

## **MUNICIPAL PUBLIC EMPLOYE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS (PERS):**

### **COMPOSITION OF BOARDS OF TRUSTEES**

#### Summary

It is standard practice among municipal public employee retirement systems (PERS) to include the Plan sponsor's chief executive, City officers appointed by the chief executive, and/or chief executive appointees, on the Board of Trustees.

#### Examples

##### **City of Baltimore Plans**

City Of Baltimore Employees' Retirement System (general employees)

7 board members, comptroller serves ex officio. Other 6 include 3 active elected, 1 retired elected, 2 appointed by Mayor.

City of Baltimore Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System: Comptroller, Finance Director and 2 appointments from Police Commissioner and Fire Chief ; 2 mayoral appointments. 1 active elected by firemen, 1 active elected from police, 1 retiree from fire elected, 1 retiree from police elected.

##### **City of Boston**

##### **Boston Retirement Board History and Administration**

The State-Boston Retirement System ("SBRS") is a governmental pension plan as defined by federal law. The Boston Retirement Board ("Board") is the fiduciary for SBRS by virtue of the City of Boston accepting the enactment of Massachusetts General laws Chapter 32 which governs Massachusetts' pensions. The Board serves members and retirees of all city departments and agencies as well as the School Department, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, the Boston Housing Authority, the Public Health Commission, and the Boston Water & Sewer Commission. The Board consists of two (2) members elected by active and retired members of the system; the City Auditor as *ex officio*; one (1) member appointed by the Mayor of Boston; and one (1) member who is elected by the other four members of the Board.

##### **City of Pittsburgh**

The Municipal Pension Fund Board consists of the Mayor, City Controller, President of City Council, and two Employee Representatives who are elected by the membership every four years.

In 1984, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed Act 205, The Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act. The Comprehensive Board was formed to pool the assets of police, fire, and municipal plans in order to achieve administrative savings and greater investment earnings. The Board consists of seven members: the Mayor, three members elected by the Police, Fire and Municipal Pension Plans, and three appointees. Two are appointed by Mayor of Pittsburgh; confirmed by City Council.

## **City Of Philadelphia**

The Board of Pensions and Retirement was charged under the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter with the creation and maintenance of an actuarially sound Retirement System providing benefits for all City employees. The Board, as defined in the Home Rule Charter, is composed of 5 *ex officio* members, all of whom are Mayoral appointees: the Director of Finance, who serves as chairperson, the Managing Director, the City Solicitor, the Personnel Director, the City Controller; and four members who are elected by the Civil Service employees of the City Philadelphia. (Currently 1 police, 1 firefighter, 2 AFSCME). The elected members serve a four-year term of office.

## **City of St. Louis Plans**

### **City of St. Louis Retirement System**

All non-protective service employees of the City of St. Louis and participating Employers, whose job is at least half-time annually, become members of the Retirement System upon employment. The Board consists of the Comptroller (*ex officio*); one member appointed by the mayor; two members elected by the active members; and one member elected by the retirees.

### **St. Louis Police Retirement System**

The Police Retirement System of St. Louis is governed by a board of nine members, consisting of 3 elected active duty police officers, 3 elected retired police officers, the Comptroller (or Deputy Comptroller as assigned by the Comptroller) and 2 mayoral appointees.

**St. Louis Firefighters' Retirement System:** The system is governed by a nine member board.

- Three active firefighters who are elected for a term of three years, with elections held on a yearly rotation.
- A retired firefighter elected by the retired firefighters who receive a benefit from the Retirement System. This Trustee also serves a three-year term.
- The Chief of the Fire Department of the City of St. Louis and the Comptroller of the City of St. Louis serve on the Board of Trustees by virtue of their position or office.
- Two mayoral appointees who serve for a two year term.

## **City of Chicago Plans**

**Municipal Employees Annuity and Benefit Fund:** The Plan is administered by a five person Retirement Board made up of three members elected by the active membership of the Plan and two ex-officio members the Comptroller (Mayoral appointee) and Treasurer of the City (an independently elected official).

**Laborers' & Retirement Board Members' Annuity and Benefit Fund:** A board of trustees called "The Retirement Board" administers the Fund. It is presently composed of seven members. There are two ex-officio members, the City Treasurer and the City Comptroller (or their appointment). One person is appointed by the Civil Service Commission or the Department of Personnel. One person is appointed by the president of the local labor organization representing a majority of the employees participating in the Fund. Two members are elected by and from the group of current employees who are contributing to the Fund. One member is elected by and from the group of former employees receiving a retirement annuity from the Fund.

**Policemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund:** The Fund is administered by an eight (8) member Board of Trustees. The Board is composed of four (4) elected members, with one elected from each rank of police officer, sergeant, lieutenant and above, and a member from the retired members and their widows. The Mayor of Chicago appoints four members.

**Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund:** The board shall consist of the city treasurer, the city comptroller, the city clerk, a deputy fire commissioner designated by the fire commissioner of the city, 3 firemen employed by the city, and 1 annuitant of the fund or a fireman pensioner of any prior firemen's pension fund in operation, by authority of law, in the city.

### **Cincinnati Retirement System**

The Cincinnati Retirement System (CRS) was established in 1931, the first Ohio pension plan for general city employees. It is governed by an 11-member Board of Trustees: four members elected by active members; one member elected by retirees; and six members appointed by the Mayor and City Council. (Police officers and firefighters are now part of a cost-sharing multi-employer plan of the State of Ohio.)

### **City Of Houston Plans**

**Houston Firefighters' Relief & Retirement Fund:** The ten member board consists of five active firefighters, one retired firefighter (elected by other retirees), the City Treasurer or individual performing those functions, the Mayor or an appointed representative of the Mayor and two citizen members elected by the firefighter trustees.

**Houston Police Officers' Pension System:** The board is composed of seven members, as follows: three employees of the police department having membership in the pension system, two retired members who are receiving pensions from the System and are not officers or employees of the City, the Mayor of the City or the Mayor's authorized representative, and the treasurer of the City or the person discharging the duties of the City treasurer.

**Houston Municipal Pension System:** HMEPS is administered by an 11-member Board of Trustees. The Trustees include four elected trustees who are members of HMEPS, two elected trustees who are retirees of HMEPS, a trustee appointed by the elected trustees, the mayor's appointee, the controller's appointee, and two city council appointees.