



INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT

Adopted December 8, 2022

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SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

The Board of Trustees (Board) of the Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS or the System) has adopted this Investment Policy Statement (IPS) to govern the System's Trust Fund investments. The IPS, along with its Exhibits and Investment Guidelines, outlines TMRS' investment objectives and beliefs, Board and staff responsibilities and limitations, and asset allocation. The IPS also establishes accountability for the Board, staff, investment consultants, and investment managers. Board approval is required for any action that deviates from the IPS.

The objective of TMRS' investment program is to ensure that members, retirees and beneficiaries receive the benefits they have been promised by participating cities at a reasonable and predictable cost to those cities. To achieve this objective, the Board, in consultation with its Consulting Actuary, is responsible for adopting an actuarial return assumption (ARA). Trust Fund assets will be invested to achieve a total return that meets or exceeds the current ARA of 6.75%.

The Board will review the IPS annually.

SECTION II: STANDARDS OF CARE

Standard of Care. As System fiduciaries, the Board and staff must:

1. Exercise the degree of judgment and care, under the circumstances, that persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, considering the probable income from the securities and probable safety of their capital.
2. Evaluate investment decisions in the context of the entire Trust Fund portfolio and with appropriate risk and return objectives.

Conflict of Interest Prohibited. Board members, staff, investment consultants, and investment managers will refrain from any activity that could conflict with the proper execution and management of the TMRS investment program, or that could impair their ability to make impartial recommendations and decisions. These parties are required to disclose, in writing, any known relationships that could create or appear to create a conflict of interest.

Decisions in the Best Interest of the System. Board members and staff are required to make all investment decisions in the best interest of the System and shall comply with applicable TMRS policies on personal investment activities. To protect against unethical behavior between TMRS and investment managers during a manager search, any communication by a prospective manager with a Board member regarding an ongoing search should be referred to the Chief Investment Officer.

SECTION III: INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

A. BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

Board of Trustees. The Board is responsible for the administration of the System and its investment program. The Board and each Trustee must discharge their duties solely in the interest of providing benefits to members, retirees and beneficiaries. While the Board maintains oversight responsibility for the investment of the Trust Fund, to improve the efficient use of its resources, the Board has delegated general day-to-day investment program administration to staff.

The Board's investment role includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Establishing investment goals, objectives and beliefs of the System consistent with plan funding needs;
2. Adopting a written IPS;
3. Monitoring and evaluating investment performance, investment risk, and compliance with the IPS and applicable state and federal laws;
4. Selecting, in consultation with staff, the General Investment Consultant, any Specialized Investment Consultants, Custodian Bank, and Securities Lending Agent;
5. Periodically reviewing investment consultant performance; and
6. Reviewing and, as appropriate, approving investment activities not delegated to staff.

B. INVESTMENT BELIEFS

The Board shall adopt investment beliefs based on capital market theories and other investment and management principles generally accepted by long-term focused institutional investors. The Board's investment beliefs are:

1. The System's asset allocation and funding strategies are based on an asset/liability framework and are designed to optimize the funding of TMRS liabilities over time.
2. The most effective use of the Board's expertise and time is to set overall investment objectives and clearly articulate investment direction through the IPS, while continually monitoring its compliance.
3. Good governance promotes long-term value for the System and its members, retirees, and beneficiaries.

4. Clearly defined roles and responsibilities are essential to good governance.
5. The best investment results come from the right people following prudent processes to make the right decisions and taking ownership of long-term performance outcomes.
6. Intelligent risk-taking is rewarded with compensating returns over time and is justifiable for long-term investors.
7. Trust Fund risk must be managed.
8. The primary determinant of portfolio risk and return is the System's long-term asset allocation.
9. Capital markets have inefficiencies and opportunities that can be exploited.
10. Costs impact investment returns and should be monitored and managed.
11. As prudent stewards of the Trust Fund, we integrate environmental, social, and governance research into the rigorous investment process, where consistent with fiduciary duties.

C. STAFF AND ADVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Executive Director. The Board has determined that implementation of investment decisions within the limits set forth in the IPS shall be delegated to the Executive Director (ED) or their designees. The ED's responsibilities and duties include, but are not limited to:

1. Supervising the investment program by ensuring that investment staff act in accordance with the IPS and that internal controls and a compliance structure are in place to safeguard Trust Fund assets;
2. Negotiating, where necessary, and executing all contracts, agreements, and memorandums of understanding in accordance with the IPS;
3. Taking prudent action deemed necessary to protect Trust Fund assets;
4. Ensuring regular investment reporting is provided to the Board; and
5. Performing or delegating additional duties as determined by the Board.

