



# Pension Press

The Newsletter of the Houston Municipal Employees Pension System



## Update From the Chairman

Sherry Mose  
Chairman

Dear Participants,

Summer has arrived in Houston, and we are nearly halfway through 2022! After a tumultuous and challenging few years due to the pandemic and its effects on the economy and day-to-day life, thankfully some sense of normalcy has returned. It has been a difficult time, but City of Houston employees continue to be resilient and work hard for the betterment of the city and those who live, work and visit here.

I also am proud of the work done by HMEPS' Board, staff and consultants. HMEPS' investment performance of 38.7% last fiscal year was the best performance in the history of the System, bringing HMEPS' assets to nearly \$4 billion. Recently, the public investment markets have experienced increased volatility. Concerns around inflation, prolonged supply-chain challenges and conflict in Eastern Europe have contributed to short-term market fluctuations. While certainly not immune to these factors, HMEPS is a long-term investor with a well-diversified and professionally managed portfolio that allows the fund to weather short-term volatility. Participants should have confidence that the System is on strong footing for the long term.

I am pleased to report that the HMEPS office has steadily returned to pre-pandemic accessibility and functioning. The office is once again open for participants to schedule in-person meetings with our Benefit Counselors. To schedule a meeting, participants should call the office at (713) 595-0100. Participants also may continue to submit completed documents in the reception area of the HMEPS office during business hours.

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## Start now on organizing important documents

In order to initiate and facilitate the process of claiming benefits, you should take every effort to obtain and organize official documents that establish your age and name and, if you are married (or divorced) and/or have dependent children, the official documents that establish those relationships.

See pages 4-5 for more information on required documents.

# Update From the Chairman cont.

(Cont. from Page 1)

Later this summer, an election for several HMEPS Board of Trustees positions will be held. The election will take place in August 2022. More information about the election can be found on page 3.

Finally, it was great to continue presenting the Financial Retirement Educational Event (F.R.E.E.) for City of Houston employees and retirees on May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. The event, offered in a virtual format, included remarks from Mayor Sylvester Turner, as well as speakers from HMEPS, the City of Houston Deferred Compensation 457(b) Plan, and the Social Security Administration. Planning has already begun for the Fall F.R.E.E. Event, so stay tuned for more information.

I want to once again thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Chairman. I am honored by the trust and responsibility you have placed in me and am proud to work alongside my Board colleagues and our staff on your behalf.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and safe summer!

Your Chairman,



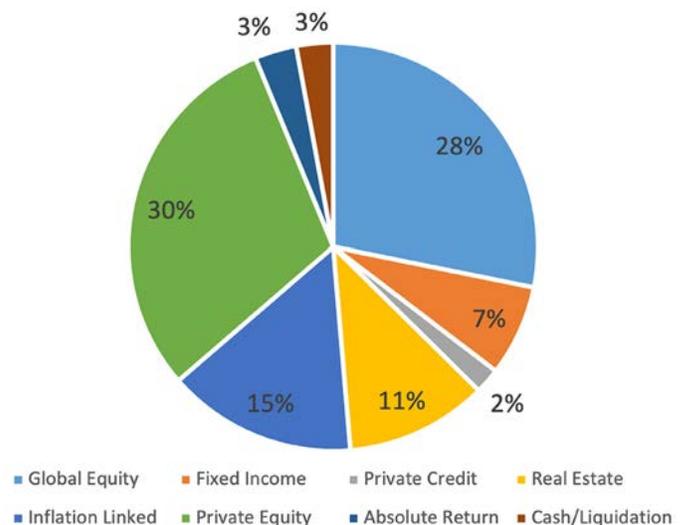
Sherry Mose

## HMEPS Investment Update

### Market Value by Asset Class

	December 31, 2021	March 31, 2022
Global Equity	\$1,222,414,792	\$1,167,190,178
Fixed Income	314,960,165	299,334,542
Private Credit	121,179,383	113,249,235
Real Estate	454,958,623	465,508,034
Inflation Linked	526,564,980	620,447,014
Private Equity	1,202,633,784	1,249,440,157
Absolute Return	137,691,478	136,650,946
Cash/ Liquidation	177,761,965	120,191,467
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,158,165,170</b>	<b>\$4,172,011,573</b>

