



CFRS NEWS

City of Fresno Retirement Systems

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Message from the Administrator:

Robert Theller, Retirement Administrator



CFRS' team is committed to change, as long as it's for the better.

Your City of Fresno Employees Retirement System remains more than fully funded and is positioned to strongly secure your current and future retirement. Our goal is to keep it that way by maintaining a pension system which provides benefits which are economical for our sponsor (the City of Fresno) while remaining a life-long, lucrative and sustainable benefit for retired City of Fresno employees.

Recently you and we have seen volatile markets and unsettling news which may leave you wondering about the relative health of your CFRS benefits. Historically high inflation, volatile financial markets, and slowing economic growth are all a cause for concern. Adding in ongoing geopolitical tensions and armed conflicts, the situation may seem bleak.

We can't do anything to stop those issues from happening, but we can stay conservative and broadly invested to try to minimize what risks we can. Under the guidance of our Board of Trustees, the Employees Retirement System has weathered rough times and facilitated many changes in a long history while never failing to deliver on the promises made to our members and retirees. You can rely on us to keep those promises going forward.

Limiting risk is vital for an institutional investor like CFRS. As a long-term investor, we prepare for multiple economic ups and down across future decades. Part of that work is making sure we're taking the appropriate amount of risk to meet our investment goals while still maintaining broad market exposure. The Team at CFRS continues to work with our Investment Consultant to build a

resilient and innovative investment program that includes frequent reviews of new investment ideas and [existing investment strategy](#).

We provide award-winning annual financial reporting that give our members, retirees and the City of Fresno management team the information they need to plan contribution payments and prepare for the budget well in advance. Our Finance teams works with our Boards, Auditors and the City Finance team to ensure proper accountability is provided and prudent fiduciary care was take while spending and investing your assets. They also prepare a [Popular Annual Financial Report \(PAFR\)](#) which is an easy-to-read summary of the [Annual Comprehensive Financial Report \(ACFR\)](#), we encourage you to read them.

We remain committed to our primary mission of delivering your benefits when you choose to retire. To do that our Benefits team maintains a focus on great customer service while helping you process your retirement or disability application. We will help you through the required paperwork, while also trying to decrease the time it takes to process the applications. CFRS Benefits team is committed to helping you start your retirement. You can start by looking over your account and member information in [MemberDirect](#).

We are proud to roll out new newsletter to keep you updated on the status and progress of the Systems; and to remind you **we work for you, the members and retirees ... only**. Keeping that in mind, below are two quotes which help me focus on always trying to improve my work for CFRS retirees and members:

Message from the Administrator cont'd

"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." Winston Churchill.

To keep going forward, we need to constantly seek new ways of enhancing our business. We want to provide your retirement funding, information, accountability, and processing as efficiently as we can. This means we always look for better ways to invest, get you information, audit and report, and expedite your benefit and disability application processing. We would love it if you can help us with ideas.

"Don't find fault, find a remedy." Henry Ford

Mistakes and delays will occur and need corrected as soon as possible. Once they've been corrected, mistakes and delays are an opportunity to do a better job going forward. If something happened to you while working with CFRS that you don't feel is correct, please let us know and give us your ideas for improvements.

Since **we work for you**, we encourage you to:

-Attend our meetings on the second Wednesday and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. **in person or via Zoom.** You can submit general or specific questions or concerns about the Systems that you would like the Boards to address. Please feel free to attend either way if you are curious and just want to see what we do. You can see our [schedules & agendas on our website](#).

-If you see a problem or have an idea for doing something better? **Please submit your positive suggestions for improvements** by email to Retire@Fresno.gov. Change to improve is always possible and will help make CFRS a stronger, more resilient organization.

For specific questions or concerns relating to your pension, disability or DROP account, we encourage you to reach out **confidentially** to our Staff at 559-621-7080 to discuss or schedule an appointment.

We hope you get more out of your retirement account than you put in, and you do so for a long, long time.

