

# TMRS E-bulletin

FOR CITIES

## October TMRS Board Meeting, House and Senate Interim Charges, Confidential Records, Reminders for Cities, Online Publications

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### October Meeting of the TMRS Board of Trustees

The TMRS Board of Trustees met on October 25, 2017, in Grapevine, Texas. The Board:

- Discussed the TMRS [Strategic Plan](#) for 2018 – 2022, and adopted new Mission and Vision statements
- Received a presentation of the draft/preliminary TMRS operating and capital [budget](#) for 2018
- Approved allocations to three funds in the [Real Return](#) portfolio for a total of \$525 million, pending successful contract negotiations
- Approved allocations to two funds in the [Real Estate](#) portfolio for a total of \$200 million, pending successful contract negotiations
- Discussed potential changes to the Investment Policy Statement
- Approved dates for [2018 Board meetings](#)

The final meeting of the Board of Trustees for 2017 will be December 7 – 8 at the TMRS building in Austin.

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### House and Senate Interim Charges Announced

The Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives and the Lt. Governor issued interim charges to the House and Senate standing committees, respectively. Speaker Straus first issued charges related to [Hurricane Harvey](#) recovery on September 12, 2017. The Speaker also announced the creation of the [Select Committee on Economic Competitiveness](#) to look at workforce readiness, infrastructure, and state and local economic development tools. On October 23, he released a [full list](#) of all interim charges, including charges to the House Pensions Committee, some of which potentially affect TMRS.

Lt. Governor Patrick also announced charges relating to [Hurricane Harvey](#) recovery on September 9, 2017. Since then, he issued two more rounds of charges to various committees. The [first round](#) included charges to eight committees, and the [second round](#) directed charges to eight other committees, including the Senate State Affairs Committee, which has jurisdiction over Pensions. The second round of charges includes a topic on oversight that affects TMRS.

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### Confidential Records and Your Consultants

We understand that cities may be hiring consultants or entering into benefits manager relationships with third-party companies to assist with analysis or management of benefits for city employees. Please remember that, under state law, TMRS' records of members, retirees, alternate payees, and beneficiaries are confidential and remain confidential even when they have been provided to the city. TMRS will not provide any confidential information to these third parties, regardless of their relationship to the city. If your city plans to share any TMRS records with consultants or third-party companies, we strongly recommend that you speak to your City Attorney to ensure that the information will remain confidential.

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## 2017 Annual Training Seminar a Success!

The [TMRS Annual Training Seminar](#) took place at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center in Grapevine, Texas, on October 25 – 27. This year's theme, "Strong by Design," reflected TMRS' proven approach to plan design, benefit funding, and customer service.

The keynote presenters, including Dr. Janet Lapp, internationally renowned speaker on leadership development, and Chad Hymas, a widely recognized speaker on team building and overcoming challenges, were thought-provoking and well received by the audience. Both speakers emphasized the strength needed for change and the courage it takes to overcome challenges.

In the training sessions, attendees learned about fiduciary responsibility, legislative issues affecting pensions, actuarial and investment activities, and GASB reporting requirements. The Member Services and Project Management panel discussions generated lively question-and-answer sessions.

For the first time, seminar attendees were able to download an event app for keeping track of the schedule, sessions, activity feed, and more. Presentations were posted within the app and also on a web page (viewable [here](#)).

The 2018 Annual Training Seminar is tentatively scheduled for November 7– 9 at the Lakeway Resort and Spa, Lakeway, Texas.

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## City Correspondent Training in Austin in Early December

If you haven't been to a TMRS City Correspondent Certification Course, there's one more chance this year: December 5– 6 at the TMRS Building in Austin. The Certification Course provides the most comprehensive approach to learning about the administration of TMRS retirement benefits. Small class sizes and direct interaction with TMRS staff give attendees a thorough overview of everything a City Correspondent needs to know to administer the program. The course fee is \$50, which includes materials, breakfast both days, and lunch on December 5. [Register online through Eventbrite](#). Within the Eventbrite invitation is a link to a block of rooms at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel near the TMRS building. If you need a hotel room for December 4 and 5, book by November 13.

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## Reminder – File Your Plan Change Ordinances with TMRS

Don't forget to send in any ordinances affecting your city's TMRS plan to our office before the end of the year. If your city is adopting or has adopted an ordinance changing TMRS provisions (such as Annuity Increases, Updated Service Credits, or Stat Max actions) to be effective January 1, 2018, send TMRS a copy of the ordinance right away! By law, these changes must be transmitted to TMRS before the ordinance's effective date. The last date of acceptance is December 31, 2017. If you have already sent in your ordinance and have not received an acknowledgment from TMRS, please call or email LaShelle Ruiz at 800-924-8677 or [lruiz@tmrs.com](mailto:lruiz@tmrs.com).

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## Administrative Reminders

### Why Information Submitted about New Members Is IMPORTANT

Whether you are submitting enrollments online using the City Portal or filling out new member forms, it is EXTREMELY important that all information is correct. When a new member joins TMRS, we collect personal information such as date of birth, gender, and monthly salary. Our actuaries require accurate information as part of the annual valuation process, which determines your city's rate each year. Missing or incorrect information can affect your city's contribution rate. The best way to submit new member enrollment data is through the City Portal, but if you must use a [TMRS-0016](#) form, please be sure the form is accurate, legible, and complete.

### Why TIMELY Submission of Enrollment for New Members is IMPORTANT

When enrolling new employees in TMRS, please complete the enrollment process as soon as possible, **and no later than the same monthly payroll that reports the first retirement deduction**. Enrollment can be done through the City Portal or by using the New Member Form ([TMRS-0016](#)), not both. If the first retirement contribution is sent to TMRS without enrollment being completed, we must perform additional research to allocate the retirement contributions that are received from the city. Also, new members will not be able to set up their MyTMRS accounts until the enrollment process has been completed

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## City Rate Flyer Now Available

Have you ever wondered why your city contribution rate fluctuates, or how TMRS' investment returns affect your city's rate? A new flyer for cities answers these questions and explains the actuarial underpinning of city rates with an example rate breakdown. It's posted on the website [here](#) along with other informational flyers on [COLAs](#) and [Updated Service Credit](#).

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## Retirementwise Double Issue

We mailed the Fall/Winter 2017 issue of [Retirementwise](#), TMRS' magazine for retirees, on October 25, and an electronic copy is available on our website. Retirees who are currently registered on MyTMRS and all City contacts recently received a link to the electronic version as well.

Topics included in this large issue are:

- Texas Landscapes Quiz (cover story)
- 2018 Direct Deposit Calendar
- Why TMRS Is Strong
- TMRS Website Upgrade
- Address Update Reminder
- MyTMRS – Convenience is Key
- When a Retiree can Change their Beneficiary
- 2017 Tax Reminders
- 85th Legislative Summary
- Retiree Luncheon in San Antonio
- Summary Annual Financial Report
- Safeguard Yourself from Fraud

**NOTE** • Previously issued e-bulletins are posted in the [E-Bulletin section](#) under the City Services tab on the TMRS website.