools in the St. Louis area.¹ The SAB further ignores the PSRSSTL's recent actuarial revisions that should save the School District millions of dollars a year. The PSRSSTL is committed to working with the School District to control costs, but needs to maintain the appropriate tools so that it can ensure that there is adequate funding for retirement benefits.

Furthermore, any possible argument that the SAB is willing to make does not change the fact that the legislation, as designed, will increase the PSRSSTL's liabilities and decrease the PSRSSTL's assets while simultaneously denying the Board's ability to act in a fiduciary responsible manner towards the PSRSSTL's participants and beneficiaries.

The PSRSSTL is open to working with the SAB and the Teachers' Union that saves the School District money, yet preserves the ability of the PSRSSTL to remain financially stable so that it can provide retirement pensions to its participants in the future. Indeed, <u>the PSRSSTL has proposed language to amend this legislation that achieves to accomplish this goal</u>. However, the SAB has continued to <u>refuse</u> the PSRSSTL's repeated attempts to be included in these discussions.

<u>The PSRSSTL hopes that you will oppose HCS/HB 619 and SCS/HCS/HB 304, as</u> written, and support to keep sound accounting and financing mechanisms for the PSRSSTL's participants and retirees.

Sincerely,

21.2

JAMES P. FAUL

cc: Special Administrative Board, Saint Louis Public Schools c/o Jeffrey St. Omer John Dalton American Federation of Teachers St. Louis, Local 420 Missouri Retired Teachers Association

¹ The School District on its website on a Frequently Asked Questions page to Proposition 1 explicitly states this. This page is located at http://www.slps.org/Page/32144.

LO-Program Evaluator

OVERSIGHT DIVISION Committee on Legislative Research Room 132, State Capitol Jefferson City, MO 65101 Fax: 573/751-7681 Email – <u>fiscal.note@lr.mo.gov</u>

Local Government Agency:	Public School Retirement System of the City of St. Louis (PSRSSTL)
Date:	<u>April 26, 2017</u>
Re:	LR# <u>1122-03</u> Bill# <u>HCS/SCS/SB 309</u>
Preparer:	Andrew Clark, Executive Director
Preparer's Phone Number:	<u>314-533-3883</u>
Oversight Analyst Name:	Kendra Crum, Fiscal Analyst

UNDERSTANDING OF SCS FOR HCS/SCS/SB 309

House Committee Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 309 ("HCS/SCS/SB 309") contains provisions that concern the Public School Retirement System of the City of St. Louis ("PSRSSTL"), and which the PSRSSTL believes damages its long term viability to adequately provide benefits to its beneficiaries.

HCS/SCS/SB 309 makes similar, if not identical, proposals as contained in HCS/HB 619, HB 1085, SCS/SB 409, and SCS/HCS/HB 304, which were introduced earlier in the 2017 legislative session. The PSRSSTL concerns expressed here are also similar, if not identical, for HCS/SCS/SB 309 as they are for HCS/HB 619, HB 1085, SCS/SB 409, and SCS/HCS/HB 304.

The legislation, as designed, will increase the PSRSSTL's liabilities and decrease the PSRSSTL's assets while simultaneously denying the Board's ability to act in a fiduciary responsible manner towards the PSRSSTL's participants and beneficiaries.

A summary of the "changes in plan benefits" contained in HCS/SCS/SB 309 are as follows:

1. The retirement eligibility requirements for full retirement are reduced, allowing members to retire much earlier, when their age and service credit totals 80 ("Rule

of 80"), instead of the current Rule of 85.

- 2. Changes the percent of pay benefit multiplier for new employees hired on or after January 1, 2018, from 2.0% of Average Final Compensation to 1.75% of Average Final Compensation.
- 3. Increases employee contributions from 5.0% of compensation by 0.5% annual increments to a cap of 9.0% of compensation. Employees hired on or after January 1, 2018, will contribute at 9.0% of compensation upon being hired.
- 4. The employer contribution rate will decrease from a rate of 16% of covered payroll for 2018, to 15.5% of covered payroll for 2019, 15% of covered payroll for 2020, 14.5% of covered payroll for 2021, 14% of covered payroll for 2022, 13.5% of covered payroll for 2023, 13% of covered payroll for 2024, 12.5% of covered payroll for 2025, 12% of covered payroll for 2026, 11.5% of covered payroll for 2027, 11% of covered payroll for 2028, 10.5% of covered payroll for 2029, 10% of covered payroll for 2030, 9.5% of covered payroll for 2031, and 9% of covered payroll for 2032 and thereafter.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

There are a number of issues stemming from HCS/SCS/SB 309 that are a major concern to the PSRSSTL. <u>The Cost Statement published by the Joint Committee on Public Employee</u> <u>Retirement for SCS/HCS/HB 304 and HCS/HB 619 on April 12, 2017, details the serious</u> <u>financial harm that this proposal will have on the PSRSSTL's ability to provide retirement</u> <u>benefits</u>. The report (copy attached):

1. States that the "<u>proposed change will impair the ability of the plan to meet the obligations</u> due to the employer contributions being lower than the actuarially determined contribution in years when the ... statutory employer contribution rate is lower than the actuarially determined contribution rate." (p. 2-3) (emphasis added).

