



## Investment actuarial rate of return for 2018

LSERS ended the 2017-18 fiscal year on June 30 with an increase of \$49.58 million in its valuation of assets, and the funded ratio rose from 74.16% to 74.59%. An actuarial annual return of 7.64% is reported in the annual actuarial valuation report.

The projected DROP rate is 7.14% for those in the old DROP program (eligible for DROP or IBRP retired before 1/1/2004). In early 2019, the annual valuation along with the recommended DROP interest rate will go before the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee (PRSAC) for consideration. Once PRSAC approves the annual valuation, the DROP interest will be posted to members' accounts in the first quarter of 2019.

## Qualifying set for election to District 1 board seat

An election is scheduled in 2019 to fill the Active Member – District 1 seat on LSERS' Board of Trustees to serve a four-year term that will start January 1, 2020 and will end December 31, 2023.

A member who wishes to qualify as a candidate for the Active Member – District 1 seat must be actively employed by a school system and must reside in one of the following parishes: Assumption, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, or Terrebonne. A member who resides out of state may qualify provided he/she is employed in one of the parishes listed in District 1. "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 interested in being a candidate must first obtain signatures and membership information of ten active members of LSERS who reside in the District. A written request for an official nominating petition must be submitted and addressed

to Charles P. Bujol, LSERS' Executive Director, in care of Ashley D. Simmons. The written request for a nominating petition may be emailed to [asimmons@lsers.net](mailto:asimmons@lsers.net), faxed to 225.922.1001, or sent by U.S. mail to Mr. Bujol's attention, addressed in care of Ashley D. Simmons, LSERS, P.O. Box 44516, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4516.

A completed and notarized nominating petition must be received in LSERS' office by 4:30 p.m. on March 1, 2019. LSERS will verify qualifications of those who submitted a nominating petition and mail confirmation to qualifying candidates.

If more than one candidate qualifies for the Board seat, LSERS will mail a ballot, a brochure containing the name, profile, and photograph of each candidate, and a self-addressed, postage-paid return envelope to each voter's home address on May 1, 2019. Ballots must be returned by 4:30 p.m. on May 31, 2019. LSERS' Executive Director will announce the results of the election on June 10, 2019.

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.

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## 2 Watch for 1099-R forms coming in January!

LSERS will mail IRS Federal Form 1099-R for 2018 by the end of January. If you don't receive your Form 1099-R by February 4, 2019, please call 225.925.6484, or toll free at 1.800.256.3718, or email LSERS at [webmaster@lsers.net](mailto:webmaster@lsers.net).

**Access online** - It is easy to locate your 1099-R online:

- Visit [www.lsers.net](http://www.lsers.net), login to your retirement account
- Under Member Access, select View Personal Information
- Select 1099-R
- Choose Download Letter next to year 2018 to view and print your form

**Form 1099-R contains the following boxes of information:**

- **Box 1 Gross distribution:** Total retirement benefits you received for the calendar year 2018
- **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 2018 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. A disability retiree will not have tax-free benefits reflected in Box 5 until reaching normal retirement eligibility age.

**Reminder:** LSERS retirement benefits are not subject to Louisiana state income tax for a Louisiana resident filing a Louisiana income tax return. We recommend contacting your tax advisor if you should have any questions about your Form 1099-R.

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PAYER'S name, street address, city or town, state or province, country, ZIP or foreign postal code, and phone no.		1 Gross distribution	2018		Distributions From Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit-Sharing Plans, IRAs, Insurance Contracts, etc.
		\$	2a Taxable amount	Form 1099-R	
		\$	2b Taxable amount not determined <input type="checkbox"/>	Total distribution <input type="checkbox"/>	Copy A For Internal Revenue Service Center File with Form 1096.
PAYER'S TIN	RECIPIENT'S TIN	3 Capital gain (included in box 2a)	4 Federal income tax withheld		
RECIPIENT'S name		5 Employee contributions/ Designated Roth contributions or insurance premiums	6 Net unrealized appreciation in employer's securities		For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the 2018 General Instructions for Certain Information Returns.
Street address (including apt. no.)		7 Distribution code(s)	IRA/SEP/SIMPLE <input type="checkbox"/>	8 Other	
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code		9a Your percentage of total distribution	9b Total employee contributions		
10 Amount allocable to IRR within 5 years	11 1st year of desig. Roth contrib.	FATCA filing requirement <input type="checkbox"/>	12 State tax withheld	13 State/Payer's state no.	
Account number (see instructions)	Date of payment	15 Local tax withheld	16 Name of locality		17 Local distribution

Form 1099-R Cat. No. 14436Q www.irs.gov/Form1099R Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service  
Do Not Cut or Separate Forms on This Page — Do Not Cut or Separate Forms on This Page



## NEWS YOU CAN USE!

### Retiree insurance deduction changed?

If you have health and/or life insurance premiums deducted from your monthly retirement benefit payment, LSERS will mail you a payment stub for each time it is changed. Please confirm that the deduction change is accurate when you receive the stub. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the employer where you retired. If you have Office of Group Benefits coverage, you may contact them directly at 1.800.272.8451.