### Asset Allocation as of March 31, 2022



# NOTICE

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## ELECTION OF TRUSTEES FOR THE HOUSTON MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES PENSION SYSTEM (HMEPS) BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Candidate applications are being accepted for two (2) employee trustee positions and one (1) retiree trustee position on the HMEPS Board. The election is for the following positions:

- Employee Position #5 (Incumbent is Sherry Mose)
- Employee Position #6 (Incumbent is Roy W. Sanchez)
- Retiree Position #8 (Incumbent is Roderick J. Newman)

## QUALIFICATIONS

**An employee trustee candidate** must be a full-time employee and a member of the Houston Municipal Employees Pension System with at least five years of credited service at the time of application.

**A retiree trustee candidate** must be a retired member of the Houston Municipal Employees Pension System, and must be receiving retirement benefits at the time of application.

**All qualifying candidates** must be willing to: 1) serve a four-year trustee term without compensation; 2) take an oath of office; 3) attend Board meetings, which occur at least once a month; 4) serve on committees as appointed; 5) attend required committee meetings; and 6) obtain ongoing training and education in pension and pension-related matters.

## APPLICATIONS

**An active employee** interested in running for an employee trustee position, or **a retiree** interested in running for the retiree trustee position, may obtain an application and a copy of election guidelines in person from the HMEPS Office at 1201 Louisiana, Suite 900 (Total Plaza Building) during the application period from 9:00 a.m. (Houston time), Monday, June 13, 2022 to 4:00 p.m. (Houston time), Friday, June 17, 2022.

Candidates must submit applications in person at the HMEPS Office during the application period. Each applicant must present an official photo identification when picking up and submitting an application. No application will be accepted after 4:00 p.m. (Houston time), Friday, June 17, 2022.

# Overview of Required Documents

## FOR ESTABLISHING NAME, AGE, MARITAL STATUS, QDRO AND DEPENDENTS. GET A HEAD START ON ORGANIZING THESE DOCUMENTS TO AVOID DELAYS!

HMEPS is a governmental defined benefit pension plan that pays eligible approved participants a lifetime benefit upon reaching retirement age with the required credited service, and pays eligible approved survivors a survivor benefit upon the death of the retiree. The amount of the retirement or survivor benefit depends on, among other things, marital status (if married, the length of marriage prior to separation from employment, and if divorced, whether there is a qualified domestic relations order assigning a portion of the benefit to an alternate payee) and whether there are eligible dependent children and their ages. For retired DROP participants with a DROP Account balance and former members with a Cash Balance Account balance, some distributions are required under federal law by a specified age.

As you can see from the above paragraph, certain information must be provided to HMEPS in order to process a retirement, survivor benefit, DROP participation and other pension-related transactions. If you wait until the last minute to obtain the necessary documents, your processing will be delayed until the documents are provided. This article gives an overview of some of the important documents and information that are required so that you can get a head start on organizing and retrieving them when needed.



### AGE

Many aspects of the pension plan depend on the age of the participant and/or beneficiaries. For example, when you apply for retirement or DROP, you must provide proof of your age. If you are unmarried or in Group D at retirement and select a joint & survivor annuity, you also must provide proof of the annuitant's age. HMEPS must receive the required proof of age before processing the transaction. We will accept a legible copy of one of the following documents, and may require the original:

- ★ Birth certificate
- ★ Delayed birth certificate
- ★ Census report more than 30 years old
- ★ Certificate of Naturalization
- ★ Official Passport/Passport Card

If you cannot furnish any one of the documents listed above, a legible copy of a document that shows your age from **two** of the following categories will be required, and we may require the original:

- ★ Birth certificate of your child
- ★ Baptismal certificate more than 30 years old
- ★ Hospital record of birth
- ★ School record at time you entered grammar school
- ★ Life insurance policy more than 30 years old
- ★ DD-214 record of military service (most recent)



### NAME

If a participant's or beneficiary's name is different from the name on the birth record, employment documents, Social Security Card or any other required documents, you must provide HMEPS with official records documenting the name change (record of marriage, divorce, adoption, foster care placement, or any other judicial or administrative proceeding that documents the name change).