- 2. States that the proposal will cost the PSRSSTL <u>\$23.2 Million</u> by <u>2020</u>. (Exhibit II).
- 3. States that the proposal will cost the PSRSSTL <u>\$71.2 Million</u> by <u>2028</u>. (Exhibit II).

4. Admits that the PSRSSTL's funded percentage will be reduced by at least $\underline{6.7}$ <u>percent</u> by 2028 despite the Cost Statement admitting that it uses an unreasonable 8% rate of investment return. (p. 3 and Exhibit II). The PSRSSTL currently assumes an investment return rate of 7.5%. Thus, the actual financial harm to the PSRSSTL will be much greater than that envisioned in the Cost Statement.

5. Admits that the proposed changes will increase the PSRSSTL's unfunded liability by at least <u>\$93.5 Million</u> by 2028. (Exhibit II).

Further, the final contribution caps will be 9% of the employer contribution and 9% of the employee contribution for a total contribution rate cap of 18%. Not only is this lower than the yearly PSRSSTL total funding rate that has been set by the PSRSSTL for some time, which

LO-Program Evaluator

is currently at 20.73%, it also does not allow for any increase in contributions should actuarial tables or a down investment period require it. There would be no mechanism for the PSRSSTL to recoup losses to continue to provide promised benefits.

This is also significant because, unlike contributions from the employer, contributions from employees are considered a liability on the PSRSSTL's balance sheets. <u>Therefore, while</u> the Rule of 80 requires increased expenditures from the PSRSSTL, the increase in employee contributions and the reduction of employer contributions simultaneously increase the liabilities to the PSRSSTL.

Therefore, the combination of benefit increases, by lowering the retirement age to a Rule of 80 and decreasing overall contributions to the PSRSSTL <u>would materially affect the actuarial</u> soundness of the plan and HCS/SCS/SB 309 would hinder the PSRSSTL's ability to pay its retirement pension obligations.

CONCLUSION

The PSRSSTL believes that the proposals contained in HCS/SCS/SB 309 would materially affect the actuarial soundness of the plan and would cost the PSRSSTL over \$71.2 Million by 2028 and would decrease the PSRSSTL's funded percentage by at least 6.7 percent. The PSRSSTL does not support HCS/SCS/SB 309.

House ____

Offered By

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for House Bill 619, with Amendment 1, Page 8, Section 2 169.490, Lines 49 through 56, by deleting all of said lines and inserting in lieu thereof the

3 following:

"5.(1) For calendar year 2018, the rate of contribution payable by each employer shall be 4 assumed to be sixteen percent of the total compensation of all members employed by that 5 employer. For each calendar year thereafter, the assumed percentage rate of contribution payable 6 7 by each employer of the total compensation of all members employed by that employer shall decrease one-half of one percent annually until calendar year 2032 when the rate of contribution 8 payable by each employer shall be assumed to be nine percent of the total compensation of all 9 members employed by that employer. For subsequent calendar years after 2032, the rate of 10 contribution payable by each employer shall be assumed to be nine percent of the total 11 12 compensation of all members employed by that employer. 13 (2). The provisions of subsection 5 to the contrary notwithstanding; annually, the actuary for the retirement system shall calculate each employer's contribution as an amount equal to a certain 14 percentage of the total compensation of all members employed by that employer. The percentage 15 shall be fixed on the basis of the liabilities of the retirement system as shown by the annual 16 actuarial valuation. The annual actuarial valuation shall be made on the basis of such actuarial 17 assumptions and the actuarial cost method adopted by the board of trustees, provided that the 18 19 actuarial cost method adopted shall be in accordance with generally accepted actuarial standards and that the unfunded actuarial accrued liability, if any, shall be amortized by level annual 20 payments over a period not to exceed thirty years."; and 21 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references 22

23 accordingly.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT FIRST QUARTER MEETING January 23, 2014

The Joint Committee on Public Employee Retirement held its 1st Quarter Meeting on Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 8:00 am in House Hearing Room 1. With a quorum being established, Representative Leara called the meeting to order. Joint Committee members in attendance were Senators Lamping, Chappelle-Nadal, Keaveny, and Walsh and Representative Anders, Bernskoetter, Pierson, Runions, and Wieland. Senators Kehoe and Rupp were not in attendance.