### Printable payment stubs available

Benefit recipients can now print payment stubs for payments issued within the current calendar year through their online account access.

Go to [www.LSERS.net](http://www.LSERS.net) > click on login. If you have not registered for online account access, follow prompts to do so; otherwise, enter your login information.

1. Click on "View Personal Information"
2. Click on "Payment History"

### Did you receive direct deposit notice?

If you receive your LSERS benefit by direct deposit, you should have received a direct deposit notification in December. LSERS also mails notifications when:

- A direct deposit is setup for the first time
- There is a change in your gross or net benefit amount



## Check your account information to be sure you get timely benefits, notices about your retirement

Account and contact information of LSERS members is very important to us! This is true from enrollment into the system through the life of the account.

Please help us by ensuring that all your personal information is correct at all times.

This will assist you as well! Improper birth dates, wrong social security numbers,

addresses or phone numbers that are not updated may lead to retirement processing errors, as well as the potential to miss important details on your retirement accounts.

Your contact information can easily be updated online through LSERS online access! If you've not already done so, we

encourage you to register for 24/7 access. Please visit [www.lasers.net](http://www.lasers.net), click on "login" and begin the registration process. If you should need a hand, your employer can assist in updating your personal information.

## Contribution refund process improved for 2019

When 2019 arrives, LSERS will begin to process contribution refunds on every other Wednesday. The new schedule will begin Wednesday, January 2, 2019. Payments should be received in next 2-7 days after that Wednesday depending on the payment methods. EFT payments are deposited to your bank account on the next business day, but paper checks may be delivered in 3-7 business

days. Please note that, under state law, one thing that remains in effect is that employers still cannot certify the Form 7 - "Application for Refund," until 90 days after your last day of employment.

We encourage refunding members or their employers to please let LSERS know of a pending refund. That way, LSERS can minimize delays if additional forms are needed to finalize processing. One such form is Form

7A - "Request for Refund Rather than Retirement Benefit and Spousal Consent Affidavit" if married. If a refunding member has ten years of service credit (five years for those who enrolled in LSERS on or after 7/1/2010), this Form 7A is used by the member to record his or her choice to either continue with the refund, or leave his or her contributions in LSERS and begin drawing monthly benefits upon reaching retirement eligibility.

Please contact Kimberly Stephens, 225.922.0220 or [kstephens@LSERS.net](mailto:kstephens@LSERS.net) with questions.



## Did you know ?

### Unused leave may be a retirement credit!

Did you know your unused leave may be converted to retirement service credit, increasing the total years of service used in your retirement benefit calculation?

There are some restrictions to be aware of:

- It must convert to at least 0.10 of a year,
- It cannot be used to reach retirement eligibility,
- It is not useful if you have reached 100% accrual.

Please see Fact Sheet 11 "Unused Leave" at [www.lasers.net](http://www.lasers.net) for more details.

## 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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**Jeffrey Faulk, Sr.**  
*Board Chairman*  
*Retiree Representative - Division 2*

**Eugene Rester, Jr.**  
*Board Vice Chair Pro Tem*  
*Retiree Representative - Division 1*

**Philip B. Walther**  
*Board Vice Chair - 1st Retirement District*

**Colleen C. Barber**  
*2nd Retirement District*

**Penny Brown**  
*3rd Retirement District*

**Andrea S. Matte**  
*4th Retirement District*

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

**Kyle Ardoin**  
*Secretary of State*

**John Schroder**  
*State Treasurer*

**Barrow Peacock**  
*Chairman, Senate*  
*Committee on Retirement*

**Barbara W. Carpenter**  
*House Committee on Retirement*

**Henry J. Yearby**  
*President-LSBOA*

**Jay Dardenne**  
*Commissioner of Administration*

### ADMINISTRATION

**Charles P. Bujol**  
*Executive Director*

**Chenfei Zhou**  
*Assistant Director*

**Robert J. Collins**  
*Executive Counsel*

**Matthew J. 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](http://www.lasers.net)**

### Board Meeting Schedule

**January 7 Investment Committee Meeting - 9 am**  
**February 4 Quarterly Board Meeting - 9 am**  
**February 5 Quarterly Board Meeting - 8:30 am**  
**March 11 Investment Committee Meeting - 9 am**  
**April 8 Investment Committee Meeting - 9 am**  
**Personnel Committee Meeting at adjournment of Investment Committee Meeting**

**For a complete listing of all board meeting dates and times, visit our website at: [www.lasers.net](http://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](http://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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