



Pre Retirement Opportunities for proactive employees

Office of Retirement Services, 2009 Fiscal Year

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Rev Up Your Retirement

Understand how much money you'll have in retirement.

Average **monthly pension**
for a **retired judge**
= \$3,027.41

That's about \$36,329 per year. Will it be enough to cover your health care, living expenses, travel, and leisure plans during retirement years?

Your pension should not be your only – or even your primary – source of income in retirement. A secure retirement depends on a balance of personal savings and social security benefits, in addition to your pension.

This newsletter is brought to you by the Office of Retirement Services.

The purpose of *PROactive* is to offer ideas and retirement updates to help you plan for a successful financial future.



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Your pension is safe and sound

As a member of the Judges Retirement System, you are eligible for one of the best public pensions around – it is guaranteed regardless of how the financial market performs. Our investment strategy centers on diverse funds and steady performance



over the long term, putting the system in a better position to maintain stability during economic downturns. While pension funds have not been immune to market decline, they remain financially sound and positioned to continue paying benefits for many years to come.

As of September 30, 2009, the Judges Retirement System covered 234 active customers and 542 retirees and beneficiaries. The net assets were valued at \$296 million and are invested by the Michigan Department of Treasury. The system paid retirement pensions totaling \$20 million in fiscal year 2009.

The retirement plan also serves as a valuable source of economic activity. Last year, in administering retirement plans for Michigan's state and public school employees, judges, and state police, we delivered over \$5 billion in pension payments and health care. This supports the jobs, services, and institutions healthy communities depend on.

In short, your retirement plan is safe and sound. The retirement plan will provide retirement income for retirees of tomorrow and provide a strong foundation for Michigan's economy for many years to come.

Know your retirement plan

Read your *Plan Summary (R0159B)* document for detailed information about your retirement plan – it's a useful reference at any stage in your career.

The summary covers contributions, service credit, retirement eligibility, retirement and insurance options, and can be found on our website under the Forms and Publications section.

The 2010 Census: Making a difference in your community

The 2010 Census will be delivered to your residence in March 2010. Completing the census form is easy and important, and everyone's participation is vital.

The purpose of the census is primarily to distribute the U.S. House of



Representatives based on population, but there's more. An accurate count of the population can result in quality of life improvements in Michigan. The information a census collects helps determine how more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funding is spent annually on infrastructure and services like hospitals, senior centers, emergency services, and other public works projects.

Getting to know us

Our customers total 580,000 people and include one out of every 18 Michigan citizens.

Within these systems, we administer four defined benefit pension plans and two defined contribution pension plans with combined net assets of nearly \$51 billion, making us the 15th largest public pension system in the U.S., the 20th largest pension system in the U.S., and the 40th largest pension system in the world. In 2009, we paid out \$5.4 billion in pension and health benefits.



Web Resources for Retirement Planning

www.michigan.gov/ORSjudgesDB. The Judges Retirement System's website has information about your retirement benefits, service credit FAQs, and valuable publications and forms.

<http://stateofmi.ingplans.com>. The ING website offers information and tools for you to boost your income in retirement by participating in the Deferred Compensation 401(k) and 457 plans.

Retirement preparedness

Health, wealth, and happiness

Whether retirement is two or twenty years away, consider these questions now:

1. *How prepared for retirement will you be?*
2. *Will you relocate to a warmer climate or near family?*
3. *Are you engaged in activities and behaviors that promote healthy aging?*
4. *Do you know how much money you'll need to sustain your current lifestyle?*
5. *Do you envision yourself sitting on a beach watching the waves come in or do you see yourself starting a new career?*

Many people live more than 30 years in retirement—have a plan for how you'll manage your golden years.

When planning for retirement, the first thing that usually comes to mind is the financial factor. While finances are definitely important, retirement well-being is not just about the money. According to the International Foundation for Retirement Education, good health and access to healthcare, social networking, work and volunteer opportunities, and engagement in challenging activities that bring a sense of purpose in life are also important factors. By taking time to think about, explore, and plan for all aspects of retirement, you are preparing for a secure and fulfilling future.

Don't delay—plan for your future now!

Know how much you'll have by reviewing your pension estimate that's printed in your annual *Member Statement*. In addition, review your ING statements if you participate in the 401(k) and 457 plan(s). Use these resources to ensure your financial future.

Engage in activities promoting a healthy lifestyle. Turn your favorite hobby into a source of income. Research cities where you'd possibly like to live. Talk to retired friends who are active and enjoying life. Get involved in your community. Mentor. These are steps to help make your retirement years as rewarding as your career.

Your tomorrow starts now. Be prepared.