

# Retiree Connection

Published for Retired Members  
of the State Employees' Retirement System.

Fall 2016 ♦ Volume X Issue I

## 2016 Retirement Board Election Update

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws c.10, §18 and c.32, the State Board of Retirement ("Board") is conducting a regularly scheduled election for one of the two elected positions to its five-member Board. The elected member will serve for a three-year term without compensation beginning January 2017.

Official ballots were mailed on Monday, October 24, 2016, to all members of the Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System (MSERS). Members have the choice to vote either by the paper ballot or online. Instructions are included on the ballot as well as on the Board's website. [Click here to view them.](#)

The deadline to cast your vote is Friday, December 2, 2016. If you are voting via the paper ballot, please allow extra mailing time to ensure that the Board's designated agent receives it by December 2, 2016.

Please note, If you need a replacement ballot or have an election question, please contact customer service via telephone at (866) 384-9978, or via email at [MSRB@election-america.com](mailto:MSRB@election-america.com).

## New Computer System Coming Soon to the MSRB!

The Massachusetts State Retirement Board (MSRB) is in the final stages of implementing a new computer information system called MARIS (Massachusetts Retirement Information System). In January 2017, MARIS will replace the Board's current forty-year-old computer system which processes member transactions.

**No action is required by members, and no changes are taking place at this time!**

Additional information and details about MARIS will be communicated from the Board to Members of the State Employees Retirement System as it becomes available. For the latest news from the MSRB, please be sure to visit our website at [mass.gov/retirement](http://mass.gov/retirement) and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



A Message from the  
Office of State Treasurer  
Deborah B. Goldberg

Sound financial planning is critical to running state government with the highest degree of fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency.

Please view my office as a resource for you and your families on the many issues surrounding your retirement. Experienced retirement board staff are available and ready to assist you with any questions that you may have.

Thank you for your dedication to our commonwealth and to its people. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns or feedback you may have.

Sincerely,

Deborah B. Goldberg,  
Treasurer and Receiver General

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## MSRB Debuts Educational Video Library!

**Now Showing: How to Change Your Address, Direct Deposit and/or Federal Tax Information With the Board.**

In an effort to provide enhanced Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System (MSERS) member services, the Massachusetts State Retirement Board (MSRB) is pleased to introduce its **Educational Video Library**. This media-based digital learning opportunity enables active members, retirees, survivors and beneficiaries with the ability to get their retirement questions answered 24/7 via short video clips. We hope all MSERS members will consider this a quick, convenient and truly informative way to learn about general information related to their pension benefit.

The MSRB educational video series is titled *Understanding Your Benefits*, and it will include an in-depth explanation of the various aspects of the MSERS pension benefit. The first video for retirees, survivors and beneficiaries is titled "How to Change Your Address, Direct Deposit and/or Federal Tax Information With the Board." This video explains what members need to do to update their address, direct deposit information and/or federal tax withholding information with the retirement board. You can view it by visiting the **MSRB's Education Video Library** web page: <http://www.mass.gov/treasury/retirement/state-board-of-retire/msrb-video-archive.html>.

MSRB staff hopes you will watch this video and find it helpful. In the coming months, MSRB staff will continue producing videos on a wide range of topics regarding your pension benefits. New videos will be posted on announced on our Facebook and Twitter pages as soon as they become available, so be sure you are following us!

## Increased Benefit Requests Being Managed By MSRB Staff

Due to the recent unexpected announcement of the voluntary incentive program for Executive Branch employees, and other ongoing employee activities such as the separation of manual toll collectors from MassDOT, the volume of benefit and related requests to our office has increased significantly. As a result, it may take a little longer for us to get back to you, answer your individual questions or process your benefit requests.

Our Board currently supports more than 60,000 retirees and beneficiaries along with over 90,000 active members. We are trying to prioritize the high volume of previously filed retirement applications and other requests for benefits from members and survivors, including those requests which continue to be received daily.

*Thank you in advance for your continued understanding and patience!*

## Retiree eNews Bulletin, Subscribe Today!

Did you know that the Board's Communications staff publishes an electronic *Retiree eNews Bulletin*? If you are a MSERS retiree and would like to receive your own monthly *Retiree eNews Bulletin*, please send your e-mail address to us at [MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us](mailto:MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us).

**Note:** Please be sure to include your full name and either your MSRB I.D. Number, or the last four digits of your Social Security Number so that we can properly identify you.

