

Focus



Employees' Retirement Fund
of the City of DALLAS ®

March 2015

Dallas ERF Earned a Positive Return of 6.5% in 2014

From the desk of ERF's Executive Director - Cheryl D. Alston

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2014 was a positive year for the Employees' Retirement Fund. Our investment portfolio generated a return of 6.5% (net of fees) for calendar year 2014, ending the year with \$3.4 billion in assets. The Fund has performed well over longer time periods. The Fund's 3-year return is 12.5% and the 5-year return is 10.7%.

The best performing asset class in 2014 was the Fund's Real Estate investments, generating 18.7% for the year. The Real Estate investments consist of publicly traded real estate called Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs") and national private real estate funds. Public Real Assets which consists of energy Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) had the next best performance. The Fund's MLP managers earned 18.3%, which outpaced the Alerian MLP benchmark of 4.8%. The domestic markets also had solid gains in 2014. Our investments in Domestic Equity returned 11.0% for the year.

The International markets struggled due to economic factors, with the MSCI EAFE (developed markets) benchmark returning -4.90% and MSCI ACWI ex US (includes emerging markets) at -3.9% for the year. Our investment in International Equity was the only negative asset class with a return of -4.0% for 2014. Our allocation to Global Equity stocks returned 3.5%. Private Equity lags a quarter, so the last reported quarter is September 30, 2014. As of 9/30/14, the investments in Private Equity returned 12.5%.

Fixed Income is 30% of the ERF investment portfolio. Our high yield investments posted a positive return of 1.7%. Our investment in Global Fixed Income returned 6.5% and outperformed the Barclays Aggregate benchmark of 5.97% in 2014.

2014 was a volatile year for the stock market and I want to thank the Board members for their discipline, patience, and investment expertise as the markets continue to evolve. As pension fund investors, we have to remember to focus on the long term investment horizon. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the ERF staff for their diligence and commitment to excellent service to employees and pensioners.

In summary, active members, terminated employees with a vested pension and retirees should feel confident that ERF remains sound and your retirement benefits are safe and secure. We welcome your questions, comments, or suggestions.



Cheryl Alston, Executive Director
Employees' Retirement Fund

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"It is our mission to provide retirement benefits and superior service to advance the financial security of our members."



Learn More About Your Pension Benefit

The ERF annual theme for 2015 is Retirement Pulse. We will provide opportunities for you to keep your finger on your retirement pulse throughout the year including Summer Sessions and Pre-Retirement sessions.

From July through September, ERF staff and trustees travel to work locations throughout the City to hold informal meetings. These summer sessions offer the opportunity for groups of 25 or more employees to learn about their pension benefits, hear updates on the state of the Fund, and to have their questions answered. Visit our website www.dallaserf.org/UpcomingEvents.html to request a summer session at your place of work. A full schedule of the meetings will be posted on our website in June.

ERF will host six Pre-Retirement seminars this year. These all-day seminars cover many topics; how your pension benefit may impact your Social Security benefit, 401K and 457 plans, health insurance after retirement, how we calculate your pension benefit and financial planning. Seminars will be held on the following dates in 2015:



To register for a Pre-Retirement Seminar, visit our website, www.dallaserf.org/UpcomingEvents.html. Registration begins 30 days prior to the session date. You will know registration is open when the registration link below the seminar date is bold and the color blue. If you are retiring within a few months and are having difficulty securing a spot in the next Pre-Retirement Seminar, let us know. We will see what we can do to accommodate you.

Our Sincere Sympathy To The Families Of Our Deceased Members

September 2014 - December 2014

DEPARTMENT	AGE	DEPARTMENT	AGE	DEPARTMENT	AGE
Budget & Research		General Services		Sanitation Services	
Lue N. Griffin	95	Billie J. Roach	88	Jose M. Perez	75
Billy D. Braughton	81	Pearlie M. Foard	85	Roy G. Hester	54
Christine Haw	72				
City Attorney's Office		Housing & Neighborhood Services		Street Services	
J.W. Schoolfield	86	Virgil D. Murray	72	Alvin R. Jones	65
				George Bridges	62
Code Compliance		Library		Alex C. Wong	57
Thomas M. Hanna	66	Susan F. Andrews	65	Kenneth W. Davis	56
Convention & Event Services		Municipal Court		Street & Sanitation Services	
Julian Flores	82	Benjamin R. Wright	94	Harold Davis	88
				Frankie O. Colvin	86
Development Services		Park & Recreation		R.B. Gaither	83
Frank Dominguez Jr.	73	Floyd A. Swanson	84		
D. Killingsworth Sr.	70	Ida F. Shanz	70	Water Utilities	
Donald R. Caldera	65	Royce D. Johnson	66	Hollie E. Faulhaber	91
				Eula F. Ballard	90
Equipment & Building Services		Police		Durwood Pierce	79
Sandra S. Robinson	73	Dorothy M. Chambers	81	Michael Bandru Jr.	78
		Ruthie M. Conner	69	Carl S. Moses	73
Event Facilities & Cultural Affairs		Othell Broadnax	66	David R. Huling	70
Robert J. Barbee	87			Anthony C. Post	68
		Public Works and Transportation		Johnny L. Morgan	64
Finance		William E. Saucier	86	Richard Karney	61
Alice P. Vance	90	Bill E. Jessup	86	Charles H. Hamilton	57
		William G. Hogue	69	Marcus J. Reed	55
Fire - Rescue		Lonnie R. Barree	71		
F.P. Spainhouer	91	William E. Saucier	86		
Richard A. Redus	71	Bill E. Jessup	86		
		William G. Hogue	69		
		Lonnie R. Barree	71		

