

TEXAS PENSION PLANS

Extra Money for Retired Teachers in a “13th Check” at Center of Republican-Democrat Shouting Match

July 17, 2021, By Heidi Pérez-Moreno

“On Tuesday, the Senate passed Senate Bill 7, which would provide retired teachers, counselors and school staff a one-time payment, or ‘13th check,’ of up to \$2,400 through the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. It would apply to thousands of ex-educators who stopped working before the start of this year and reach the pockets of retirees no later than January 2022.

“The comptroller’s office also updated its revenue estimate during the last month of the regular session in May to say the state “assumes continued economic growth through the next biennium,” but noted this forecast does not account for appropriations made in session.”

[Texas Tribune](#)

Texas Public Employee Pension Funds Outwit Pandemic Scare of 2020

July 20, 2021, By TEXPERS

“Despite that significant recent decline, the 42 system members of the Texas Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems’ responding to an annual survey hit the average actuarial targets of 7.4% in annualized returns for the five-year period. Their combined portfolios amounted to \$54.98 billion at the close of the survey period. The median target rate of the 100 pension systems monitored by the Pension Review Board of Texas is 7.25%.

[PR Newswire](#)

These are the Finalists for the 2021 Allocators’ Choice Awards

July 20, 2021, By Alicia McElhane

“*Institutional Investor* selected the finalists based on a pool of nominations submitted in May and June. Starting now, asset allocators will submit their votes for the winners, who will be crowned on September 22 at dinner at the Mandarin Oriental in New York City.

“Cheryl Alston, Executive Director & CIO, Employees’ Retirement Fund of the City of Dallas... Kirk Sims, Director of Emerging Manager Program, Teacher Retirement System of Texas... Teacher Retirement System of Texas (Jarvis Hollingsworth, Chair) ...Texas Permanent School Fund (Holland Timmins, Executive Administrator & CIO)”

[Institutional Investor](#)

TEXAS ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Central Texas Housing Market Driving Rapid Sprawl to Areas Such as Georgetown

July 15, 2021, By Jack Flager, Lauren Canterberry, Brian Rash

“Before July 2020, the monthly median home sales price in the Austin-Round Rock metropolitan area had never reached \$350,000. It surpassed \$400,000 in March 2021, then reached \$465,000 in May, according to data available from the Austin Board of Realtors. That is a 27.4% increase from January.

“Craft added that every deal she has brokered this year has seen multiple offers for which homes are typically selling for 10%-20% over asking price. This is a situation that frequently disfavors first-time buyers, especially those seeking single-family homes, which account for the vast majority of homes on the market at any given time, she said.”

[Community Impact Newspaper](#)

Texas Adds 43,900 Jobs in June as Employment Forecast Strengthens

July 16, 2021, By Nathan Han

“Texas added 43,900 jobs in June and the state unemployment rate dropped slightly from 6.6% in May to 6.5% in June, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, who released its estimated June employment numbers Friday....The Dallas Fort Worth area's unemployment rate also fell slightly from 5.6% in May to 5.4% in June. According to the Texas Workforce Commission's estimates, Texas employers added 55,800 jobs in June.

“Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) issued a statement following the release of the June numbers Friday lauding what he called the booming Texas economy.”

[NBC DFW](#)

Big Landlord Launches \$5 Billion House Hunt

July 20, 2021, By Ryan Dezember

“Tricon Residential Inc., a Toronto company that operates one of the largest pools of U.S. rental homes, said it has struck a home-buying pact with the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, Pacific Life Insurance Co. and one of the company's existing foreign investors, which it declined to name.

“The competition is probably as intense as we've ever seen it to buy a home,' Mr. Berman said. Yet rising rents, as well as the sheer number of homes that sell every year in the busy Sunbelt markets where Tricon operates, have kept the business of buying, sprucing up and renting out houses profitable and enticing for big investors like pensions and sovereign-wealth funds, he said. Tricon says new lease rates in April were up 16% from a year earlier, and renewals rose 4.4%.”

[The Wall Street Journal](#)

NATIONAL PENSION, INVESTMENTS & LEGAL

Milliman Analysis: Public Pension Funding Tops 80% for First Time in Over Five Years

July 21, 2021, By Milliman, Inc.

“Milliman, Inc., a premier global consulting and actuarial firm, today released the second quarter (Q2) 2021 results of its Public Pension Funding Index (PPFI), which consists of the nation's 100 largest public defined benefit pension plans.

“For the first time since Milliman began tracking the PPFI in 2016, the funded ratio for these plans has climbed above 80%. Propelled by a strong bull market, Q2 2021 marked the fifth consecutive quarter of high-water marks for both public pension assets and liabilities, with the estimated funded status of the PPFI plans growing from 79.0% at the end of March 2021 to 82.6% at the end of June.”

[PR Newswire](#)

Big Year for CalPERS Means Higher Pension Costs for Some Public Employees

July 21, 2021, By Wes Venteicher

“The California Public Employees’ Retirement System reported a 21.3% preliminary return on its investments for the fiscal year that ended in June. The big return — triple a 7% target — improves the retirement system’s long-term outlook and shields local governments from new debt payments.

“But the earnings triggered a 2015 policy that forces CalPERS to impose additional fiscal prudence on itself, with consequences for local governments and employees. The retirement system adopted the policy, known as risk mitigation, as it worked to pull itself out of a funding hole after the Great Recession. The policy forces the system to use short-term gains to protect against future downturns by reducing its annual earnings target and shifting money to safer investments.”

[The Sacramento Bee](#)

Amid PESRS Troubles, Pa. Lawmakers May Be Ready for Pension Reform

July 21, 2021, By Joseph N. DiStefano

“The bills under review would increase transparency and disclose more fees going to the fund’s well-paid outside money managers. One measure would empower the auditor general to conduct fraud audits while another would educate pension trustees.

“The most radical bill would combine the investment arms of PSERS with that of its state employee counterpart known as SERS. Ryan acknowledges that the bill will be the hardest one to move but says he has the support of Republican leaders, who control both the state House and Senate, to put these measures up.”

[The Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

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