

CROSSROADS



A Publication of the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System

DECEMBER 2017

Outstanding return recorded on investments

LSERS is pleased to report that it earned an investment return of 14.14% for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, significantly exceeding the 7.125% assumed rate of return.

The system's funded ratio rose from 72.54% to 74.16%, which is the highest among the Louisiana state retirement systems. The market value of assets increased to \$1.92 billion. These are all positive results, which provide increased fiscal stability to LSERS.

The DROP rate is 7.97% for those in the old DROP program (eligible for DROP or IBRP before 1/1/2004). The system actuary will be presenting LSERS' annual valuation with the recommended DROP rate to the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee (PRSAC) in January 2018.

Once PRSAC receives and approves the valuation, the DROP interest will be posted to members' accounts and will be reflected on the next quarterly DROP statement after the posting.



Election set for two seats on LSERS Board of Trustees

An election is scheduled in 2018 to fill the Active-Member District 2 and Retired-Member Division 1 representative seats on LSERS' Board of Trustees. Each of the two members elected will serve a four-year term that starts on January 1, 2019 and ends on December 31, 2022.

A member who wishes to qualify as a candidate for the Active-Member District 2 seat must be actively employed by a school system and must reside in one of the following parishes: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, or West Feliciana. A member who resides out of state must be employed in one of those parishes to qualify for this seat.

"Active Member" includes members currently in DROP or working after DROP. However, it does NOT include any retiree

who has returned to work under the provisions of La. R.S. 11:1006 or 11:1007. An active member wishing to run for a seat on the Board must first obtain signatures and membership information of ten active members of LSERS who reside in the District in which he or she wishes to be a candidate.

Retired members who wish to qualify as a candidate for the Retired-Member Division 1 representative seat must be retired from LSERS (service or disability retiree). "Retired Member" includes any retiree who has returned to work under the provisions of La. R.S. 11:1006 or 11:1007. A retired member wishing to run for a seat on the Board must first obtain the signatures, membership information, and addresses of ten retired members of LSERS.

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Watch for your tax form with LSERS retirement benefits



LSERS will mail IRS Federal Form 1099-R for 2017 by the end of January (shown below at left). If you don't receive your Form 1099-R by February 2, 2018, please call 225.925.6484, or toll free at 1.800.256.3718, or email LSERS at webmaster@lsers.net.

Retirees may print their Form 1099-R online for the calendar years 2011 through 2017. Visit www.lsers.net, login to your retirement account, and then select "1099-R" from the list above the Member SSN field.

We recommend contacting your tax advisor for any questions about information on your Form 1099-R.

Reminder: LSERS retirement benefits are **not subject to Louisiana state income taxes** for residents filing a Louisiana income tax return.

Form 1099-R explanations:

- Box 1** Gross distribution: Total retirement benefits you received for the calendar year 2017
- Box 2a** Taxable amount: Taxable amount to be reported for federal income tax purposes

- Box 4** Federal income taxes withheld: Federal income taxes LSERS withheld from your 2017 benefits

- Box 5 Employee contributions:** Represents the **tax-free** portion of retirement benefits you received during the calendar year. This is NOT the amount of your insurance premium. It represents *unsheltered contributions withheld* from your salary before July 1, 1994, that have already been taxed. This amount is the difference between the *Gross* distribution in Box 1 and the *Taxable* amount in Box 2a. If you have no amount in Box 5, your entire benefit is taxable. Disability retirees will not have tax-free benefits reflected in Box 5 until they reach their normal retirement eligibility age.

Form 1099-R

Election set on two seats

(Continued from page 1)

Active and retired members interested in running must submit a written request for an official nominating petition to Charles P. Bujol, LSERS' Executive Director, in care of Ashley D. Simmons. The written request for a nominating petition may be emailed to Mr. Bujol, in care of asimmons@lsers.net, or mailed to Mr. Bujol's attention, addressed in care of Ashley D. Simmons, LSERS, P.O. Box 44516, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4516. A request for a nominating petition may also be faxed to Mr. Bujol in care of Ms. Simmons at 225.922.1001.

Completed and notarized nominating petitions must be received by Mr. Bujol by 4:30 p.m. on March 2, 2018. LSERS will mail confirmation of qualification to

candidates following LSERS' verification of the nominating petition. LSERS' Executive Director will provide a copy of each nominating petition to the Board's Chair.

If more than one candidate qualifies for a Board seat, then a ballot and brochure containing the name, profile, and photograph of each candidate, as well as a self-addressed, postage-paid return envelope, will be mailed to each voter's home address on May 1, 2018. Ballots must be returned by 4:30 p.m. on May 31, 2018. Results of the election will be announced on June 11, 2018.

Questions about this election should be directed to LSERS' Executive Counsel, Robert Collins, at 225.925.6560, or toll free at 1.800.256.3718.

NOTIFICATION REMINDERS

Proper form for Power of Attorney submissions

At certain times, a LSERS member or beneficiary may need to send LSERS a power of attorney form. To reduce the risk of possible fraud, power of attorney forms sent to LSERS must be either an original power of attorney, or a certified true copy.