Study Finds Texas Pension Funds among Best in the Nation

Source: Texas Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems –TEXPERS

The Urban Institute, an economic and social policy research organization, has released a state-by-state survey of the state of public pension funds and ranked the plans that cover general employees in Texas counties, districts and municipalities as among the best public plans in the nation.

The study includes a pension report card and an interactive map grading state-administered retirement plans on their financing, how much retirement security they provide to short- and long-term employees, and the workforce incentives they create for younger, older and mid-career employees.

The results are based on the Urban Institute's State and Local Employee Pension Plan (SLEPP) database, which includes detailed state-by-state information on plan rules for public school teachers, police officers and firefighters, and general state and local government employees. To view a snapshot of the results state by state, go to: <http://datatools.urban.org/features/SLEPP/index.html>.

The report was compiled based on an analysis of over 600 state and local administered pension plans. The plans were graded on how well they place short- and long-term employees on a path to retirement security, how well employee incentives help government attract and retain a productive workforce, and whether the plans set aside enough funds to finance promised benefits.

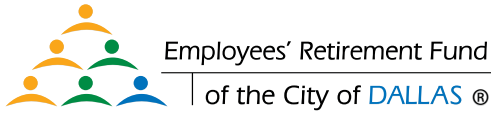
While Texas ranked well among all the nation's pension plans, the study found that many of the nation's 19 million state and local government workers do not have a secure retirement nest egg.



Congratulations To Some Of Our Newest Retirees!

Employees who retired in the months of September 2014 - December 2014 and agreed to let us share the news are listed by their department and years of City service.

DEPARTMENT	SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	SERVICE
Code Compliance Services		Library, cont.		Sanitation Services, cont.	
Dianna Alexander	32	Edwina Gray	16	Patrick G. Denson	15
Convention & Event Services		Sharon M. Herfurth	11	David Parker, Jr.	9
Deborah E. Grant	21	Waranat Srisuro	9	Street Services	
Court & Detention Services		Park & Recreation		Emanuel E. Barrett	34
Michael W. Coleman	37	Todd R. Bowsher	8	L.C. Leftridge, Jr.	29
Development Services		Mervin Harris	7	Michael S. Gonzales	27
Janice M. Thomas	5	Martin P. Conricote	6	William D. Beard	25
Environmental & Health Services		Planning and Development		Bobby A. Spencer	18
Elsa Espinoza	10	Cherryl Peterman	16	Bennie Kizart	17
Equipment & Building Services		Police		Johnny K.Adams	14
John L. McHenry	27	Michael R. Patterson	29	Sustainable Development & Construction	
Willie R. Johnson, Jr.	25	Elendia R. McPherson	28	Eddie V. Grant	9
Isaias Ortega	22	Fred A. Pope	16	Water	
Housing / Community Services		Dominick Mazza	2	Robert F. Pass	32
Jerico R. Fegale	19	Public Works		Lonnie E. Wright	31
Human Resources		Gary K. Mueller	32	Billy J. Ferrell	30
Carol G. Fogerson	33	Jeffrey B. Valera	30	Kerry L. Baxter	27
Library		Tamera L. Wilson	22	Virginia P. Tijerina	27
Jacqueline D. Carey	36	Sanitation Services		Larry R. Rowe	26
Leona Markoff	35	Dewayne Jackson	36	Gary L. Shipley	25
Christina B. Worden	27	Jesus Padilla	22	Yilma Zerihun	25
		Richard W. Tadlock	17	Angel S. Perez	22
				James M. High	21
				Ocie Johnson, Jr.	14



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CHERYL D. ALSTON

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Board Supports Benefits for Same-Sex Spouses



At the February 10, 2015 meeting, the ERF Board of Trustees passed a resolution that may provide survivor benefits to same-sex spouses. Subject to a written opinion from the Dallas City Attorney's office that the Fund is required to comply with the US Supreme Court Windsor decision by providing joint and survivor benefits to same-sex spouses, the Fund has recommended that a plan amendment be sent to and approved by the Dallas City Council.

We will provide more up-to-date information on our website as details become available.