Chief Investment Officer. The Chief Investment Officer (CIO) is the senior member of the investment staff and directs the day-to-day activities of the investment program. The CIO's responsibilities and duties or its designees include, but are not limited to:

1. Providing information, support, and advice to the Board to ensure its directives are fulfilled;
2. Ensuring implementation of the investment program is consistent with the Board's intentions as set forth in the IPS;
3. Ensuring adequate controls are in place to safeguard Trust Fund assets by maintaining internal procedures, analytical and risk management tools, and recommending updates to the IPS;
4. Recruiting, retaining and supervising a qualified investment staff capable of implementing the IPS; and
5. Performing or delegating other duties pertinent to the day-to-day management of the Trust Fund.

Investment Consultants. Investment consultants are retained by the Board to provide independent advice on investment-related matters. All investment consultants must act as fiduciaries in advising the Board and staff, be bound by prudent expert standards, and be Registered Investment Advisers under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. The Board will retain a General Investment Consultant and may retain Specialized Investment Consultants. Responsibilities and duties of investment consultants include, but are not limited to:

1. **General Investment Consultant.**
 - a. Advising on the development of investment goals and objectives, investment policies and strategies, asset allocation, investment manager and service provider selection, monitoring, terminations, guidelines and restrictions, analysis of investment performance, advice on internal staffing issues, and independently researched support for delegated investment decisions in areas of firm expertise.
 - b. Ensuring the Board is provided educational opportunities on institutional investment practices and other topics pertinent to the discharging their fiduciary obligations.
 - c. Working closely with staff to ensure that TMRS' investment objectives are achieved in accordance with the IPS and applicable state and federal laws and regulations.
 - d. Collaborating with the Consulting Actuary, Specialized Investment Consultants, and other investment service providers to provide coordinated advice to the Board.

2. **Specialized Investment Consultant.** The Board may retain one or more Specialized Investment Consultants to provide advice on specific asset class implementations or other topics. Specialized Investment Consultants collaborate with the General Investment Consultant and staff to provide independent support for delegated investment decisions.

Chief Legal Officer. The Chief Legal Officer (CLO) is the chief legal advisor to the System. With respect to the investment program, the CLO or their designees coordinate all legal services relevant to the administration of the investment program.

Fiduciary Counsel. The Board retains Fiduciary Counsel to provide advice on matters related to the exercise of the fiduciary standards required by law and regulation. Fiduciary Counsel also works with the ED and CLO on investment-related legal matters.

Compliance Staff. Under the supervision of the CLO, investment compliance staff are responsible for designing and implementing a compliance program independent of investment department oversight to ensure that testable parameters of the IPS are adhered to and actions pertinent to security of the Trust Fund are carried out.

Director of Internal Audit. The Director of Internal Audit ensures that adequate and effective internal controls are in place and objective audits of investment functions are periodically performed.

Staff Investment Committee. The Staff Investment Committee (SIC), operating pursuant to the SIC Charter, approves decisions delegated to it under the IPS.

Investment Staff. Investment staff are responsible for the daily operation and implementation of the investment program and work with investment consultants to advise the Board, ED and CIO on investment-related matters.

Investment Managers. TMRS retains investment managers to implement specific strategies consistent with the IPS and according to the terms of the contract governing their mandate. All investment managers must act as fiduciaries, be Registered Investment Advisers under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 or be registered comparably in another jurisdiction or otherwise be exempted from regulatory registration, and must agree to contractual terms consistent with TMRS' Investment Principles.

D. INVESTMENT RISK MANAGEMENT

Consistent with the Board's Investment Beliefs, TMRS' risk management program monitors what investments TMRS owns, how risks from those investments aggregate within the Trust Fund, and how actual portfolio risk compares to benchmark risk.

The CIO will implement a risk management program to ensure investment risk is managed consistent with the IPS. The CIO will establish and oversee the risk management program to ensure policies and procedures are adopted, documented, and followed. The CIO will ensure that investment risk, operational risk and portfolio impacts are assessed during the investment manager selection processes and ongoing portfolio management.

