

# Connections

An Office of Retirement Services Publication

March 2013, Vol. 16 No. 1

Judges Retirement System

## Our Purpose

We are an innovative retirement organization driven to empower our customers for a successful today and secure tomorrow.

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## From the Director

At the Office of Retirement Services we appreciate how important it is for individuals and families to live within their means and invest for the future. We follow these principles as well by operating in a cost-effective manner, investing for the long-term health of the pension system, and continually updating our technology to adapt to the changing pension and insurance environments. Our ultimate responsibility is to you, our customers, so in the next two pages you'll find a comprehensive summary of your retirement plan.

Our commitment to provide you with best-in-class service at the lowest possible cost starts with the swift and secure delivery of your pension payment. Most of you have enjoyed the benefits direct deposit and this year we encouraged the last few retirees receiving paper pension payments to make

the transition. By discontinuing paper pension payments, we ensure that pensions will arrive safely every month regardless of weather, traffic, or mailing delays.

As always, our staff is ready and willing to answer your specific questions, including through our secure online Message Board in miAccount. Let us know how we can improve our service for you.



Best wishes,



Phil Stoddard, Director  
Office of Retirement Services

## Stay alert for phishing scams

If you use the internet there's a good chance you've received emails from fraudulent sources that ask for personal information. *Phishing* is when identity thieves trick people into providing personal or account information by sending messages disguised as messages from companies you trust.

Phishing attempts try to convince you to reply to an email or click on a link to a counterfeit website. Phishing can also be a telephone call from someone pretending to be from a company or government agency, making the same kinds of false claims and asking you for personal information.

ORS will never send you an unsolicited email

asking you to click on a link or provide confidential information. Whenever you need personal information from us or we need personal information from you, we'll use our secure online tool, miAccount. miAccount uses the latest industry standards to keep your information secure, and you can be sure that any links we send through miAccount are safe.

If you get a suspicious email that looks like it's from ORS, don't respond or click on any links; give us a call first.

For more information on safe internet practices, visit [www.michigan.gov/cybersecurity](http://www.michigan.gov/cybersecurity).



# Judges Retirement System

for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2012

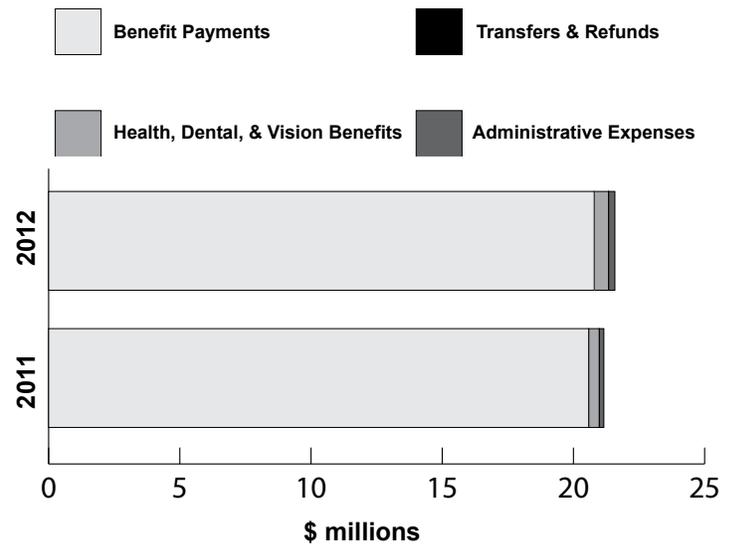
## About Your Plan

This summary came from the complete 2012 *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*, available on our website at [www.michigan.gov/orsjudgesdb](http://www.michigan.gov/orsjudgesdb). The figures in this report are as of September 30, 2012.

The Judges Retirement System serves 541 retirees and beneficiaries receiving monthly benefits, and 199 active members. Your pension is protected by Michigan's Constitution. The Office of Retirement Services' net assets are held in trust to meet future benefit payments.

