



Pension Press

The Newsletter of the Houston Municipal Employees Pension System



Update from the Chairman

Sherry Mose
Chairman

Dear Participants,

It is hard to believe summer is nearly here, and we will soon reach the halfway point in 2024. No matter the season, I am always impressed by the tireless efforts of our municipal employees. You are the engine powering our great city.

In its April Economy At A Glance publication, the Greater Houston Partnership noted the Houston area’s continued growth, adding 140,000 new residents in the last year. With that growth comes demand for services, making our City employees more important than ever.

The Houston area continued its strong economic performance in 2023, creating more than 102,000 new jobs. As both the local and national economies continue to grow, so has the importance of retirement security. Numerous recent articles have pointed out that many Americans today are financially unprepared for retirement. For City employees and retirees, your financial security drives everything we do here at HMEPS, and our dedicated staff and Board of Trustees constantly work to ensure your hard-earned benefits will be there for years to come.

I have the privilege of serving with the men and women on our HMEPS Board of Trustees. This summer elections will be held for Board Trustee positions 3, 4 and 7. Once you receive your ballot in the mail in early August 2024 you may cast your vote by mail, internet or phone. The results will be announced at the August Board meeting. See page 2 for more information.

In January, Houston’s new Mayor and City Council took office. Soon they will consider and approve the City’s annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024. HMEPS will carefully monitor budget proceedings and will keep you informed as needed.

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HMEPS WILL OBSERVE THE UPCOMING SUMMER HOLIDAYS

WEDNESDAY
JUN 19

Juneteenth

THURSDAY
JUL 04

4th of July

IMPORTANT REMINDER!



If you are a retiree or beneficiary and you have changed your address, you must submit to HMEPS an Address and Contact Change form, which is available on the “Retirees” page of the HMEPS website at www.hmeps.org, or by calling the HMEPS office.

HMEPS NEEDS YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO KEEP YOU UPDATED ON PENSION MATTERS

VISIT WWW.HMEPS.ORG TO SIGN UP

Update from the **Chairman** cont.

The Fall Financial Retirement Educational Event (F.R.E.E.) for City of Houston employees and retirees will take place in October 2024. This annual event includes speakers from HMEPS, the City of Houston Deferred Compensation 457(b) Plan, and the Social Security Administration. Look for a “Save the Date” email in early fall and stay tuned for more information on this important event.

As always, it is an honor to serve as your Chairman. I wish you a great summer!

Your Chairman,



Sherry Mose

NOTICE

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 #3 (Incumbent is Lenard Polk)
 - Employee Position #4 (Incumbent is Rhonda Smith)
 - Retiree Position #7 (Incumbent is Lonnie Vara)
-

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 10, 2024 to 4:00 p.m. (Houston time), Friday, June 14, 2024.

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 14, 2024.

Retirements: 2023 Third and Fourth Quarter Retirements

<u>Admin & Regulatory Affairs</u> Florencio Briones Mari-Beth Moffitt Binh Nguyen Syed Rizvi	<u>Fire Department</u> Diane Ford	<u>Information Technology</u> Terry Champagne Carolyn Jackson	<u>Public Works & Engineering</u> Magda Alanis Alvin Burroughs Ronald Charles Juanita Edwards Laura Fisher David Flowers George Griffith Ruben Gutierrez Deborah Harris Troy Heffin Michael Hockless Jesse Honeycutt Harold Johnson Bruce Lambright Craig Megowan Gabriel Okonkwo Michael Page Keith Phillips Howard Smith Rodney Spell Dean Stuhr Kent Taylor Gregory Vezorak Nancy Williams
<u>Aviation</u> Jose Campos Grace Carlile Karyn Hart Yvonne Hooper Juana Martinez Omar Martinez Lela Mitchell Johnny Richard Marlise Roberts Charles Siverand Joe Smith Donald Stewart Keith Stewart Felipe Torrez	<u>General Services</u> Duncan Elliott	<u>Legal Department</u> Shirley Harris	
	<u>Health & Human Services</u> Elouise Haynes Linda Johnson Maria Olivo Elisa Quintero Juana Rocha Christi Rollins Larry Seigler Rhonda Thomas Robert Velandia	<u>Library Department</u> Christy Chang Doris Gipson Susan Kaufman Freda Martin Charlene Munsinger William Simpson	
	<u>Housing & Comm. Development</u> Clarence Moton	<u>Municipal Courts</u> Eric Piper Carla Rogers	
<u>Controller</u> Charisse Mosely	<u>Houston Emergency Center</u> Michelle Garrett	<u>Parks & Recreation</u> Jeffery Ferguson Phillip Jennings Jose Martinez Arthur Medina Roosevelt Whittley Michael Wood	
<u>Convention & Entertainment</u> Edna I. Tellez	<u>Human Resources Department</u> Dana Cain Elizabeth Turner	<u>Police Department</u> Sheryl Bacon	<u>Solid Waste Management</u> Charles Jackson

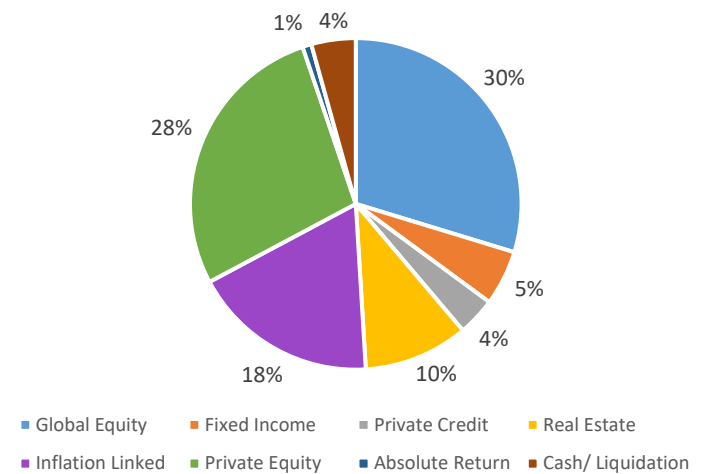
The Retirements section lists names and departments of those retiring participants who have indicated on their retirement applications that they wished to have an announcement of their retirement included.

HMEPS Investment Update

Market Value by Asset Class

	September 30, 2023	December 31, 2023
Global Equity	\$ 1,122,923,852	\$ 1,238,610,214
Fixed Income	212,424,929	224,386,031
Private Credit	152,258,231	155,341,267
Real Estate	398,007,557	425,939,245
Inflation Linked	690,201,346	758,605,362
Private Equity	1,168,038,979	1,150,536,694
Absolute Return	107,601,152	36,306,939
Cash/Liquidation	165,964,872	180,423,160
Total	\$ 4,017,420,918	\$ 4,170,148,911

Asset Allocation as of December 31, 2023



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Pension Press

Houston Municipal Employees Pension System



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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
Carole Snyder, *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.