The Director of Internal Audit and compliance staff will provide an independent review and make recommendations regarding investment department governance and internal controls.

SECTION IV: DELEGATED AUTHORITY AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The Board, pursuant to limitations set forth below, delegates the following authority to staff.

Investment Managers. The Board authorizes staff to hire, retain and terminate investment managers to achieve the System's investment objectives.

Investment Decisions. The Board delegates to staff the authority to invest Trust Fund assets subject to the following limitations:

1. *Passive Public Markets Strategies.* Investments in Passive Public Markets Strategies up to limits stated in the Asset Allocation.
2. *Active Public Markets Strategies.* Investments in Active Public Markets Strategies up to 3% of total Trust Fund assets.
3. *Private Markets Strategies.* Investments in Private Markets Strategies up to 0.75% of total Trust Fund assets. Three years after an initial investment in an Open-ended Private Markets Strategy, additional investments may be made up to 1.25% of total Trust Fund assets.
4. *Asset-Specific Private Markets Strategies (ASPMS).* An investment in an ASPMS strategy with a current investment manager cannot exceed 0.375% of total Trust Fund assets. No individual investment with the manager can exceed 0.10% of total Trust Fund assets.
5. *Rebalancing.* The authority to rebalance Trust Fund assets so long as no additional net investment is required and is within the above limitations.
6. *Cash Management.* The Board delegates to the CIO the ability to raise cash from Passive Public Markets Strategies and Active Public Markets Strategies to meet the operational needs of the System and to invest cash consistent with the Board's Asset Allocation.

7. *Emergencies.* Emergency measures to ensure Trust Fund assets remain under fiduciary management are delegated to staff.

Proxy Voting. Proxy voting is an important part of TMRS' investment program. Investment staff will vote proxies consistent with TMRS' and the Board's fiduciary duty. Working with a proxy advisory firm, investment staff will direct the proxy advisor how to vote proxies and monitor their compliance with TMRS' instructions.

Delegation Standards. The following standards apply to investment delegation:

1. *Delegated Limits.* Delegated limits are calculated using the market value of total Trust Fund assets as reported in the latest Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR).
2. *Investment Consultant Support.* Written General and/or Specialized Investment Consultant support must be received prior to the implementation of any delegated Investment Decisions with respect to Passive Public Markets Strategies, Active Public Markets Strategies, and Private Markets Strategies. Written Consultant support for an existing investment strategy may be relied upon for a delegated decision involving an ASPMS. Written Investment Consultant support for approved Transition Managers must be provided every four years.
3. *Executive Director Designee.* When the ED designates responsibility for executing investment contracts and agreements, the designee must be independent of and in addition to the CIO.

B. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Board has adopted the following four investment reporting principles to ensure the Board has appropriate information to carry out its fiduciary responsibilities and to confirm the standards it expects in investment reports.

1. **Clear.** Written communications should be in plain English and avoid unnecessary technical jargon. Important messages or results should be easy to find and recognize.
2. **Concise.** Key information should be summarized. Extraneous information that does not directly improve the Board's ability, knowledge, and understanding in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities should be avoided.
3. **Balanced.** The pros and cons of any investment should be identified. Positive and negative information should be communicated to the Board.
4. **Timely.** Information should be provided to the Board in a timely manner.

Investment staff shall provide performance reporting and material investment program updates to the Board at regular intervals. In addition, the following reporting will be provided to the Board regularly:

1. **General Investment Consultant Reports.** The General Investment Consultant will provide regular reports on subjects pertinent to the Board's execution of its fiduciary responsibilities. These reports should provide the Board the ability to assess: i) asset allocation; ii) capital markets conditions; iii) absolute performance and risk; iv) performance and risk relative to benchmarks; and v) performance and risk relative to peer institutions.
2. **Delegated Decision Reports.** Reports documenting delegated decisions will be provided by staff to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. These reports should include: i) Executive Summaries and/or schedules of completed actions; ii) Investment Consultant Support, where required; and iii) relevant SIC meeting minutes.
3. **Investment Risk Reports.** Staff will provide a Data, Performance and Risk Report to the Board quarterly. This Report will discuss the range of risk implied by Investment Guidelines, the risk in the current asset class implementations, and a comparison of estimated current asset class total market risk relative to risk expectations used in the last Asset Allocation Study.
4. **Investment Compliance Reports.** Compliance staff will provide to the Board each quarter the results of any compliance testing performed during the quarter.
5. **Annual Asset Class and Investment Manager Reviews.** Staff shall conduct comprehensive asset class and investment manager reviews at least annually. The results of these reviews, including any related recommended actions and the costs of asset class implementation, will be reported to the Board.
6. **Proxy Voting.** Staff will provide the Board a proxy voting summary report for each public markets separately managed account, and other accounts which TMRS has contractual authority to direct proxy voting as appropriate, as soon as practical after fiscal year-end. The Report will include the number of ballots cast, the number of issues voted upon, and percent of issues voted with management, against management, and designated as abstaining.
7. **Material Deviations from the IPS.** If an investment consultant learns of any material deviation from prudence, objectivity, IPS provisions, or learns of any other matter of concern involving TMRS' investment program, the consultant must promptly express their concern in writing to the Board.