Representative Leara turned the meeting over to the Executive Director, Ronda Stegmann. Legislation being tracked relative to pension issues was reviewed. It was noted that currently 8 bills are being monitored and as the legislative session continues it is expected that this number will increase.

The proposed modifications to JCPER governing and plan reporting statutes contained in Chapters 21 and 105 were discussed, along with plan responses to the proposed changes. These proposed modifications are to provide clarification of existing statutes and to address issues or suggestions during the last several years. A draft of the proposed modifications were sent to all public pension plans and 10 responses were received representing 12 plans. All of the responding plans were appreciative of the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions. The director reviewed suggestions received and resulting draft modifications. A motion was made by the Chairman and seconded by Senator Keaveny to support the proposed modifications to Chapters 21 and 105. The motion passed unanimously. Senators Kehoe and Rupp were not in attendance for this vote.

The 2013 Annual Report to the General Assembly was reviewed. It was noted plan year 2012 aggregate actuarial accrued liabilities equaled \$73 billion, actuarial value of assets equaled \$57 billion and market value of assets equaled \$55.7 billion. These levels represent approximately \$16 billion in unfunded actuarial accrued liability. Preliminary plan year 2013 experience indicates this unfunded liability was reduced by approximately \$2 billion due to positive investment performance in plan year 2013. Membership changes, net investment income and contribution rates for plan year 2012 were also reviewed.



JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

JCPER

The Director discussed agenda items associated with plan updates and issues. Ongoing litigation involving several different pension plans was reviewed. These updates included activity relative to the Sheriff's Retirement System, St. Louis Firemen's Retirement System and the Joplin Police & Fire Retirement Plan. Chairman Leara asked for staff to keep committee members aware of any movement of litigation and to forward any resulting rulings. Additionally, the April 2014 renewal of the 3/4 cent sales tax originally passed in 2009 by Springfield voters was reviewed. This tax revenue has been used to provide additional funding for the closed Springfield Police & Fire Retirement Plan. It was noted state statute requires this tax renewal after 5 years.

Quarterly plan reporting was reviewed from the third quarter of 2013. Sixty-one defined benefit plans participated in this reporting.

The Director discussed the current status regarding the State Auditor's retirement survey. This activity included a questionnaire forwarded to 15 large pension plans by the State Auditor's office and according to the Auditor's office, this survey is for informational purposes only and is not considered an audit. Per discussion with State Auditor's office staff, this informational report should be completed by the end of the legislative session. Staff will forward a copy to the committee as soon as it becomes available.

No further business being presented, the committee adjourned.

NGA

Ronda Stegmann () Executive Director



JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

2017 RETIREMENT LEGISLATION - SENATE

									S H	a the second				
	SE	ENATE BILLS			SENATE	ACTION		r		HOUSE	ACTION		OTHER	ACTION
Bill Number	System Affected	Description	Sponsor	Committee Assigned	Date / Time Hearing Rm	Committee Action	Perfected	Passed 3rd Read	Committee Assigned	Date / Time Hearing Rm	Committee Action	Passed 3rd Read	Notes	Governor Action
<u>SB 58</u>	MOSERS	Establishes MOSERS coverage for employees of the Missouri Charter Public School Commission.	Sifton	Education	Hearing Held 2/28/17									
<u>SB 62</u>	CURP / CERF / MOSERS / MPERS / PSRS / PEERS	 Changes the employer contribution rate to CURP and requires employees hired on/after 7/1/18 to contribute to the plan; 2. Increases the fees/penalties that fund CERF; 3. Requires \$1 to be collected & deposited into statutory County Recorders Fund; 4. Permits MOSERS/MPERS boards to establish a buy-out program for terminated vested members to receive a lump sum payment; 5. Provides "pop-up" provision relative to divorce after retirement & extends notification period to nominate beneficiary after remarriage for PSRS/PEERS members. 	Hegeman	Health & Pensions	Hearing Held 1/18/17	2/1/17 Do Pass	3/7/17 Perfected (SS)	3/9/17 Passed (SS)	Pensions	Hearing Held 4/10/17	4/19/17 Rules- Admin Oversight Executive Session Completed; 4/20/17 Reported Do Pass w/HCS	4/26/17 Senate Bills for Third Reading Calendar		
<u>SB 141</u>	MOSERS / MPERS	Requires a General Assembly member or statewide elected official who first holds office on or after 1/1/18 to participate in a defined contribution retirement plan.	Emery	Health & Pensions	Hearing Held 2/15/17	2/22/17 Do Pass	4/26/17 Informal Calendar							
<u>SB 228</u>	MOSERS / MPERS	Modifies the Year 2000 Retirement Plan for state employees, members of the General Assembly, and statewide elected officials hired after 1/1/18. Members also must participate in Deferred Comp plan.	Koenig	Health & Pensions	Hearing Held 1/25/17	2/1/17 Do Pass	4/26/17 Informal Calendar w/SS & SA 1 (pending)							
<u>SB 295</u>	CERF	Modifies the fees and penalties collected to be paid to the County Employees' Retirement Fund.	Schaaf	Health & Pensions	Hearing Held 2/15/17	2/22/17 Do Pass w/SCS	4/26/17 Informal Calendar w/SCS							
<u>SB 296</u>	St Louis Police & St Louis City Employees	Modifies provisions relating to membership of the police retirement system of St. Louis as a condition of employment.	Hummel	Health & Pensions	Hearing Held 2/1/17	2/22/17 Consent, Do Pass	3/16/17 Consent Calendar	3/16/17 w/EC Adopted- Consent	Local Gov't	4/12/17 Executive Session Completed; Do Pass	4/26/17 Rules-Admin Oversight Executive Session 5pm or Upon Adjournment HHR 7	ale a ch		