## **MARRIAGE DOCUMENTS**

For marriages, HMEPS requires a marriage certificate that is recorded in the records of the county clerk's office in the county in which the marriage ceremony was performed. If the marriage was performed outside the United States, HMEPS requires an official document under the laws of the country that is recorded in the jurisdiction in which the marriage occurred, and may require additional information, including a translation by a reputable third-party, as determined by HMEPS, or official attestation of the document. A church record is not an official document and is not recognized for purposes of establishing a marriage for pension-related purposes.

For an informal marriage (common-law marriage), HMEPS requires a valid marriage declaration executed by the couple and recorded in the records of the county clerk's office in the county in which the couple resides. For participants who separate from service after June 29, 2002, if the declaration of common-law marriage is signed and notarized after that date, the declaration will not be valid for the period prior to the date it was signed, notarized and recorded.

For example, suppose a deferred participant and his spouse in common law sign a marriage declaration in the presence of a notary public on October 19, 2023. The declaration states that they met the requirements for common law marriage beginning May 4, 2000. If all other requirements are met, as determined by the Board, HMEPS will recognize the marriage as having begun October 19, 2023. If the deferred participant terminated employment prior to October 19, 2023, the spouse is not eligible for survivor benefits in the event of the deferred participant's death, because survivor benefits are only available to a surviving spouse who was married to an eligible participant continuously prior to separation from service and at the time of death.

## **QUALIFIED DOMESTIC RELATIONS ORDER**

A "qualified domestic relations order" is a legal judgment or decree that recognizes the rights of another person with respect to alimony, marital property rights or support for a child or other dependent. A domestic relations order must satisfy the requirements of Chapter 804 of the Texas Government Code to be "qualified," and it must be recognized by HMEPS's plan administrator. For an order

issued after May 1, 2014, such order must comply with the "Model Order for Domestic Relations Order." A fillable form of the HMEPS Model QDRO is available on the HMEPS website at [www.hmeps.org/resources.html](http://www.hmeps.org/resources.html). In addition, there are specific procedures regarding the amount and timing of any payments made under an order.

## **DEPENDENT DOCUMENTS**

A dependent child means the unmarried natural or legally adopted son or daughter of a member, deferred participant, or retiree, who was supported by the member, deferred participant or retiree, and who is either under 21 years of age or is totally and permanently disabled from performing any full-time employment because of an injury or illness, serious mental illness, intellectual disability, or pervasive developmental disorder, that began before the child became 18 years of age and before the termination of employment of the member, deferred participant, or retiree.

To document the status of your unmarried dependent child or children, HMEPS requires the birth certificate (with your name as the parent) of each dependent child, or the official adoption papers. For a disabled dependent child, HMEPS will require medical records establishing that the disability began before the child became 18 years of age and before your termination of employment.

You should maintain these documents in a safe place and have them ready at the time you request a pension-related transaction. If you do not have the required documents, you need to obtain them in order to avoid delays in the pension process.



*The information contained herein is general in nature and is not intended as legal, tax, or investment advice. This overview should not be construed as containing all of the provisions and requirements that might apply in every situation, and does not change or take the place of the Statute and the rules adopted by the Board.*

# Spring F.R.E.E. Event Delivers Financial and Retirement Planning Information

The Spring Financial Retirement Educational Event (F.R.E.E.) – “My Financial Path Forward” - was held virtually on May 12 and 13, 2022, and was a great success! The line-up included a guest appearance by Mayor Sylvester Turner, along with informative sessions on Social Security, Medicare, 457 deferred compensation and pension. The topics included:

- “Overview of the HMEPS Pension Plan” - presented by Terri Murray with HMEPS
- “Social Security and You” - presented by Andy Hardwick with the Social Security Administration
- “Retirement Readiness” - presented by Mark Ledson and Donnie Roberts with Empower Retirement

The F.R.E.E. event is co-sponsored by HMEPS, the City of Houston, and Empower Retirement, and helps employees and retirees better plan for their financial futures. Join us for the Fall F.R.E.E. event on October 13 for more information and insights into reaching financial milestones and preparing for retirement. Registration information for the one-day event will be available in September.