EXHIBIT A

ASSET ALLOCATION

Effective as of July 1, 2021

One of the Board's investment beliefs is that the primary determinant of portfolio risk and return is the System's strategic, long-term asset allocation. The Board's Asset Allocation includes asset classes, strategic target allocations with minimum and maximum allocation ranges, and a benchmark to measure investment performance. Asset Allocation is based on an Asset Allocation Study that includes expectations for long-term return and risk.

The Board's Asset Allocation is intended to produce investment returns equal to or greater than the Actuarial Return Assumption (ARA) at a level of risk acceptable to the Board. In adopting an asset allocation, the Board should consider the System's assets and liabilities, risk and return trade-offs, the ability to deliver on promised benefit payments at a reasonable and predictable cost to participating cities, the risk of permanent loss of capital, Trust Fund liquidity and the ability to maintain a long-term strategy during sustained periods of market volatility.

The Board has adopted the following Asset Allocation:

Asset Class	Min. %	Strategic Target Allocation %	Max. %	Benchmark
Global Equity	25	35	45	MSCI ACWI Investable Market Index (Net)
Private Equity	5	10	15	MSCI ACWI Investable Market Index (Net)
Other Public & Private Markets	7	12	17	MSCI ACWI Investable Market Index (Net)
Real Estate	7	12	17	NCREIF-ODCE Index (Net)
Hedge Funds	0	5	10	HFRI Asset Weighted Composite Index
Non-Core Fixed Income	15	20	25	Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index + 1.50%
Core Fixed Income	1	6	11	Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index
Cash Equivalents	0	0	3	FTSE 1-month US T-Bill Index

The Asset Allocation will be reviewed at least annually for reasonableness, taking into consideration current capital markets and economic conditions and the Board's views regarding long-term investment goals and objectives.

An Asset Allocation Study to comprehensively review the Asset Allocation will be completed at least every four years. The Board will verify or amend its Asset Allocation upon review of an Asset Allocation Study.

An Asset-Liability Modeling Study will be conducted at least every four years.

The Board will assess the Asset Allocation's performance over five-year rolling periods compared to the ARA, Trust Fund benchmark, and asset class benchmarks.

EXHIBIT B

INVESTMENT FEE POLICY

Effective as of December 3, 2020

Summary. The Investment Fee Policy (Policy) is a Board approved policy that ensures the following three objectives are balanced and reported as part of TMRS' investment management processes.

1. Securing the best available combination of skill, net of fee performance expectations, and risk management for a given investment discipline;
2. Aligning the interest of TMRS with selected investment management firms; and
3. Reducing the overall costs of the investment program.

Approach and Alignment Principles. TMRS has adopted the following principles to negotiate investment management services fees across all strategies:

1. TMRS will consider manager compensation levels and alignment of economic interests in its manager selection decisions.
2. TMRS will utilize its negotiation strength to improve its contractually negotiated economic share of investment return.

The Approach and Alignment Principles recognize that:

1. Considerations will differ depending on asset class, strategy, vehicle structure and management style
2. TMRS has varying levels of negotiation strength
3. Passive alternatives are typically the least costly option but are not available for all strategies
4. Active management strategies typically charge more than passive strategies
5. Internal management of certain strategies may be a viable cost reduction alternative
6. Different strategies and managers have different demand levels for their products and thus may charge different fees
7. Alignment with and access to differentiated managers often come with higher levels of compensation
8. Compensation considerations include balancing management fees and incentive compensation

Oversight and Reporting Principles. Oversight and reporting of investment manager fees and expenses is a critical component of TMRS' investment management. By statute, industry requirement and/or best practice, TMRS must report certain fee and expense information concerning its investment portfolio to the Texas Pension Review Board or the public pursuant to open records requests and in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

TMRS utilizes the following oversight and reporting principles:

1. TMRS will document its consideration of the rates of compensation for a manager during the investment decision-making process.
2. TMRS will ensure that payments are made in accordance with each investment manager agreement.
3. TMRS will design its manager fee and expense reporting practices to be consistent, timely, and in accordance with statutory and other reporting requirements.

