



MSRB



Retiree eNews Bulletin

February 2019 eNews

IRS Federal Withholding Tables Updated for 2019.

You may notice a change from your January NET benefit payment amount to your February NET benefit payment amount. In most cases, it is due to a change in the amount of federal tax being withheld as the Board has applied the new federal withholding tables. Please review your withholding amounts for January & February. For most, this will explain the difference.

If you would like to change your Federal tax withholding amount with the Board, please complete an [MSRB W-4P Tax Form](#) and mail it to our Boston office.

2018 IRS Form 1099-R Update

The 2018 Form 1099-R's were mailed the end of January and are viewable on your [PayInfo](#) account.

Please note, although this is a handy item to have available for reference, the copy on PayInfo is not considered an official Form 1099-R and cannot be used to file your taxes. Therefore, be sure to hold on to the original hard copy that was mailed to you.

Additionally, due to the technical limitations of PayInfo, PayInfo can only display one Form 1099-R. PayInfo

Did You Know?

Mass Vacation provides a consistent and updated schedule of fun events all over Massachusetts. They range from offering new places to casually dine to family style vacation spots! Fully explore what Massachusetts has to offer, you may be surprised at what you find!

MassVacation.com

Retirement Board News

Treasurer Deborah Goldberg has reappointed Patricia Deal to the State Retirement Board for a 3-year term. Ms. Deal serves as the Board's Appointed Member and is the retired Treasurer of the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust. The Board's elected members are Theresa McGoldrick and Frank Valeri. Its Chosen Member is Archie Gormley.

MSRB Staff Stats

Our Board currently supports more than 63,000 retirees and beneficiaries along with nearly 88,000 active members.

During 2018, Board staff processed 3,304 retirement benefit requests, nearly 130,000 phone calls (not including direct calls to staff) and 5,700 walk-ins were counseled! Additionally, nearly 5,200 email inquiries were received in our

displays Form 1099-Rs for members who received a monthly benefit in 2018. It does not display refund Form 1099-Rs.

For more information about your Form 1099-R, please visit our Understanding your Form 1099-R webpage:

[Understanding your Form 1099-R](#)

For the most current news from the MSRB, follow us on [Facebook!](#)

Free File: Do Your Federal Taxes for Free

The IRS offers a free and reliable source for filing your federal income taxes called Free File.

You can get started with Free File by clicking the link below:

[Free File](#)

A Note About GIC

According to the Group Insurance Commission (GIC), on February 7, 2019, the Commission voted unanimously to approve benefit design recommendations for FY2020.

Highlights of the updated benefits approved February 7 include:

- **Medicare:** No benefit changes. All carriers and products remain the same.
- **Non-Medicare:** All carriers, products, yearly deductibles remain the same.
- **One benefit design change:** A lower co-pay of \$150 for members who utilize freestanding facilities for eye procedures and GI endoscopies. Co-pays for procedures at hospital outpatient facilities would remain the same at \$250 this fiscal year.

primary "SRB" mailbox. This does not include all the emails sent directly to individual staff members.

2019 is shaping up to be just as busy. Board staff thanks everyone for their continued patience and understanding during these busy times.

My Financial Life MA: economic empowerment for every life stage

[MyFinancialLifeMA.org](#) is a website that provides the tools and knowledge you need to achieve economic security now and in the future. Brought to you by the Office of the Treasurer, the website offers practical and clear answers to many financial questions you may have and guide you down the right path going forward. The site provides educational videos and other interactive resources, such as financial calculators.

When you have access to the right resources, you can make informed decisions that will lead to long-term economic stability.

Visit [My Financial Life MA](#) to begin exploring what the website has to offer.

New Medicare Card Mailing is Complete!

Medicare recently announced they have finished mailing new Medicare cards across the country. They suggest Medicare cardholders protect their Medicare Number and card just like you would protect a credit card. Additionally, to help protect your identity, you should destroy your old Medicare card.

If you are Medicare eligible and haven't received your new Medicare card yet, you

- **Provider Tiering:** Continuing to migrate from individual to group-based tiering for all specialists, aligning with existing group-based tiering by some GIC carriers.
- **Projected year over year average premium increase of 3.3%.** This is in line with recent years where the average increase for GIC members has typically ranged between 3% and 4% and is lower than current marketplace commercial trends of 5% to 7% average premium increases.

At its February 28 Commission meeting, the GIC will vote on medical and pharmacy product rates and premiums.

GIC stated they will notify key stakeholders about FY2020 benefit information before the start of the **Annual Open Enrollment** period, which runs from **Wednesday, April 3 to Wednesday, May 1, 2019.**

If you have questions about your GIC health and other insurance benefits or premiums, you must contact the GIC direct at 617-727-2310 and select option # 2 or visit their [website](#). Thank you.

Did you receive this Retiree eNews Bulletin as a forwarded e-mail from a friend? If you are an MSERS retiree and would like to receive your own monthly Retiree eNews Bulletin, send your e-mail address to us at MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us

Note: Please include your full name and either your MSRB I.D. or the last four digits of your Social Security Number, and request that we add it to our distribution list.

Is there something you would like us to communicate in an upcoming **Retiree**

can sign in to your secure MyMedicare.gov account to see your Medicare Number and print your official card. If you don't have a MyMedicare account yet, sign up for free at [MyMedicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) today!

Alternately, you can call 1-800-MEDICARE and a call center representatives can help you get your new card.

Note: Medicare advises that if you're in a Medicare Advantage Plan, like an HMO or PPO, keep using your Medicare Advantage Plan ID card whenever you need care. If you have a Medicare drug plan card, keep that, too. However, you should also carry your new Medicare card — you may be asked to show it. For more information, visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).

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'll need to notify the Board in writing. You can download our Change of Address form [here](#)!

Past issues of our newsletter publications can be found on our [website](#)

Quick links: Visit our website: www.mass.gov/retirement

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/mass.state.retirement

Follow us on Twitter @MassStateRet: <https://twitter.com/massstateret>

Contact us:

**Boston Office:
Downtown Crossing**

eNews *Bulletin*? If so, let us know!

Please e-mail your request or comments
to

MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us

We look forward to hearing from you!

**One Winter Street, 8th Floor
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**Springfield Office:
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Springfield, MA 01103**

**Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Walk-In Counseling Hours:
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Tel: 617-367-7770