



# Future Matters

Start Thinking About Tomorrow – Today

## Election Petition Process Option Added

Due to state restrictions on gatherings and social distancing requirements to reduce the spread of COVID-19, SERS changed its Board election nominating petition process for this election, which includes two active-member Board seats with terms beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2025.

The change involves the ability for active members to sign an electronic petition form on SERS' website to nominate a candidate. The electronic form is secure and requires the same information as the paper form. Active members may provide only one signature either on paper or electronically. Multiple submissions from one person for the same candidate are not counted.

To be considered for election, candidates must:

- Obtain signatures of 500 SERS members on a paper or electronic nominating petition form provided by SERS with not less than 20 signatures of members from each of at least 10 counties where those members are employed.
- Make sure each signing member indicates employer (school district), county of employment, either last four digits of Social Security number or SERS member ID, and the date.
- Deliver the following to the SERS office no later than 4:30 p.m., EST, December 4, 2020:
  1. Paper petitions with original signatures; electronic signature collection also ends at this time
  2. Completed Certification Form

Persons interested in running must contact Tim Barbour at [tbarbour@ohsers.org](mailto:tbarbour@ohsers.org) to have an electronic form on the SERS website created with their name. The paper petition forms and Certification Form can be downloaded from the SERS website at [www.ohsers.org/about-sers/board-of-trustees/board-election](http://www.ohsers.org/about-sers/board-of-trustees/board-election). ● ●

## Annual Statement Enclosed with *Future Matters*



Your annual statement shows your total contributions and service credit as of June 30, 2020.

If you have service credit or are buying service credit with another Ohio system, such as Ohio Public Employees Retirement System or State Teachers Retirement System, it is NOT shown in your total credit.

Employer contributions also are not included.

### About Your Pension

SERS offers two types of service retirement: unreduced service retirement and early service retirement.

For unreduced service retirement, you earn the maximum pension amount based on your service credit, which is how long you worked in an Ohio public service job, and final average salary, which is the average of your three highest years of salary. Early retirement pensions are reduced to cover the cost of providing a pension over a longer period of time.

The Service Retirement Eligibility Requirements chart on your statement includes eligibility requirements for both unreduced service retirement and early service retirement.

### Questions?



If you have a question about this statement, visit our website at [www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org) and submit it using the message feature on SERS' secure Account Login, or call SERS toll-free at 800-878-5853. ●



### Create an Online Account:

- Update contact information
- Designate beneficiary
- Review account balance, current contributions, and service credit
- Run estimates

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

# RETIREMENT READINESS:

## It's Never Too Early or Late to Think About Your Retirement

### Learn:

#### Retirement Coaching Online



SERS offers information about online educational opportunities through our website at [www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org).

Watch a Retirement Conference video presentation by visiting the SERS YouTube channel. The presentation is divided into subject segments, so you can choose individual segments to watch or view the entire series, all at your own convenience: [www.youtube.com/SERSofOhio](http://www.youtube.com/SERSofOhio), or [www.ohsers.org/education/video-center](http://www.ohsers.org/education/video-center).

Videos discussing the benefits of being a SERS member, service credit, contributions, eligibility, Social Security Offset/Windfall, and health care, as well as your SERS online account, Account Login, also are available in the Video Center.

### Plan: Fill the Income Gap



A SERS pension is great, but alone, it probably is not enough to carry you into the future. Start adding other savings accounts to your retirement nest egg now to supplement your retirement savings. Every little bit helps.

### Save: Leverage Opportunities



While you can't control the future, you can control the amount you save.

Because you are a public employee, you are eligible to participate in Ohio Deferred Compensation, a 457(b) plan. It is a voluntary retirement savings plan that allows you to supplement your pension by investing pre-tax dollars through payroll deferrals. Contributions and earnings are tax-deferred.

Learn more about Ohio Deferred Compensation at [www.ohio457.org](http://www.ohio457.org).

### Tips:

- ✓ Start Saving Now
- ✓ Enroll in Ohio Deferred Compensation
- ✓ Open an Individual Retirement Account (IRA)
- ✓ Increase Your Contributions to Your Other Savings Accounts
- ✓ Create a Budget
- ✓ Pay Down Debt
- ✓ Cut One Unnecessary Expense

## Budget: Can I Afford Retirement?

To create a useful budget, you need to understand that your SERS income in retirement will be a percentage of your present income. Determine what your expenses are presently, then adjust figures, and budget with less. The average SERS retiree has a final average salary of \$37,047, and 25.8 years of service. That's a monthly pension of about \$1,659. Can you live on that?

Items	Amount
<b>Housing</b> (Mortgages, Rent, Taxes, Insurance)	\$
<b>Utilities</b> (Electricity, Gas, Water, Phone, etc.)	\$
<b>Food</b> (Grocery and Restaurants)	\$
<b>Transportation</b> (Car Payment, Gas, Insurance, Upkeep)	\$
<b>Health Care</b>	\$
<b>Debt</b> (Credit Cards, Loans)	\$
<b>Personal Care</b> (Toiletries, Clothing, Hair Care, Education)	\$
<b>Recreation</b> (Entertainment, Vacations)	\$
<b>Emergencies</b>	\$
<b>Total</b>	\$

## Filling an Income Gap

Working



Income  
100%

Retired with about 26 Years  
of Service



Income  
54%

➔ Can you live on about 54% of your present income? ➔



**School Employees Retirement System of Ohio**

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