EXHIBIT C

INVESTMENT MANAGER PRINCIPLES

November 18, 2021

The TMRS Investment Principles spell out the minimum contractual standards by which investment managers must abide. The Executive Director is responsible for the maintenance and updating of the Investment Principles consistent with the IPS Framework. Any amendments to the TMRS Investment Principles will be provided to the Board at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. TMRS' Investment Principles are as follows:

1. Investment managers must be registered as an investment adviser with the SEC, exempt from registration with the SEC, or registered with a foreign regulatory agency.
2. Investment managers must agree to act as fiduciaries and to a standard of care that prohibits placing their or their affiliates' interests ahead of those of TMRS' investment vehicle. Investment manager contracts may not include indemnification or exculpation for breach of fiduciary duty.
3. Texas law must govern issues related to Texas law and regulation, including sovereign immunity and litigation involving only TMRS, and venue must be in Texas for any litigation involving only TMRS.
4. Investment managers must maintain liability and fiduciary insurance coverage.
5. Investment managers must permit communications among investors, subject to reasonable limitations.
6. Investment managers and their affiliates cannot vote on non-ministerial matters, such as self-interested transactions or an increase in fees payable to the manager.
7. Investment managers must agree to TMRS' language regarding compliance with Texas statutes that require public disclosure of certain information pertaining to TMRS investments and access to TMRS' board meetings.
8. Investment managers must agree to provisions permitting TMRS to comply with legislative and regulatory oversight.

EXHIBIT D

GLOSSARY

Active Public Markets Strategies. Strategies that involve an investment in public securities that seek to outperform an index but are not strictly required to be managed relative to an index.

Asset Allocation Study. A study to determine the asset allocation most appropriate for the System based on the results of the Asset Liability Study.

Asset-Liability Study. A comprehensive actuarial review process that seeks to align Trust Fund investment policy with System-designated contribution policy, expected future benefit payments to beneficiaries, and plan expenses.

Asset Specific Private Markets Strategies (ASPMS). Strategies that involve the underwriting of specific and known assets, rather than diversified or unspecified, blind-pool fund vehicles. ASPMS include, but are not limited to, single-asset co-investments and continuation vehicles.

Custodian Bank. The financial institution that holds and/or accounts for Trust Fund assets.

Investment Managers. Third parties that provide investment management services on a long-term basis. Investment managers include, but are not limited to, the managers of Passive Public Markets Strategies, Active Public Markets Strategies, Private Markets Strategies, and Asset Specific Private Markets Strategies.

Open-ended Private Markets Strategy. A Private Market Strategy invested in a structure with no fixed term, allowing for investments and redemptions to occur over an indefinite time period. Specifically, as related to Delegated Authority: i) three-years is measured from the date capital is first drawn from TMRS to be invested; ii) the numerator in the delegated limit test is measured by adding the most recently available net asset value plus the new committed amount at time of legal closing. The Hedge Fund asset class is not considered an Open-ended Private Markets Strategy for purposes of Delegated Authorities.

Passive Public Markets Strategies. Strategies invested in public securities that seek to closely replicate a TMRS asset class benchmark in the Asset Allocation, or closely replicate an index which plays a role in more closely aligning a TMRS asset class portfolio with its asset class benchmark. Enhanced core fixed income strategies are considered Passive Public Markets Strategies.

Private Markets Strategies. Strategies that are not invested in public markets securities, or cannot be redeemed from or have formal redemption windows exceeding one month. Hedge Funds are considered Private Market Strategies for purposes of Delegated Authority.

Registered Investment Adviser. An investment adviser is defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as an individual or a firm that is in the business of giving advice about securities and is registered as such with the SEC or a state's securities agency.

Trust Fund. Total TMRS investment assets held in trust for the benefit of members, retirees and beneficiaries and service of expenses of administering the System.