**Employees Who Serve In the Military:** After you return to City employment from military service, immediately advise HMEPS and submit a DD-214 so that you are able to claim all eligible USERRA-covered credited service. For information, call HMEPS at 713-595-0100.

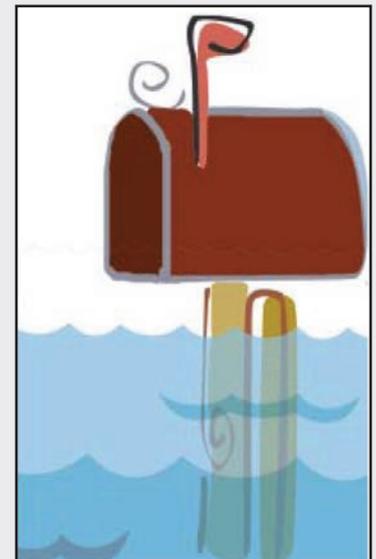
## It's Hurricane Season – Are You Using Direct Deposit?

Using direct deposit is an easy and convenient way to deposit your benefit payments electronically to a checking or savings account at a participating bank, savings and loan association or credit union. During a hurricane or severe storm the last thing you want to do is worry about whether or not your check will reach your mailbox. Utilizing direct deposit ensures your check will be deposited no matter what the weather conditions may be. If you are still depositing your benefit check in person at your bank, HMEPS asks that you consider the following advantages that direct deposit offers:

- Direct Deposit Eliminates Postal Delays and Lost or Stolen Checks
- With Direct Deposit Your Money is Immediately Available
- Direct Deposit Eliminates the Need for You to Personally Endorse Your Check or Wait In Lines At Your Bank

If you don't have an account, consider opening one and sign up for direct deposit at that time. Direct deposit is extremely reliable.

If you have any questions about direct deposit of your pension benefit, call the HMEPS office at 713-595-0100.



# Retirements: Third Quarter 2021 - First Quarter 2022

## Admin & Regulatory Affairs

Vera Abrego  
Marilyn Harper

## Aviation

Roger Adams  
Warren Baylark  
Shirley Bickham  
Silas Bougere  
Cecil Butts  
Randy Cates  
Marcelo Chavez  
Lorna Clark  
Pushpa Dhanaraj  
Nicolas Espinal  
Marisabel Flores  
Denny Freeman  
Catalina Gomez  
Randy Goodman  
Kenneth Gregg  
Ronald Hansen  
Phyllis Henderson  
Lenore Herman  
Udodirim Cherry Agwu Hicks  
Jimmy Jackson  
Rickey Johnson  
Charles Jones  
Eugene Kelly  
David Ludwig  
Michael Marek  
Manuel Martinez  
Martin Mazur  
Esperanza Palomares  
Winnifred Perry  
Debra Reed  
Caroline Riera-Schneider  
Solomon Scott  
Sarindy Son  
Jerry Tea  
Rafaela Valle  
Robert Walters  
Carolyn Williams

## Dept. of Neighborhoods

Carl Davis

## Finance

Stanley Cain  
Darla Colomb

## Fire

Paul Samreth

## Fleet

June Bradley  
John Garcia  
Julio Gonzalez  
Keith Mccollum  
Avery Porter  
Dung Thi  
Johnny Wagner

## General Services

Roman Boutte  
Russell Galbreath  
Kermit Haag  
Sabrina Jones  
Carl London  
Rosie Montgomery  
Regina Pearrie  
Eva Perla  
Johnny Stanley  
Ricky Vaesa  
Russell Whatley

## Health & Human Services

Irma Cantu  
Maurice Edwards  
Martha Garza  
Wanda Mathews  
Kavin Robinson  
Charline White-Williams

