

From the Executive Director



Dear TMRS Members,

Our feature story is about the filing of a bill to amend the TMRS Act, the law that governs our System. The Texas Legislature began its 86th Regular Session on January 8, and for the first time in several sessions, the TMRS Board of Trustees has voted to pursue legislation. This proposed bill will not affect plan design but is an “administrative bill” that will make our operations smoother and more up-to-date. See the story at right for details.

Not only do we send information about TMRS to you in the INSIGHT newsletter, but you can also find explanations about your benefits 24/7 on the TMRS website, www.tmr.com. The website is the most comprehensive place where public information about TMRS is presented (see story, page 2). We encourage you to get to know the website and let us know if you have any questions!

Other stories in this issue cover the Pre-Retirement Regional Conferences (page 3), updates on Investments (page 3), and Board activities (page 2).

If you have questions about TMRS or your member account, consult the website and use the contact form there, or call our Phone Center during business hours at 800-924-8677. We are here to help you!

Hope the rest of 2019 is prosperous and fulfilling!

Sincerely,

David Gavia
Executive Director



Follow Us on Social Media!

TMRS Seeks Administrative Amendments in 86th Legislative Session

Legislation amending the TMRS Act has been filed in the Texas Senate and House. If passed, the amendments will improve the administration and operations of TMRS.

The Board of Trustees approved the recommendations contained in the bill at its meeting on December 6, 2018. The legislative recommendations include:

- Providing flexibility for scheduling Board meetings by removing specific month requirements and allowing Trustees to participate by video or conference call
- Incorporating existing common law protections from liability into the TMRS Act, as has been done for the other Texas statewide systems
- Clarifying the Board’s authority to hire external legal counsel in addition to internal staff
- Amending the TMRS Act relating to confidentiality of member information to be similar to the other statewide retirement systems and the Public Information Act and to add protection for audit working papers
- Updating the definition of “security” to better reflect the diverse investment portfolio of the System’s trust fund
- Clarifying that the maximum amortization period for a city’s unfunded actuarial accrued liability is 30 years, and clarifying the Board’s authority to set amortization periods and policy
- Amending the law relating to Prior Service Credit (PSC) to require that a city, or a city department, that has not previously participated in TMRS and that has an existing retirement plan would have 0% PSC when it joins TMRS
- Allowing TMRS to offer members and retirees an option to receive annual statements and other information electronically
- Clarifying changes to the post-retirement portion of the Occupational Disability provisions so that TMRS

can require post-retirement medical examinations or information for affirmation of continuing disability and removing the income test required by current law

Detailed information about the bill and other legislation will be made available on the TMRS website under the Legislative page, and updates will be provided there throughout the Legislative Session. ▼

Did You Know?

The TMRS website, www.tmr.com, groups member news under its own page. You can see current announcements at www.tmr.com/members.php. On the Members dropdown menu, you will find “Forms for Members,” links to MyTMRS® and the “Need Help” form, plus announcements about member services, issues, events, and other educational information. The “How Do I?” links explain everything from getting credit for previous public service, changing your beneficiary, requesting retirement estimates, and how divorce affects your benefit.

The “Resources” link on the Member dropdown menu is where you will find printed materials, such as Member Benefit Guides, flyers, and newsletters. Overall, the website is the best place to go for all information about TMRS. Type a search term in the search box to find answers to your questions. ▼

2019 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bill Philibert, Chair • Director of Human Resources and Risk Management, *Deer Park*

David Landis, Vice Chair • City Manager, *Perryton*

Jesús A. Garza • City Manager, *Kingsville*

Jim Jeffers • City Manager, *Nacogdoches*

Julie Oakley • Assistant City Manager, *Lakeway*

Jim Parrish • Deputy City Manager – Administrative Services, *Plano*



Board Activities

At its meeting in December 2018, the TMRS Board of Trustees nominated and approved Bill Philibert (left) for Chair and David Landis (right) for Vice Chair for 2019. The Board also appointed committees to assist with its governance of TMRS.

Board Committees for 2019

Advisory Committee on Benefit Design
Chair Jesús A. Garza, Vice Chair David Landis

Budget Committee
Chair Julie Oakley, Vice Chair Jim Jeffers

Compensation Committee
Chair Julie Oakley, Vice Chair Bill Philibert

Internal Audit Committee
Chair Jim Jeffers, Vice Chair David Landis

Legislative Committee
Chair Bill Philibert, Vice Chair Jim Parrish

Technology Committee
Chair Jim Parrish, Vice Chair Jesús A. Garza

Advisory Committee Update

The Board's largest committee is the Advisory Committee on Benefit Design. In addition to two Board representatives, it is currently made up of 10 members, three of whom are “individual class” Board appointees and seven of whom are “group class” members, nominated by seven organizations and approved by the Board. The Board assigns the Committee to study potential plan changes or other issues during each Interim Session. The Committee provides a direct voice for TMRS cities, constituent organizations, members, retirees, and elected officials to share their perspectives on important matters.