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2017 RETIREMENT LEGISLATION - SENATE

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Bill Number	System Affected	Description	Sponsor	Committee Assigned	Date / Time Hearing Rm	Committee Action	Perfected	Passed 3rd Read	Committee Assigned	Date / Time Hearing Rm	Committee Action	Passed 3rd Read	Notes	Governor Action
<u>SB 308</u>	All state plans	Modifies the law relating to the investment policies of the State.	Chappelle- Nadal	Insurance & Banking			-							
SB 309 (HB 561)	PACARS / St Louis PSRS / PSRS	 Changes the laws regarding the retirement system for prosecuting and circuit attorneys; Makes multiple changes to St. Louis PSRS and provides for new benefit tier for employees hired on/after Jan 1, 2018; 3. Modifies working after retirement provisions to include PSRS retirees employed by a third party or independent contractor; 4. Requires Greene County to deposit judicial circuit court case surcharges into the "justice center fund". 	Walsh	Health & Pensions	Hearing Held 2/1/17	2/15/17 Do Pass w/ SCS	3/1/17 SCS Adopted	3/1/17 Passed - Consent	Pensions	4/25/17 HCS Reported Do Pass; Ref: Rules- Admin Oversight				
SB 333 (HB 729)	MOSERS / MPERS	Changes the vesting requirement for members of the state retirement plan known as MSEP 2011 and modifies the benefits of such members who have vested, but are no longer state employees.	Schaaf	Health & Pensions	Hearing Held 2/15/17	2/22/17 Do Pass w/SCS	4/26/17 Informal Calendar w/SCS							
SB 394 (HB 304)	PSRS / PEERS / St. Louis PSRS / MOSERS / MPERS / PACARS / St. Louis Police & St. Louis City Employees	 Extends notification period from 90 days to 1 year relative to nominating a successor beneficiary after death or divorce; 2. Provides "pop-up" provision relative to divorce after retirement; 3. Makes multiple changes to St. Louis PSRS; 4. Provides for a new benefit tier for St. Louis PSRS employees hired on/after 1/1/18; 5. Modifies working after retirement provisions to include PSRS retirees employed by third party or independent contractor; 6. Modifies the eligibility of a public employee convicted of certain work-related felonies to receive retirement benefits; 7. Changes vesting requirement for members of MSEP 2011 & modifies benefits of terminated vested employees; 8. Permits MOSERS/MPERS boards to establish a buy-out program for terminated vested members to receive a lump sum payment; 9. Changes the laws regarding the retirement system for prosecuting and circuit attorneys; 10. Modifies provisions relating to membership of the police retirement system of St. Louis as condition of employment & addresses gender neutrality; 11. Modifies coverage of jailers & EMTs within LAGERS. 	Romine	Health & Pensions	2/22/17 Hearing Held	3/1/17 Consent, Do Pass	3/16/17 Consent Calendar	3/16/17 Passed - Consent	Pensions	4/26/17 Executive Session Completed HCS Voted Do Pass				

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2017 RETIREMENT LEGISLATION - SENATE