## Housing & Community Development

Robin James

## Houston Emergency Center

Latonía Moutra

## Human Resources

Timothy Hardy  
Karen Harris  
Jennette Jackson  
Leticia Juarez  
Tracey Norman  
Yolanda Peters  
Yu Yue

## Information Technology

Herman Brown  
Cynthia Ellis

## Legal

Arva Howard

## Library

Kenneth Battle

Juli Kring  
John Merullo  
Jeffery Robin  
Mary Sommerfeld  
Gloria Ybarra

## Mayor

Estella Ortega

## Municipal Courts

Montecella Flaniken  
Laura Garza  
Bertha Hopkins  
Tomasita Trevino

## Parks & Recreation

Ronald Boyd  
Jose Centeno  
Arturo Everett  
Jose Nieto  
Joseph Pierucci  
Emily Schaefer  
Gina Singleton  
Dale Temple

## Planning & Development

Michael Kramer

## Police

Vicki Allen  
Andre Booker  
Lois Curley  
Tamara Davis  
Carolyn Edmonson  
Carol Ferguson  
Lois Gibson  
Darlene Gordon  
Sandra Harrison  
Jeffrey Monk  
Evelyn Ogbonna  
Christopher Parris  
Evelyn Richardson  
Deborah Sanders  
Sandra Semere  
Elizabeth Tea  
Ronzel Washington  
Jenny Wong

## Public Works

Reginald Banes  
Joseph Bell  
David Bledsoe  
Jimmy Boxley

Rocky Boyer  
Maria Castillo  
Richard Chapin  
Ewa Chmiel  
Chauncey Conner  
Don Daniels  
Robert Deese  
Jesse Esparza  
Blanca Fuerte  
Noel German  
Benjamin Harris  
James Harrison  
Steve Hawkins  
Christopher Horn  
Lester Howard  
Wesley Hutchins  
Kathlie Jeng Bulloch  
Cynthia Jones  
Dale Jones  
Ernest Leonard  
Toni Lewis  
Terrance Lockings  
Larry Mackey  
Darcia Moon  
Ebrahim Nassiri  
Samuel Palermo  
Donnie Parnell  
Willie Raymundo  
Randall Richard  
Rafael Robles  
Francisco Salas  
Beverly Scott  
Brian Sellers  
Clarence Shepherd  
Sidney So  
Mickey Tarver  
Reginald Taylor  
Barbara Terrell  
Raju Thomas  
Jose Torres  
Bobby Ward  
Bruce Wiggins  
John Zaborowski

## Solid Waste

Cedric Armstead  
Rosalind Smith  
Moltie Stevenson  
Randy Tims

The Retirements section lists names and departments of those retiring participants who have indicated on their retirement applications that they wished to have an announcement of their retirement included.

## 2022 Pension Payment Schedule: June - August

The schedule indicates the dates set for payment of benefits. Direct Deposits (ACH) will be deposited on the last business day of each month. If you receive your pension benefit by mail it is typically mailed 3-4 days before the last business day of the month. To enroll in direct deposit, please call the HMEPS office at 713-595-0100.

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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# Pension Press

Houston Municipal Employees Pension System



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[www.hmeps.org](http://www.hmeps.org)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### ELECTED AND APPOINTED TRUSTEES

Sherry Mose, *Chairman*  
Lenard Polk, *Vice Chairman*  
Rhonda Smith, *Secretary*  
Roderick J. Newman  
Roy W. Sanchez  
Lonnie Vara  
Barbara Chelette, *Appointed*

### CITY APPOINTED TRUSTEES

Denise Castillo-Rhodes  
David Donnelly  
Edward J. Hamb II  
Adrian Patterson

## Pension Press

David L. Long,  
*Executive Director*

Thanks to the HMEPS staff for their contributions to the ongoing success of the *Pension Press*.



# HMEPS

HOUSTON MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES PENSION SYSTEM

## NEWSLETTER CONTENT

The material contained in this newsletter is intended to provide you with important information about your pension participation. The content cannot be taken as the basis of any contractual rights between HMEPS and its participants. If there is a question of interpretation, retirement laws are the final authority.