



Employees' Retirement System of the City of Milwaukee

789 N. Water St., Ste. 300, Milwaukee WI 53202
(414) 286-3557 or 1-800-815-8418; www.cmers.com
Member Account Statement Hotline: (414) 286-5711
Questions or comments: e-mail norm@cmers.com

2023 ERS NEWSLETTER FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS AND MEMBERS ON DEFERRED STATUS

Please read both sides of this newsletter! It contains important information regarding your ERS benefits.

Information regarding the ERS and Benefits can be found:

- **Website:** Please visit our website at www.cmers.com to view information about the ERS and use our online calculator to estimate your future pension benefits (see ERS Member Self Service paragraph for more information).
- **Member Handbook:** The member handbook is available on our website at www.cmers.com.
- **Brochures:** The ERS has developed a series of brochures outlining specific ERS benefits including information on the retirement process, disability benefits, estimated service retirement benefits, etc., available online or upon request.

Active Members If you are currently working for the City or one of the City Agencies - MMSD, MPS, HACM, RACM, Veolia, or WCD, please keep your address current by *notifying your employer* of any address changes. The ERS receives updated address information from your employer. If you intend to retire, you must notify the ERS and apply for the retirement benefits at the ERS 30 to 90 days prior to your anticipated retirement date.

Deferred Members It is imperative that you keep us informed of any address and name changes so we can contact you when you are eligible for your benefit. For **address changes:** a Change of Address Form is available on our website (click on *Forms* and print the *Change of Address Form – Deferred/Retired Members* form) or by contacting our office. You may also change your address using the self-service feature on our website. For **name changes:** please submit a written request with the following information a) your signature, b) your ERS person ID number (located on upper right-hand side of your enclosed Member Account Statement) or social security number, and c) documentation of the name changes (*e.g.*, marriage license).

Pre-retirement Seminars for City Employees The ERS will be conducting pre-retirement planning sessions for employees (general, fire, and police) throughout the year. These sessions are intended for employees planning to retire in the next few years, but anyone is welcome to attend. Please visit our website (www.cmers.com) for information and dates about upcoming sessions. Representatives from the ERS, Deferred Compensation, and the Social Security office will be present to provide an overview of pension, group life insurance, health and dental insurance, deferred compensation, Social Security, and Medicare. Please visit the ERS website (www.cmers.com) to sign up for one of these sessions. Please note that these sessions are being conducted virtually (online) and in-person at this time (in-person seats are limited, so please register early to reserve a spot).

ERS Member Self Service (MSS) From the www.cmers.com home page, active and deferred members are able to set up a user account by registering with our website. To register, you will need to select a user identification and password, provide an email address and some information that helps us confirm your identity. As an additional security measure, we have implemented a mechanism where you will be emailed a code that you will have to enter to complete your account creation. Rest assured that your private information is protected. Once registered, members can sign in using their private user identification and password. MSS features include the ability to:

- View your personal profile, correct personal information and addresses, change family status
- View information about your member account (contributions, service credit)
- Calculate and print a pension benefit estimate using information the ERS has on file or using information you enter and request official benefit estimates
- Register for, and be reminded of, retirement counseling sessions
- Print Active/Deferred Member Beneficiary Change Forms for Pension Benefits and Life Insurance Beneficiary Change Forms

Update your e-mail To better serve you, we are exploring ways to improve how we communicate with you. Although e-mail will not replace our current communications with you, it is a great way to provide members with timely reminders and links to internet resources. Please help us build our list of member e-mail addresses by sending an e-mail to norm@cmers.com, or by creating a Member Self Service account via our website (www.cmers.com).

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

We welcome your inquiries. You can contact the ERS via e-mail at norm@cmers.com. In addition, ERS specialists are available to answer questions over the telephone.