More information about the Board meeting schedule, committees, agendas, minutes, and professional advisors may be found on www.tmr.com | *About* | *Board of Trustees*. The list of Advisory Committee representatives and its meeting summaries may also be found under the Board link, *Advisory Committee* tab. ▼

SIGN UP FOR A REGIONAL EVENT IN 2019

Get Informed about Your Retirement Benefits!

TMRS Regional Pre-Retirement Conferences (aka Regionals) are half-day conferences (with breakfast) that are held around Texas. The focus of these events is information you need to know as you begin your retirement planning. A list of the Regionals scheduled for the first part of 2019 is printed on the back cover of this issue. To plan these events, TMRS works hand-in-hand with city HR offices, so you may receive an invitation from your City Correspondent or a direct email invitation from TMRS. These events are always open to interested city employees from neighboring Texas cities, not just the host city.

To register online, go to the Calendars link on www.tmr.com, then choose *Events & Training | Regional Pre-Retirement Conferences* tab. After you choose the date/city of the Regional you wish to attend, click the Eventbrite link for that Regional. After you register, you'll receive a reminder of the event the week before. Please bring a printout of your retirement estimates from MyTMRS® so that TMRS staff can answer any questions you may have.

At each Regional Conference, the TMRS Travel Team provides an overview of your TMRS retirement plan benefits, and a Social Security consultant summarizes the benefits you can expect through Social Security, if your city participates. You are welcome to bring a guest if you notify us when you sign up! ▼

New Event! Mid-Career Meetings

You may be years away from retirement and not sure what TMRS is or how it affects you. Attendees of the regional conferences have told us they wish they could have learned more about TMRS earlier in their careers. Over the next few months, TMRS will begin offering a new kind of event for mid-career employees.

Mid-career Meetings will tell you how TMRS benefits you and your family now, not just later in your career. Topics covered include why vesting matters, how to earn service credit, options if you leave employment, and how life changes may affect your benefit.

Watch the website and the TMRS Facebook page for more information! ▼

Investment Overview

The TMRS website is the place to go for information on the investment program. TMRS invests in the asset classes of Global Equities, Core Fixed Income, Non-Core Fixed Income, Real Return, Real Estate, Absolute Return, and Private Equity. Asset allocation charts and other materials are posted under *About | Investments*, with separate tabs containing information about *Policy, Reports, Assets, Advisors, and Contacts*.

As an institutional, long-term investor, TMRS invests the System's assets with a total return posture, given appropriate consideration for portfolio volatility (risk) and liquidity. Total return includes dividends, interest, and realized and unrealized capital appreciation. ▼

5% Annual Interest Credit

Under the TMRS Act, on December 31, 2018, eligible member accounts received a 5% interest credit based on their account balance as of January 1, 2018. You may view the interest amount for your account on MyTMRS and on your TMRS Member Annual Statement (see below). Not only are active members guaranteed a 5% interest credit every year regardless of market returns, but after you retire, your annuity is guaranteed for life. ▼

Annual Statements

Member Annual Statements for active TMRS members (contributing and noncontributing) will be mailed to your home address in March 2019. They will also be available (PDF format) on MyTMRS at the time they are mailed. If you need to update your address before March, log on to MyTMRS and change your address online! Watch the TMRS website for an exact mailing schedule by ZIP Code. ▼



Texas Municipal Retirement System
 PO Box 149153 • Austin, Texas 78714-9153

PRESORTED STANDARD
 US POSTAGE PAID
 AUSTIN, TEXAS
 PERMIT NO 2644

Don't Delay – Join MyTMRS® Today! Still haven't set up your account on MyTMRS?
 Claim your account now and gain 24-hour access to your account history and retirement estimates.
 Register at tmrs.com | [MyTMRS](#) | [Create your account](#).

2019 Calendar

Thinking about retirement? **Attend a Regional Conference** in your area! Sign up online at www.tmrs.com/events_regionals.php

February 21	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – Brownsville
March 5	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – Grand Prairie
March 7	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – Schertz
March 14	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – Webster
April 19	Holiday – Good Friday (TMRS office closed)
April 30	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – Tyler
May 9	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – Tomball
May 14	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – Abilene
May 27	Holiday – Memorial Day (TMRS office closed)
May 29	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – Georgetown
June 11	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – Lubbock
July 4	Holiday – Independence Day (TMRS office closed)
July 11	Regional Pre-Retirement Conference – Addison

How to Contact TMRS

- Location**
1200 North Interstate 35, Austin, TX 78701
- Mailing**
P.O. Box 149153, Austin, TX 78714-9153
- Toll-free**
800.924.8677
- Local** (in Austin)
512.476.7577
- Fax**
512.476.5576
- Website**
www.tmrs.com
- Need Help?**
www.tmrs.com/contact.php

Copyright 2019, Texas Municipal Retirement System.
 INSIGHT is an informal presentation of information about TMRS and related issues. If any specific questions of fact or law should arise, the statutes will govern.
 TMRS, MyTMRS, and the TMRS logo are registered trademarks of the Texas Municipal Retirement System. **TMRSDirect** and the **TMRSDirect** logo are registered trademarks of the Texas Municipal Retirement System. If you have questions, suggestions, or ideas for stories in future newsletters or on the website, send an email to communications@tmrs.com.