## Have You, or Are You, Planning to Move?

If so, be sure to notify the Board of your address change so that you will continue to receive important mail such as your Annual 1099-R Statement! Retirees who already have summer and winter addresses on file with the Board can call us to request the address update. Otherwise, you'll need to notify the Board in writing. You can get our Change of Address Form by downloading it from our website. Visit us at [www.mass.gov/retirement](http://www.mass.gov/retirement) and then go to our Forms & Publications page.

## 2017 Direct Deposit Dates

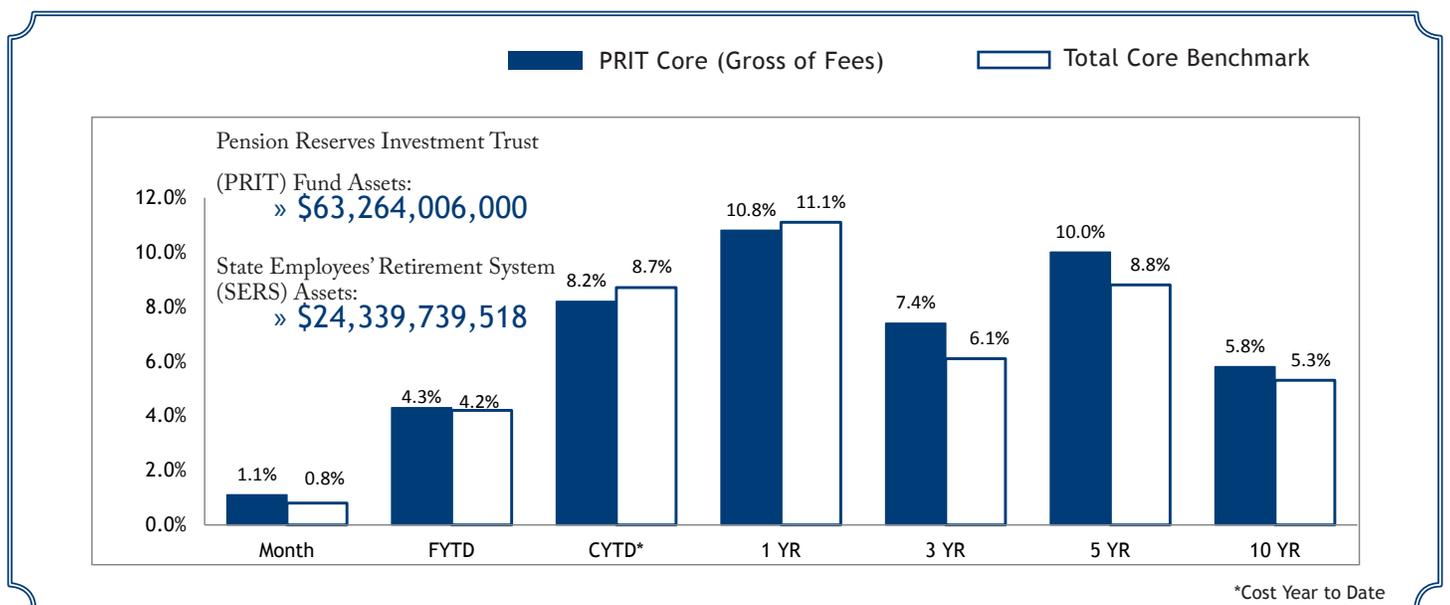


TUESDAY JANUARY 31ST	TUESDAY FEBRUARY 28TH	THURSDAY MARCH 31ST	FRIDAY APRIL 28TH
WEDNESDAY MAY 31ST	FRIDAY JUNE 30TH	MONDAY JULY 31ST	THURSDAY AUGUST 31ST
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29TH	TUESDAY OCTOBER 31ST	THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30TH	FRIDAY DECEMBER 29TH

A downloadable **2017 Pension Check Calendar** is also available on our website. It includes both the above dates and the dates paper checks are mailed. You can find it on [mass.gov/retirement](http://mass.gov/retirement).

## Your State Pension Fund

*PRIM Update, as of September 30th, 2016*





THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**State Retirement Board**  
 ONE WINTER STREET, 8TH FLOOR, BOSTON, MA 02108

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## REMINDERS

- The deadline to vote in the current Board election is December 2, 2016!
- The 2017 Pension Paycheck calendar is now available online at [mass.gov/retirement!](http://mass.gov/retirement!)

### State Retirement Board

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**Related Agencies**

SMART Plan Service Center  
 1-877-457-1900

Group Insurance Commission  
 617-727-2310, Ext. 6



*You Served the Commonwealth... We Serve You!*