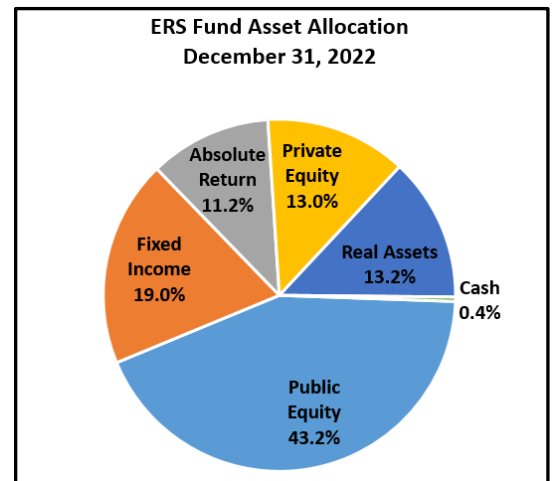
****IMPORTANT** Notice of Change to Actuarial Factors** The ERS utilizes survivorship and other calculation factors based upon ages, mortality, etc. when calculating your retirement benefits. These factors are determined by the system’s actuary and are revised periodically. The factors are being recalculated at this time based upon a recent 5-year experience study, and new factors will most likely be put in effect for retirements after July 1, 2023 (tentatively). This change in factors may affect the benefit that is eventually paid out to you in some situations (e.g. if you elect a survivorship benefit, retire using the early retirement option, etc.). These factors will be applied to the calculator on the ERS’s Self Service website when they are made available to the ERS – a notice will be posted on the website once the new factors have been put in place. If you are eligible to retire on/before July 1, 2023, and would like to determine the impact of the change, please request new estimates from the ERS Office using different retirement dates (before and after the final published effective date of the new factors). Alternatively, you can perform unofficial calculation on the self-service site – *please note that if you intend to retire, you must request an official estimate from the ERS 30 to 90 days prior to your anticipated retirement date.*

****IMPORTANT** Beneficiary Information for Active and Deferred Employees** If you need to change your pension beneficiary information go to: www.cmers.com – click on *Forms* and print the *Beneficiary Change Form – Pension Benefits - Active/Deferred Members* or contact our office and a form will be sent. Please read the instructions carefully on the forms before completing them in order to avoid making errors. Be sure to have two people witness the form who are not named as beneficiaries—make a copy for your records.

NOTE: Group life insurance beneficiary designations are separate from pension beneficiary designations. If you need to update your life insurance beneficiary(ies) and are an employee of the City of Milwaukee, HACM, RACM, or WCD, go to www.cmers.com - click on *Forms* and print the *Beneficiary Change Form – Life Insurance* or contact our office and a form will be sent to you. All other employees please contact your Human Resources office; the ERS does not handle your life insurance coverage.

ERS Funded Status The ERS funding ratio increased slightly for 2022 as reported by Cavanaugh-Macdonald, the ERS’s independent actuary. The funded status of your Plan as of January 1, 2022, based on the actuarial value of assets was 83.41% up from 80.66% in the prior year’s report. The ratio as of January 1, 2023, will not be determined until the actuary presents the results of the valuation later this year.

Investment Update The City of Milwaukee Pension Fund reported a return of -6.5% net of fees, in 2022. This return outperformed the Fund’s blended benchmark by 4.1%. High inflation and rising interest rates made 2022 a very difficult year for traditional asset classes, with the S&P 500, an index of U.S. large cap stocks, down -18.1%, and the Bloomberg US Aggregate, a commonly followed fixed income index, down -13.0%. Against this difficult backdrop, the Fund held up quite well. All of the Fund’s asset classes, except for Real Assets, outperformed their respective benchmarks. The Fund also performed well compared to peers, ranking in the 14th percentile of its peer universe as calculated by Northern Trust, the Fund’s custodian, and in the 6th percentile of its peer universe as calculated by Callan, the Fund’s investment consultant. The ERS has been a top performing fund for all standard time periods in the last 10 years. The value of the Fund on December 31, 2022, totaled approximately \$5.47 billion.



Annuitant and Pension Board An 8-member board of trustees governs the ERS. The President of the Common Council appoints three members; the active membership elects three members; the retired membership elects one member; the City Comptroller serves as an ex-officio voting member. Current Board Members and their term expiration dates, or until replaced, are as follows:

Matthew Bell (Chair)	Elected Active	December 31, 2025
Deborah Ford	Appointed by Common Council	
Timothy Heling	Elected Active	December 31, 2026
Molly King	Elected Active	December 31, 2024
Thomas Klusman	Elected Retiree	December 31, 2025
Rudolph Konrad	Appointed by Common Council	
Nicholas Kovac	Appointed by Common Council	
Aycha Sawa	City Comptroller – Ex-Officio	

The Board meets monthly to assure the proper governance and oversight of the Fund. The meetings are public and members are welcome to attend. Past Meeting Minutes are available at www.cmers.com – click on *News & Information* → *Library* → *Board Meeting Minutes*.