Sincerely from your employee,
Rob Theller

CFRS DROP active interest crediting annual details

The DROP active interest crediting is set annually after the Fiscal Year Closes on June 30th.

The CFRS DROP active interest crediting is based off the average of the rolling five-year NET investments return (after all expenses).

For Employees Retirement System: The DROP active interest is 7.19%

If you have any questions about your CFRS DROP active interest rate for FY 2024, please call our offices at 559-621-7080.

August '23							September '23							October '23						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

November '23							December '23							January '24						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			

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Retirement Benefit Pay Dates Retirement Board Meeting Dates



The Joint Boards responsibility, as a long-term investor, is to manage in and through the global financial market environments as they evolve. Our Boards understand the System's portfolio requires a sound and stable strategy for meeting investment goals over the long-term with appropriate risk levels and controls.

The City of Fresno Retirement Systems portfolio is a globally diversified fund that invests in equities, fixed income, real estate, and infrastructure and currently is valued at \$3.6 billion. The portfolio has been fully funded for more than a decade.

In the last five-plus years, the portfolio has undergone a radical re-structuring to capture additional return opportunities while simultaneously reducing risk in key areas. The fund made its maiden investment in private equity three years ago and began increasing its exposure to private credit and non-core real estate recently. During this time, the fund has exceeded its benchmark and assumed rate of return over multiple time periods.

The Joint Boards and staff continue to explore new and innovative strategies that might be complementary to the portfolio and manage risk in a prudent manner. To learn more about the portfolio please click on the links below.

[CFRS Asset Allocation](#)
[Current Investment Managers](#)



Meet your Retirement Board Trustee:

Phillip Hardcastle, Chair
City of Fresno Employees Retirement Board

Since July 2012, Phillip has served as Clerical and Supervisory Trustee on the City of Fresno Employees Retirement Board representing over 1200 active employees and retirees. He is also currently on the Board of the City of Fresno Professional Employees Association representing over 200 active employees of the City of Fresno.

Mr. Hardcastle graduated from California State University-Fresno in 1998 with a BA in Business Administration/Accounting. He is a Principal Accountant for the City of Fresno Finance Department with over 25 years of accounting and supervisory experience managing the Debt and Collections Units of the Finance Department. With the implementation of the City's new financial system, he has been assigned as module lead for the Accounts Receivable module and works closely with the newly formed Grants Team in Finance.

During his spare time, Phillip devotes a lot of time to maintaining his country home and assisting in his neighborhood. Weekends are focused on his teaching and technical duties as associate pastor of a small local community church.

The Employees Retirement Board has five (5) members: one (1) employee who is elected by the members representing the clerical or supervisory workers of the System, one (1) employee who is elected by the members representing the manual workers of the System, and two (2) management employees who are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The fifth and final member of the Board is a qualified elector of the City, not connected with its government, elected by the previously designated four members.

The term of office of an elected employee Board member shall be four (4) years, with the term ending on the last day of June of the fourth year. Elections of Board members to be elected by and from the city employees affected shall be conducted in the month of July of the last year of each such member's term of office; provided, that the first such election conducted pursuant to this article shall be held at a time prescribed by the Board.

PBI Data Breach

In June 2023, CalPERS and CalSTRS announced they had a cybersecurity breach occur at their third-party vendor PBI Research Services/Berwyn Group ("PBI") which monitors news and sites to help ensure payments are not sent after a member has passed away.

City of Fresno Retirement systems uses the same vendor but did NOT have a data breach or loss. There is no impact to pension checks from CFRS.

The third-party vendor, PBI, had a vulnerability in their transfer application which allowed retiree data to be downloaded by an unauthorized third party.

Personal information that was downloaded included: first and last name, date of birth, and social security number. It could have also included the names of former or current employers, spouse or domestic partner, and child or children.

If you are a CFRS Member or Retiree with Reciprocity from CalPERS or CalSTRS you should confirm directly with them as to your status.

