

August 2025

MSRB

Retiree eNews Bulletin



Notice of 2025-26 Retirement Board Election

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws c.10, §18 and c.32, and plan rules, the State Retirement Board ("Board") will conduct a regularly scheduled election for one of the two elected positions to its five-member Board. The elected member will serve for a three-year term without compensation beginning January 2026.

Nomination forms and Election Rules will be available beginning July 22, 2025, through the Board's website at www.mass.gov/retirement. Completed original nomination forms must be received by mail at the Board's Boston office, located at One Winter Street, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02108, by 5:00 p.m. Friday, September 26, 2025. PLEASE NOTE: The Board's offices are closed to the public. The Board's drop-off hours are Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., except on state holidays.

Notice to nominees who qualify as candidates will be issued on or about October 03, 2025.

After the qualification of candidates, official ballots will be issued on or about October 28, 2025, by standard mail. Votes must be received, or ballots must be postmarked before midnight on November 28, 2025, to the Board's designated agent.

Notice of Proposed Regulation 941 CMR 2.11

Notice is hereby given pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §2 that the State Retirement Board ("Board") will be accepting public comment on proposed regulation 941 CMR 2.11 Electronic Signatures.

941 CMR 2.11 sets forth when Massachusetts State Retirement System members may use an electronic signature in lieu of a wet signature.

The proposed regulation is being enacted pursuant to M.G.L. c. 32, §2(5) (b) and the purpose of 941 CMR 2.11 is to clarify when the use of an electronic signature would be acceptable in lieu of a "wet signature" pursuant to 840 CMR 28.00 et. seq. on board forms.

The Board will accept written comments that are received by the Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on **September 9, 2025.** Please send written comments to the Board's main office at:

Marko Samardzic Esq.
Associate Board Counsel
State Board of Retirement
One Winter Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Or you may email your comments to: MSRB-legal@tre.state.ma.us.

You may request a complete set of the Board's Election Rules from the Board's offices or obtain them through the Board's website. If you have any questions, please email the Election Officer, Paula Daddona, Director of Member Experience, Communications, & Operations at pdaddona@tre.state.ma.us, or email msrbcommunications@tre.state.ma.us.

COLA Increase for Supplemental Dependent Allowances Paid to Accidental Disability Retirees & Accidental Death Survivors

As we reported in the July 2025 Retiree eNews Bulletin, a 3% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) was approved and included in July's benefit payments for eligible Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System (MSERS) retirees. Along with this COLA, there was also an increase in supplemental dependent allowances for either accidental disability retirees or accidental death survivors.

The dependent allowance increase, effective July 1, 2025, for M.G.L. Chapter 32 sections 7 and 9, has been posted. The new monthly amount is \$96.59. The August payment will include the new amount plus a retroactive payment for July. For more information, click here.

Third-Party Financial Advisor Emails

Board staff have been alerted by Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System members that they have been receiving unsolicited emails from third-party financial advisors. These emails are unaffiliated with the Massachusetts State Retirement Board or the Office of the State Treasurer and

Written comments received after the deadline set forth above will not be part of the Record and will not be considered by the Board.

A copy of the proposed amendments regulation may be viewed on the <u>SRB</u> <u>Website</u>, or you may obtain additional copies of the proposed regulatory action by contacting the Board's Associate Board Counsel, Marko Samardzic, 617-367-7770 ext. 344, or at <u>MSRB-legal@tre.state.ma.us.</u>

August Pension Payment

The next pension benefit will be direct deposited on Friday, August 29, 2025, the last business day of this month.

The *MSRB 2025 Pension Payment Calendar* is available on our website and can be downloaded; <u>click here</u>.

Reminder: Review Your Tax Withholdings!

As we approach the end of summer, now might be a good time to check your year-to-date tax withholdings. You may recall that beginning with your January 2025 pension payment, new 2025 federal tax rates went into effect. Therefore, some of you may have noticed a change in your NET amount. Want to change your tax withholding election with the Board? Click here to download the 2025 W-4P Federal Tax Withholding Form. Please fill it out, sign it, and mail it to our Boston office.

Three Key Things About Scams from AARP

The AARP recently put together an article that reviews some key information

Receiver General. We advise our members not to provide personal account information to anyone they don't know or trust.

The only organizations that provide financial advice sponsored by the Office of the State Treasurer are the Massachusetts Deferred Compensation SMART Plan or the programs provided by the Office of Economic Empowerment.

Paper Statements Reminder

Receiving paper bank statements could be costing you! Some banks charge your account when they have to mail your monthly statement. Talk to your bank about switching to online statements. (And, if needed, you can print your online statements at home).

Direct Deposit Changes

You can update your direct deposit information by completing a *Change of Direct Deposit for Retirement Benefit Form*, which can be <u>downloaded from our website</u>. The form cannot be faxed or emailed; we need your original ink signature. It's also important to note that the Board must receive direct deposit changes by the 15th of the month to be effective for that month's pension payment.

Have you, or are you, planning to move? If so, be sure to notify the Board of your address change! Retirees who already have summer and winter addresses on file with the Board can call us to request the address update. Otherwise, you must notify the Board in writing by completing and submitting a Benefit Recipient Change of Address Form. You can download it here!

about how scams have evolved in recent years. For example, it goes over how a lot of scams that occur online are run by sophisticated international criminal organizations - not just one or two people. Click here for more information about the best ways to identify scams and protect yourself.

Labor Day is September 1st, 2025



Board offices will be closed in observance of the holiday. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday, September 2, 2025.

Is there something you would like us to communicate in an upcoming *Retiree* eNews Bulletin? If so, let us know!

Email your request or comments to MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact us:

Boston Office:

Downtown Crossing One Winter Street, 8th Floor Boston, MA 02108 Past issues of our newsletter publications can be found on our **website**.

Quick links: Visit our website:

mass.gov/retirement

Like us on Facebook:

facebook.com/mass.state.retirement

Follow us on X @MassStateRet:

x.com/massstateret

Springfield Office:

436 Dwight Street, #109A Springfield, MA 01103

Tel: 617-367-7770

Note: MSRB phones are answered Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., except on state holidays.

Drop-off hours at both offices are Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., except on state holidays.