

September 21, 2011

[HFRRF]



Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund

Dear Fund Member:

The Fund united forces with an organization called "Texans for Secure Retirement" (TSR) and the Chair agreed to serve on the TSR Board. TSR is a group of stakeholders dedicated to fostering an informed environment for understanding the value of retirement security for public employees. TSR is concerned with the retirements of approximately 2 million active working and retired individuals that participate in one of the 175 public defined benefit plans in Texas with net assets of over \$170 billion. TSR's mission is to educate and inform public officials, decision makers and the public at large about public defined benefit plans.

TSR will work to counter the efforts of the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP) that is working with Vinson and Elkins, LLP, an international law firm, and that has established an organization called "Texans for Public Pension Reform" with an agenda geared toward a statewide campaign to introduce constitutional amendments in 2013, limiting future public employee defined benefit plans such as ours to a defined contribution plan.

In preparing for this counter effort with the GHP, in the coming weeks we will develop information on defined benefit versus defined contribution retirement plans. FAQs will also be developed on defined benefit and defined contribution plans. We will also be working on identifying individuals and organizations seeking to change public defined benefit plans to defined contribution plans.

Defined Benefit Plan Facts

- Defined benefit plans are particularly important to public workers in Texas that do not participate in the Social Security system.
- It is estimated that investment costs for defined benefits plans are far less than those for typical individually directed plans.
- Professionally managed defined benefit plans routinely achieve greater returns than those reaped by individual investors.

The success of TSR depends upon the willing participation of stakeholders. Stay tuned as we quickly organize and begin the vitally serious effort to protect our financial future.

In the near future, a web site will be developed to assist in providing information to active and retired public employees in Texas. There has been a post office box created that will be used for receiving contributions to the Texans for Secure Retirements. The address for PAC and TSR is: P.O. Box 684601, Austin, Texas 78768. Checks should be sent to the address listed above. Please include your name, address and current occupation.

Please note that Bill King along with Jeff Moseley, who is the president and CEO of the GHP, are spearheading this effort against public employees. The time to prepare is now, not later. TSR will meet this challenge head on and will use various resources to combat this attack.

We urge you to take the time to contact your State elected officials. Let them know how important your pension is to you and how this attack on public employees is unwarranted. Please request their support. Attached to this letter is a complete list of the Houston area Texas Senate and House representatives.

We will continue to keep you apprised of any changes. Please feel free to contact me.

My door is always open,

Todd E. Clark
Chair

Texas Senators	District
Senator Rodney D. Ellis	District 13
Senator Mario Gallegos, Jr.	District 6
Senator Glenn Hegar, Jr.	District 18
Senator Joan Huffman	District 17
Senator Mike Jackson	District 11
Senator Dan Patrick	District 7
Senator John Whitmire	District 15
Senator Tommy Williams	District 4

State Representatives	District
Representative Alma Allen	District 131
Representative Carol Alvarado	District 145
Representative Dwayne Bohac	District 138
Representative William "Bill" Callegari	District 132
Representative Garnet Coleman	District 147
Representative Brandon Creighton	District 16
Representative John Davis	District 129
Representative Sarah Davis	District 134
Representative Charles Dutton, Jr.	District 22
Representative Craig Eiland	District 23
Representative Rob Eissler	District 15
Representative Gary Elkins	District 135
Representative Jessica Farrar	District 148
Representative Allen Fletcher	District 130
Representative Patricia Harless	District 126
Representative Anna Hernandez Luna	District 143
Representative Scott Hochberg	District 137
Representative Charles Howard	District 26
Representative Dan Huberty	District 127
Representative Ken Legler	District 144
Representative Borris Miles	District 146
Representative Jim Murphy	District 133
Representative John Otto	District 18
Representative Ron Reynolds	District 27
Representative Debbie Riddle	District 150
Representative Wayne Smith	District 128
Representative Larry Taylor	District 24
Representative Senfronia Thompson	District 141
Representative Sylvester Turner	District 139
Representative Hubert Vo	District 149
Representative Armando Walle	District 140
Representative Randy Weber	District 29
Representative Beverly Woolley	District 136