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	SE	ENATE BILLS			SENATE	ACTION				HOUSE	ACTION		OTHER	ACTION
Bill Number	System Affected	Description	Sponsor	Committee Assigned	Date / Time Hearing Rm	Committee Action	Perfected	Passed 3rd Read	Committee Assigned	Date / Time Hearing Rm	Committee Action	Passed 3rd Read	Notes	Governor Action
SB 409 (HB 619)	St Louis PSRS	Makes multiple changes to St Louis Public School Retirement System; provides for a new benefit tier for employees hired on or after Jan 1, 2018.	Koenig	Health & Pensions	2/22/17 Hearing Held	3/1/17 Do Pass	4/26/17 Informal Calendar							
SB 441 (HB 305)	PSRS / KCPSRS	Modifies working after retirement provisions to include retirees employed by a third party or independent contractor.	Hegeman	Health & Pensions	3/1/17 Hearing Held									

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Bill Number System Affected Description Sponsor Committee Assigned Date / Time Hearing Rm Committee Action Passed Date / Time Affected Date / Time Assigned Date / Time Action Date / Rm Dassed Date / Time Action Dassed Dassed <thdassed< th=""> Dassed Da</thdassed<>														
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Constant of the second s		Description	Sponsor		Time Hearing		Perfected			Time Hearing	Accessing Street Street Accessing		Notes	Governor Action
<u>HB 75</u>	PACARS	attorney in two or more contiguous counties in a judicial circuit and outlines compensation/benefit levels	McGaugh	Judiciary										
<u>HB 80</u>		(employee retirement plans or	Vescovo	Pensions		2/21/17 Ref: Rules-Admin Oversight								
<u>HB 302 &</u> <u>228</u>	St Louis Police & St Louis City Employees	Creates a statewide program called the "Blue Alert System"; Senate Amendment No. 2 (offered by Sen. Hummel) modifies provisions relating to membership of the police retirement system of St. Louis as a condition of employment.	Hill (108)	Crime Prevention & Public Safety	1/31/17 Executive Session Completed HCS Do Pass	2/7/17 Rules- Legislative Oversight: HCS Do Pass	2/14/17 HCS Perfected	2/16/17 Passed (HCS)	Transporta- tion, Infrastructure & Public Safety	3/9/17 Heard; Executive Session Completed	3/9/17 SCS for HCS Reported	4/26/17 House Bills for Third Reading Calendar		
<u>HB 304</u>	PSRS / PEERS / St. Louis PSRS	Extends notification period from 90 days to 1 year relative to nominating a successor beneficiary after death or divorce; provides "pop-up" provision relative to divorce after retirement; makes multiple changes to St Louis PSRS and provides for a new benefit tier for employees hired on/after Jan 1, 2018.	Pike	Pensions	Heard 2/6/17; HCS Do Pass 2/20/17	2/28/17 Consent & House Procedure: HCS Do Pass- Consent	3/9/17 Perfected by Consent	3/14/17 Passed (HCS)	Health & Pensions	4/5/17 Heard; Executive Session Completed	4/20/17 SCS for HCS Reported	4/26/17 House Bills for Third Reading Calendar		
<u>HB 305</u>	PSRS / KCPSRS	Modifies working after retirement provisions to include retirees employed by a third party or independent contractor.	Pike	Pensions	2/20/17 Executive Session Completed Do Pass	3/13/17 Rules Admin Oversight: Do Pass	4/26/17 Perfection Calendar							
HB 561 (SB 309)	PACARS	Changes the laws regarding the retirement system for prosecuting and circuit attorneys.	Walker (003)	Pensions	2/20/17 Executive Session Completed HCS Do Pass	4/6/17 Rules-Admin Oversight: HCS Reported Do Pass	17 A.							

