

RETIREE ADVISOR

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Produced for retired members of the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System

Tennessee General Assembly makes historic \$250 million contribution to TCRS

The 112th Tennessee General Assembly appropriated a historic one-time additional contribution of \$250 million to the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System State and Higher Education plan.

State Treasurer David H. Lillard, Jr. and TCRS staff would like to thank members of the General Assembly for their commitment to securing and protecting the retirement of all public employees and teachers by making the largest single contribution in the history of TCRS.

TCRS is consistently recognized as one of the best-funded public pensions in the nation, due largely to every Governor budgeting and every General Assembly appropriating sufficient money to fund the pension based on the requirements set by the actuary and TCRS Board of Trustees.

"It is impossible to overemphasize the importance of this year's \$250 million appropriation to the state's pension fund," said Lt. Governor Randy McNally. "One of the linchpins of our state's nearly immaculate Triple A credit rating is our fully funded retirement system. While other states face rising unfunded liabilities, shortfalls and debt, our past and present fiscal responsibility allow us to take this step to ensure the solvency of our pension system not just today, but for many years to come. The future of Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System continues to be protected thanks to the forward-thinking work of Treasurer Lillard."

"Tennessee remains a low-debt, low-tax state and one of only seven in the entire nation to experience positive economic growth over the last year because of the fiscally responsible decisions we have made, as well as those we continue to make," said Speaker Cameron Sexton. "This includes the \$250 million investment into the state pension fund through the budget to honor our existing obligations and commitment to our citizens. I appreciate Treasurer Lillard and his staff for their effective, committed partnership, which has been critical to our financial success as a state; together, we will continue to ensure Tennessee remains a national economic leader for others to follow in the years ahead."

Contributions to TCRS are invested in the market to obtain both the highest available investment return while maintaining sufficient funds on hand to pay retirees timely. Funds earned through investments help grow the pension portfolio to ensure we can pay benefits to our retirees while keeping contributions from the state and employees lower. Last year, 66.83% of the retirement benefits paid by TCRS were earned by investments.

In fiscal year 2020, TCRS paid \$2.75 billion in benefits to 146,382 retirees across the state. Since more than 92% of TCRS retirees live in Tennessee, the retirement benefits paid by TCRS have a significant economic impact in your community and in all 95 Tennessee counties.



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2021 Direct Deposit Payment Schedule

Friday,
July 30

Tuesday,
August 31

Thursday,
September 30

Friday,
October 29

Tuesday,
November 30

Thursday,
December 30

Look for a 1.4% Cost of Living Adjustment in your next paycheck

The 2021 Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for TCRS retirees will be included in the July 2021 payroll.

Retired teachers and state employees who have been on the TCRS retired payroll for at least 12 consecutive months, as of July 1, 2021, will receive a 1.4% cost-of-living adjustment. Retirees of local governments who have authorized COLAs will receive the same increase.

The COLA is calculated annually by TCRS by using the Consumer Price Index (CPI), a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services. The CPI is calculated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. To learn more on how your COLA is calculated visit RetireReadyTN.gov > For Retirees.

Please welcome newest members of TCRS Board of Trustees

We welcomed two new members to the TCRS Board of Trustees this year. Welcome to Dr. Kim Lackey Fisher and Cathlyn Smith, each of whom will serve through June 30, 2022.

Dr. Fisher was appointed by Lt. Governor Randy McNally as the East Tennessee Teacher representative. Cathlyn Smith was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Wendell Cheek, upon his retirement, as the State Employee Representative of the Board, representing State and Higher Education employees across Tennessee.

Dr. Fisher is the principal of Black Fox Elementary in Bradley County Schools. As a board member, she represents the interests of East Tennessee teachers and former educators who are now TCRS retirees.

Mrs. Smith, of Clarksville, currently serves as Director of Leadership Development for the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities. She oversees Partners in Policymaking®, a free leadership course for people with disabilities and family members of people with disabilities; The Leadership Academy for Excellence in Disability, which trains leaders of State disability services; and the Council's Scholarship Fund, which helps people with disabilities and their family members attend educational opportunities and take on leadership roles in their communities.

The TCRS Board of Trustees consists of nine ex-officio members, nine representatives of the active TCRS membership and two representatives for retirees. To learn more about the Board and to see the other members, visit Treasury.tn.gov and search TCRS Board.



Dr. Kim Lackey Fisher



Cathlyn Smith

Contacting TCRS:

If you have questions regarding your retirement, you can reach the TCRS Customer Service Call Center at (800) 922-7772 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. CST.

For convenient, easy access to many retirement needs in one place, you can also visit **RetireReadyTN.gov**.



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