LSERS will not accept a faxed or emailed power of attorney. If you should have any questions on this, please feel free to contact staff member Laurie Stark at 225.925.4890, or toll free at 1.800.256.3718.

Notification after a LSERS members dies

When a loved one passes away, you are asked to promptly notify LSERS, so we may update that member's file. Our updating process will include processing beneficiary benefits, if applicable. Your promptness helps prevent LSERS from unknowingly making an improper benefit payment.

When you call, please give us the date of death, as well as any updated contact information, including any update on the phone number LSERS should use. Within two weeks, you will receive a request letter for any document that LSERS may need. Thank you, in advance, for helping us provide excellent customer service.

Annual notifications coming on LSERS direct deposit payments

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LSERS issues direct deposit notifications every December to give retirees their year-to-date amounts for total distribution, taxable income and federal income taxes withheld.

Direct deposit notifications are also mailed when there is a change in the net benefit amount caused by a change in the gross benefit, taxes withheld, or amounts deducted for health or life insurance.

Did you know this information is also just a few keyboard clicks away? If you need to see the monthly or yearly benefit and deduction, log into your account on LSERS.net, click on personal information, and choose payment history. The information is available any time you need access to your payment history.

If you have not yet set up a personal

log-in, the member registration process can be viewed on LSERS.net. Once on the website, click login under the picture, then click "Member Registration" for procedures.

An alternative is to request a Verification of Income letter (VOI). LSERS will then send you a VOI letter on LSERS letterhead. The letter will include the date benefit started, length of time benefit will be paid, benefit amount, cost-of-living adjustments, and deductions from benefit.

To request a Verification of Income letter, please contact LSERS at 225.925.6484, or toll free at 1.800.256.3718, or by email at webmaster@lsers.net.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

F Z N F U P Y R O S S S T R P
D Y Y I T Z A R A R D T G Q Q
V N U R M R D R E E U R X C Y
I W U E S J A K T F Y E W E R
G V G C Q N A Y J Y M A X E D
P B N R R M O A N I Z M V W S
G O F A I A U O D A X E G H F
U N U C W L D N L D U R W A X
A S V K R G I N L L P S X Q R
G C Q E X G B D E G A E X B M
T P V R H T J W Z L X B L F K
K S H T U E S I O N A R A J W
S K C G Z K C O L C L C O J Q
W K W E N O U H Q S H K B T L
C M V I K Z I B Y K J N F Z O

BALLOONS	NEW
CALENDAR	NOISE
CLOCK	PARTY
FIRECRACKER	STREAMERS
MAKERS	YEAR
MIDNIGHT	



4 Getting to LSERS is Simple

LSERS office is off Essen Lane between I-10 and I-12. The street address is 8660 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge.

From I-10, exit on Essen Lane. Turn right if coming from the south and left if coming from downtown or the north. Turn right on United Plaza Blvd. LSERS is the first building on the left.

From I-12 east, exit on Drusilla Lane and turn left. Turn right on Jefferson Highway and left on Essen Lane. Take the second entrance to United Plaza Blvd. on the left. LSERS is the first building on the left. From I-12 west, exit on Essen Lane. Take a right on Essen Lane, then the second entrance to United Plaza Blvd. on the left. LSERS is the first building on the left.

Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System
P.O. Box 44516
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4516

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Kathy Landry, Vice Chair Pro Tem

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Colleen C. Barber

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Eugene Rester, Jr.

Retiree Representative, Division 1, 985.516.0369

Penny Brown

3rd Retirement District, 318.614.3412

Ex Officio Members:

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Secretary of State, 225.922.2880

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225.342.0656*

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*President, LA School Bus Operators Association
318.649.6521*

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*Commissioner of Administration
225.342.7000*

ADMINISTRATION

Charles P. Bujol

LSERS Executive Director

Carolyn N. Forbes

LSERS Assistant Director

Robert Collins

Executive Counsel

Matthew Freedman

Chief Investment Officer

Ashley D. Simmons

Executive Staff Officer

**Location: LSERS Building, 8660 United Plaza Blvd. - First Floor
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809-7004
Telephone 225.925.6484, Toll free 1.800.256.3718
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday
Visit LSERS' website at: www.lasers.net**

Board Meeting Schedule

January 8	Investment Committee meeting	9:00 am
February 5	Quarterly Board meeting	9:00 am
February 6	Quarterly Board meeting	8:30 am
March 12	Investment Committee meeting	9:00 am
April 16	Investment Committee	9:00 am
April 16	Personnel Committee meeting	Follows IC meeting

For a complete listing of all board meeting dates and times, visit our website at: www.lasers.net

LSERS Member Change of Address

Updating your mailing address can easily be done by any of the following methods:

- ◆ Login and access retirement account information at www.lasers.net and update address online.
- ◆ Submit updated information via the Contact Us page on the website.
- ◆ Send a letter or Change of Address Form (Form 2AC) to the LSERS mailing address.

CHECK MAILING DATES

Regular monthly benefit checks are mailed on the last working date of the month and DROP/IBRP checks are mailed on the last working date of the month before the 5th of the month.

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