HB 619 (SB 409) St Louis PSRS Makes multiple changes to St Louis Public School Retirement System; provides for a new benefit tier for employees hired on or after Jan 1, Dogan Pensions 3/13/17 Executive Session Completed HCS Do 3/30/17 Rules 4/12/17 4/24/17 HCS Passed (HCS) Image: Completed (HCS) Image: Completed (HCS)														
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		Public School Retirement System; provides for a new benefit tier for	Dogan	Pensions	Executive Session Completed HCS Do Pass	Admin Oversight:	HCS	Passed						
<u>HB 645</u>	All law en- forcement plans	Allows retired police officers to return to work when there has been a disaster or emergency proclaimed by Governor, or there is a national emergency.	Phillips	Crime Prevention & Public Safety	2/28/17 Executive Session Completed HCS Do Pass - Consent	Heard 3/7/17 Consent & House Procedure; HCS Do Pass- Consent	3/15/17 Perfected by Consent (HCS)	3/27/17 Passed (HCS)	Transporta- tion, Infrastructure & Public Safety	4/13/17 Executive Session Completed	4/20/17 HCS Reported	4/26/17 House Bills for Third Reading Calendar		
<u>HB 723</u>	Kansas City PSRS	Modifies provisions relating to the retirement of school employees.	Walker (003)	Pensions	3/6/17 Executive Session Completed Do Pass	3/28/17 Rules-Admin Oversight: Reported Do Pass	4/26/17 Perfection Calendar							
<u>HB 729</u>	MOSERS/ MPERS	Changes the vesting requirement for members of the state retirement plan known as MSEP 2011 and modifies the benefits of such members who have vested, but are no longer state employees; permits the system boards to establish a buy-out program for terminated vested members to receive a lump sum payment.	Bernskoetter	Pensions	3/13/17 Executive Session Completed HCS Do Pass	3/30/17 Rules Admin Oversight: HCS Reported Do Pass	4/12/17 HCS Perfected	4/18/17 Passed (HCS)	Health & Pensions					
<u>HB 755</u>	PSRS / PEERS	Provides that salary and benefits information for the executive director and board employees is exempt from confidentiality requirements.	Cookson											
<u>HB 782</u>	PACARS	Modifies provisions relating to the prosecuting attorneys and circuit attorneys' retirement system; exempts Ozark County from monthly contributions to PACARS when there is no prosecuting attorney in office.	Rowland	Pensions	2/27/17 Executive Session Completed Do Pass - Consent	2/28/17 Ref: Rules- Admin Oversight								

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Bill Number	System Affected	Description	Sponsor	Committee Assigned	Date / Time Hearing Rm	Committee Action	Perfected	Passed 3rd Read	Committee Assigned	Date / Time Hearing Rm	Committee Action	Passed 3rd Read	Notes	Governor Action
HB 819 (SB 296)	St Louis Police & St Louis City Employees	Modifies provisions relating to membership of the police retirement system of St. Louis as a condition of employment.	Gregory	Pensions	4/10/17 Hearing Scheduled; Bill Not Heard									
HB 831 (SB 296)	St Louis Police / St Louis City Employees / CERF / PACARS / MPERS / MPERS / PSRS / PEERS / KC PSRS	 Increase the fees/penalties that fund CERF; 2. Modifies multiple provisions to PACARS; 3. Modifies provisions relating to membership of the police retirement system of St Louis as a condition of employment; 4. Changes vesting requirement from 10 years to 5 years and offsets to MOSERS/MPERS boards to establish a buy-out program for terminated vested members to receive a lump sum payment; 6. Changes CURP employer contribution rates and requires employees hired on/after 7/1/18 to contribute; 7. Provides "pop-up" provision relative to divorce after retirement & extends notification period to nominate beneficiary after remarriage for PSRS/PEERS members; 8. Modifies provisions that permit retired members of Kansas City PSRS to return to work; 9. Modifies provisions that permit retired PSRS members to return to work. 	Baringer	Crime Prevention & Public Safety	3/14/17 Executive Session Completed Do Pass - Consent (HCS)	Heard 3/16/17 Consent & House Procedure; HCS Do Pass- Consent	3/30/17 HCS Perfected by Consent	4/3/17 HCS Passed/ Emergency Clause adopted	Health & Pensions	4/12/17 Hearing; Executive Session Completed SCS Reported Do Pass	4/24/17 Fiscal Oversight Executive Session Completed; SCS for HCS Voted Do Pass	4/26/17 House Bills for Third Reading Calendar		
<u>HB 865</u>	LAGERS / St Louis Police / MOSERS / MPERS	Modifies provisions relating to membership of the police retirement system of St. Louis as a condition of employment; modifies coverage of jailers and EMTs within LAGERS; addresses gender neutrality; permits MOSERS/MPERS boards to establish a buy-out program for terminated vested members to receive a lump sum payment.	Walker (003)	Pensions	4/12/17 Executive Session Completed HCS Do Pass	4/13/17 Ref: Rules- Admin Oversight								