For questions members

- (for CalPERS) call 1-833-919-4735, or email questions PBIquestions@calpers.ca.gov.
- (for CalSTRS) can email questions with an [online form](#) or calling 800-228-5453 or 916-414-1099

Retirees

Jan 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

Keyvan Abedi	Catherin Ens	Linda Reitz
James Allen	Carl Farmer	Joesph Ruiz Jr.
Claudia Arguelles-Miller	Michael Getty	Jeff Rutledge
Robert Ascencio	Louise Gilio	Gina Saldivar
Patricia Asher	Benito Guerrero	Max Sharits
Erin Augusto	Bradley Hoagland	Sandra Sihota
William Bell	Benito Guerrero	Amanda Soto
Jack Buchanan	Caroline Hyder	Kinzea Thompson
Randy Calvert	Robert Kossman	Lawrence Thompson
Eliza Chatman	Emily Madrigal	Dorothy Tristan
Richard Cravins	Kimberly Manriquez	Kenneth Turner
Alex Cruz	Paul Maragoni	Ruben Valencia
David Dellone	Lon Martin	Joann Venturi
Loren Derpinghaus	James Melgoza	Susan Williams
Frank Diaz	Theresa Milavich	
Lorrie Emerson	Javier Molina	
Brian Enns	Jaime Nichols	
	John Outfleet	

Happy Retirement!

RETIREMENT BENEFIT INFORMATION

RETIREEES

- All retirement benefits payments are paid on the final business day of each month via direct deposit.
- Benefits that are effective on any day other than the first of the month, will be prorated. You will be paid for each day you are retired.
- Direct deposit advices can be viewed from [MemberDirect](#). We do not mail stubs unless your gross amount changes, usually annually.

RETIREE CHANGES

- Bank account changes should be reported to the Retirement office immediately. Forms can be obtained via [MemberDirect](#), [CFRS Website](#), or by contacting the Retirement Office. (Retirement staff will contact you before implementing any changes.)
- You must submit a Demographic Change form to update your address, phone number or e-mail address. Forms can be obtained via [MemberDirect](#), [CFRS Website](#), or by contacting the Retirement Office.

HEALTH INSURANCE

- To cancel your City of Fresno health insurance, you must submit a written request to the Retirement Office. Please remember all insurance deductions are done in arrears.
- The health insurance program is not administered by the Retirement office, we just help by deducting and sending the City of Fresno H&W insurance premiums for you.
- If you are a retiree currently participating in the Fresno City Employees Health and Welfare Trust and would like detailed coverage information on the Medicare Supplement offered by the City of Fresno, please refer to page 27 and 28 of the [Plan Booklet of the City of Fresno Employees Health and Welfare Trust](#).

ACTIVE MEMBERS

- If you are an Active employee currently participating in the Fresno City Employees Health and Welfare Trust and would like detailed coverage information on the Medicare Supplement offered by the City of Fresno, please refer to page 27 and 28 of the [Plan Booklet of the City of Fresno Employees Health and Welfare Trust](#).

DID YOU KNOW MEMBER DIRECT IS FOR **BOTH**

ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS?

Active Member

- Verify your personal contact information.
- View your designated beneficiaries.
- View account balances
- Estimate your retirement benefits.
- View, Print and Submit CFRS forms and correspondence in a secure environment.

Retired Members

- Create Benefit Verification Letters—NEW
- Update personal contact information.
- View your designated beneficiaries.
- View payment history and account balances.
- View and Print Direct Deposit Statements.
- View, Print and Submit CFRS forms and correspondence in a secure environment.
 - Demographic Changes
 - Earnings Reports
 - Tax Withholding
 - Direct Deposit Changes

[CLICK HERE FOR DIRECT LINK TO MEMBER DIRECT](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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cfrsbenefits@fresno.gov

City of Fresno Benefits – Benefits@fresno.gov
HealthComp – 559-499-2450
Fidelity Investments – 800-343-0860