

Update

December 2010

Vol. 30 No. 2

TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF TEXAS

Jan. 15 deadline nears for nominating 2011 board election candidates

TRS retirees and active higher education employees who are TRS members have until Jan. 15, 2011 to nominate candidates to one of the two respective positions on the TRS Board of Trustees. In spring 2011, elections will be held to field candidates who are eligible for appointment by the governor to fill two board positions. Both the retiree and higher education positions will be for six-year terms beginning as early as September 1, 2011. By March 15, 2011, TRS will mail ballots and an edition of *TRS News* containing candidate information to all TRS participants who are qualified to vote in the elections. TRS must receive those ballots by April 30, 2011.

Retiree election

All TRS retirees are eligible to vote in this election. Retirees may have their names listed on the official ballot as candidates for the retiree position by filing an official petition. The petition must be signed by 250 retirees. In addition to the signature of the retiree, the petition must include the retiree's printed or typed name, first five digits of the retiree's current residential zip code, and last four digits of the retiree's social security number. All valid nominating petitions **filed with TRS by January 15, 2011**, will be accepted for candidates eligible for appointment to this seat.

Active higher education member election

All TRS members whose most recent credited service is or was performed for an institution of higher education are eligible to vote in this election. Members of the system who are currently employed by an institution of higher education may have their names listed on the official ballot as candidates by filing an official petition. The petition must be signed by 250 higher education employees who are TRS members and whose most recent credited service is or was performed for an institution of higher education. In addition to the signature of the member, the petition must include the member's printed or typed name, first five digits of the member's current residential zip code and last four digits of the member's social security number. This information must pertain to TRS members whose most recent credited service is or was performed for a TRS-covered institution of higher education. Valid nominating petitions **filed with TRS by January 15, 2011**, will be accepted for candidates eligible for appointment to this position.

To obtain a nominating form, do any of the following:

- Print a nominating petition form from the TRS website.
- Write TRS at 1000 Red River; Austin, TX 78701-2698.
- Call 1-800-223-8778, ext. 6366.
- Fax a request to 1-512-542-6585.

Nominating instructions are included with the form.

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TRS earns 12.6 percent annual return rate, ranks first among peer pension funds

The TRS Trust Fund earned 12.6 percent for the 2010 plan year (ending Sept. 30, 2010), placing TRS first among its public pension fund peers with asset values of \$10 billion or more. As of September 30, 2010, the total value of the fund reached \$100.3 billion – up by more than \$8.9 billion from the same date a year earlier. Since that time, the fund value has continued to grow, surpassing \$104 billion.

“All of us on the board could not be more pleased with this outstanding performance,” said Board Chairman David Kelly. “This confirms the wisdom of the more diversified investment approach adopted by the board in 2007, and illustrates the importance of having a highly qualified team of investors. During the past few years, TRS and our staff have been challenged as never before, and our world-class team has responded in a skillful and methodical manner. As a result, our fund remains liquid, not levered, and with the distinct advantage of a long-term investment horizon.”

Investment earnings have played an important role in maintaining a healthy pension fund. Since the inception of the fund, 60 percent of all contributions have come from investment earnings, 20 percent from member contributions and 20 percent from state contributions.

TRS offices closed during upcoming holidays

TRS offices in Austin will be closed on Friday, December 31 for the New Year’s holiday. All of us at TRS wish you a safe and happy 2011!