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Bill Number	System Affected	Description	Sponsor	Committee Assigned	Date / Time Hearing Rm	Committee Action	Perfected	Passed 3rd Read	Committee Assigned	Date / Time Hearing Rm	Committee Action	Passed 3rd Read	Notes	Governor Action
HB 886 (SB 62)	CURP	Changes the employer contribution rate to CURP and requires employees to contribute to the plan.	Black	Pensions	3/13/17 Executive Session Completed HCS Do Pass	3/30/17 Rules Admin Oversight: HCS Reported Do Pass	4/19/17 HCS Perfected	4/25/17 Passed (HCS)						
<u>HB 891</u>	PSRS / PEERS	Provides for cost of living increases for public school retirees; repeals authority of board of trustees to decrease benefits, COLA's.	Cookson											
<u>HB 918</u>	All public employee retirement plans	Requires the actuary for each public employee retirement plan to use certain assumptions when performing the plan's actuarial valuation.	Berry	Pensions	4/10/17 Hearing Held									
<u>HB 933</u>	LAGERS	Allows a metropolitan planning organization to be considered a political subdivision for purposes of the Missouri LAGERS.	Fraker											
<u>HB 936</u>	PSRS / PEERS	Changes provisions relating to the work of retired teachers in school districts in positions not requiring teacher certification.	Shaul (113)	Elementary & Secondary Education	4/3/17 Hearing Held									
<u>HB 971</u>	MPERS	Modifies provisions related to disability benefits for members of the MODOT and Hwy Patrol Employees' Retirement System	Higdon	Pensions	4/12/17 Executive Session Completed HCS Do Pass	4/13/17 Ref: Rules- Admin Oversight								
HB 979 (SB 295)	CERF	Modifies the fees and penalties collected to be paid to the County Employees' Retirement Fund.	Walker (003)	Pensions	3/13/17 Executive Session Completed HCS Do Pass	4/6/17 Rules-Admin Oversight: HCS Reported Do Pass								
<u>HB 996</u>	All public employee retirement plans	Modifies the eligibility of a public employee who is convicted of a certain work-related felony to receive retirement benefits.	Rhoads	Pensions	4/12/17 Executive Session Completed Do Pass	4/19/17 Rules-Admin Oversight: Reported Do Pass			o					

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Bill Number	System Affected	Description	Sponsor	Committee Assigned	Date / Time Hearing Rm	Committee Action	Perfected	Passed 3rd Read	Committee Assigned	Date / Time Hearing Rm	Committee Action	Passed 3rd Read	Notes	Governor Action
<u>HB 1047</u>		Prohibits elected federal officials from receiving any benefits under a retirement plan accrued as an elected state official once vested in a federal retirement plan	Neely											
HB 1085 (HB 619)	St Louis PSRS	Makes multiple changes to St Louis Public School Retirement System; provides for a new benefit tier for employees hired on or after 1/1/18, and establishes a COLA under certain conditions.	Walker (003)	Pensions	4/10/17 Hearing Held									
<u>HB 1086</u>	St Louis City Police	Modifies provisions relating to the police retirement system for the City of St Louis.	Walker (003)	Pensions										
<u>HB 1146</u>	PSRS	Changes the laws regarding teacher compensation in public schools.	Swan											
HB 1151 (HB 979)	CERF	Modifies the fees and penalties collected to be paid to the County Employees' Retirement Fund.	Reiboldt	Pensions	4/12/17 Executive Session Completed HCS Do Pass	4/13/17 Ref: Rules- Admin Oversight								
<u>HJR 33</u>	JUDGES	Proposes a constitutional amendment allowing a judge who has attained age of 70 to complete his or her term.	Morris	Judiciary										

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Joint Committee on Public Employee Retirement Quarterly Reports

2017 First Quarter

<u>Plan Name</u>	Beg. Mkt Value	End Mkt Value	ROR 12 mos.	ROR 36 mos.	ROR 60 mos.	ROR for Inv	Price Inf. Assump	Sal/Wage Assump.
Antonia FPD Pension Plan	\$2,079,590	\$2,214,703	6.85% (Net)	n/a% (Net)	n/a% (Net)	n/a%	n/a%	n/a%
Arnold Police Pension Plan	\$11,528,921	\$11,953,142	8.34% (Net)	5.11% (Net)	6.84% (Net)	6.5%	0.0%	4.5%
Black Jack FPD Retirement Plan	\$11,899,045	\$12,641,984	1% (Gross)	1% (Gross)	1% (Gross)	7%	2.75%	4.50%
Bridgeton Employees Retirement Plan	\$26,077,613	\$26,910,880	6.86% (Net)	1.90% (Net)	4.85% (Net)	7.5%	3.0%	4.0%
Carthage Policemen's & Firemen's Pension Plan	\$6,647,117	\$6,791,473	13.06% (Net)	5.49% (Net)	6.80% (Net)	7.0%	2.2%	3.5%
Columbia Police and Firemens' Retirement Plan	\$120,089,484	\$124,475,921	8.19% (Net)	3.76% (Net)	5.84% (Net)	7.50%	3.00%	3.50%
County Employees Retirement Fund	\$447,023,000	\$465,403,000	10.5% (Gross)	4.62% (Gross)	7.68% (Gross)	7.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Creve Coeur FPD Retirement Plan	\$10,057,595	\$10,587,764	n/a% (Gross)	n/a% (Gross)	n/a% (Gross)	7%	3%	4%
Eureka FPD Retirement Plan	\$10,505,717	\$11,188,156	1% (Gross)	1% (Gross)	1% (Gross)	7%	2.75%	4.50%
Florissant Employees Pension Plan	\$10,039,179	\$10,219,510	6.37% (Net)	3.46% (Net)	4.47% (Net)	6.0%	0%	3.0%
Florissant Valley FPD Retirement Plan	\$26,971,694	\$27,973,304	N/A% (Net)	N/A% (Net)	N/A% (Net)	6.25%	2.5%	SEE COMME NTS%
Glendale Pension Plan	\$4,926,047	\$5,054,818	10.22% (Gross)	N/A% (Gross)	N/A% (Gross)	7.50%	2.50%	3.75%
Hannibal Police & Fire Retirement Plan	\$15,593,172	\$16,270,043	9.6% (Gross)	5.2% (Gross)	7.6% (Gross)	7.0%	2.5%	3.5%
Hazelwood Retirement Plan	\$36,505,841	\$37,581,039	18.04% (Net)	7.70% (Net)	11.96% (Net)	7.5%	3%	4.5%
Jefferson City Firemen's Retirement System	\$15,399,687	\$15,423,107	6.96% (Net)	3.24% (Net)	4.83% (Net)	5.5%	2.5%	n/a%
Kansas City Public School Retirement System	\$618,150,000	\$631,599,000	11.61% (Gross)	4.65% (Gross)	6.45% (Gross)	7.75%	2.75%	5.0%
Kansas City Supplemental Retirement Plan	\$1,425,642	\$1,489,791	0% (Gross)	0% (Gross)	0% (Gross)	0%	0%	0%
KC Area Transportation Authority Salaried Employees Pension Plan	\$16,511,794	\$17,302,016	11.56% (Gross)	5.79% (Gross)	7.53% (Gross)	7.50%	3.00%	4.00%
KC Trans. Auth. Union Employees Pension Plan	\$45,288,373	\$46,674,651	11.10% (Net)	5.36% (Net)	7.77% (Net)	7.50%	3.00%	4.25%
Little River Drainage Dist Retirement Plan	\$1,381,933	\$1,433,755	5.42% (Gross)	2.91% (Gross)	3.4% (Gross)	5%	0%	3.5%
Metro West FPD Retirement Plan	\$43,770,487	\$45,828,053	11.22% (Net)	4.92% (Net)	6.29% (Net)	0%	0%	0%

Please be aware information provided in this report may contain unaudited data.

<u>Plan Name</u>	Beg. Mkt Value	End Mkt Value	ROR 12 mos.	ROR 36 mos.	ROR 60 mos.	ROR for Inv	Price Inf. Assump	Sal/Wage Assump.
Overland Non-uniform Pension Fund	\$9,914,000	\$10,317,000	10.56% (Net)	4.79% (Net)	6.63% (Net)	7%	2.5%	3.5%
Overland Police Retirement Fund	\$11,916,000	\$12,441,000	12.20% (Net)	5.38% (Net)	7.11% (Net)	7%	2.5%	3.5%
Prosecuting Attorneys' Retirement System	\$38,856,926	\$40,621,307	8.71% (Net)	3.89% (Net)	5.6% (Net)	7.1%	2%	0%
Raytown Policemen's Retirement Fund	\$10,139,871	\$10,369,774	11.28% (Gross)	5.47% (Gross)	6.77% (Gross)	7.5%	2.5%	N/A%
Sedalia Firemen's Retirement Fund	\$7,008,438	\$7,262,222	9.5% (Gross)	5.2% (Gross)	7.7% (Gross)	7%	2%	3%
Sedalia Police Retirement Fund	\$3,028,724	\$3,255,679	11.00% (Gross)	4.70% (Gross)	n/a% (Gross)	6%	None %	None %
Sheriff's Retirement System	\$41,405,448	\$42,507,597	10.316% (Gross)	6.018% (Gross)	9.798% (Gross)	6.5%	3.5%	see comme nt%
Valley Park FPD Retirement Plan	\$5,530,492	\$5,766,897	12.04% (Net)	5.68% (Net)	8.07% (Net)	7.00%	0%	2.5%

\$1,609,671,830 \$1,661,557,586