Additions & Deductions				
	FY 2012		FY 2011	
<b>Additions</b>				
Public Financed and Member Contributions	\$	3,088,123	\$	2,383,477
Net Investment Income (loss)		<u>34,805,165</u>		<u>10,009,222</u>
<b>Total Additions</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>37,893,288</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,392,699</b>
<b>Deductions</b>				
Benefit Payments	\$	20,792,225	\$	20,580,971
Health, Dental, & Vision Benefits		544,349		401,027
Transfers & Refunds		90		-
Administrative Expenses		<u>242,398</u>		<u>176,694</u>
<b>Total Deductions</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>21,579,063</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>21,158,692</b>
Beginning of Year Assets		<u>224,564,987</u>		<u>233,330,979</u>
End of Year Net Assets	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>240,879,212</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>224,564,987</u></b>

## FY 2012 Retirement Plan Deductions

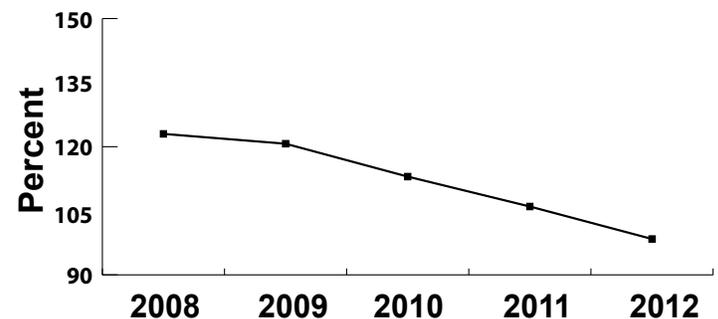


## Pension Funding Ratio

A pension plan is 100 percent funded when it has enough money in reserve to meet all expected future obligations to members. Funding a pension plan is similar to a mortgage. If you have a \$100,000 mortgage, and \$1,000 in the bank, your mortgage is 1 percent funded. You have a certain number of years to fund your mortgage, as long as you keep making your payments.

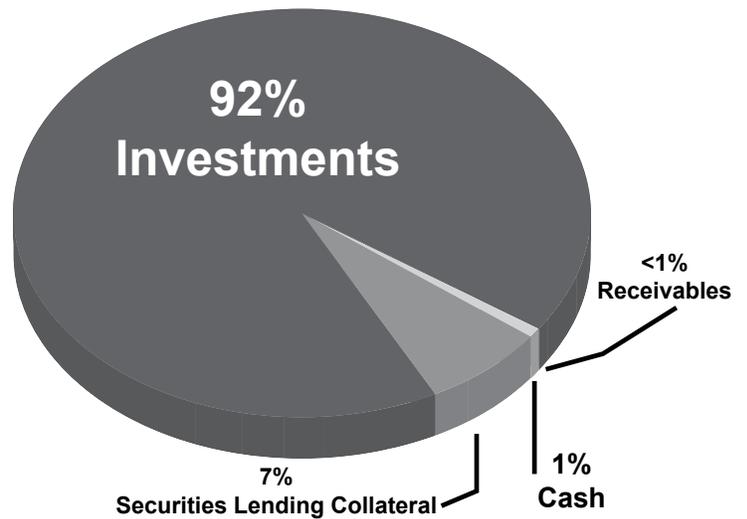
As of September 30, 2012, your retirement system is funded at 98.4 percent.

## 5-Year Pension Funding Ratio



Assets & Liabilities				
	FY 2012		FY 2011	
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash	\$	2,714,842	\$	1,134,174
Receivables		151,280		150,838
Securities Lending Collateral		19,535,974		27,203,542
Investments		<u>243,803,356</u>		<u>230,002,347</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>266,205,452</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>258,490,901</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable and Other Liabilities	\$	157,601	\$	28,818
Obligations Under Securities Lending		<u>25,168,640</u>		<u>33,897,096</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>25,326,240</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>33,925,914</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>240,879,212</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>224,564,987</u></b>

## FY 2012 Retirement Plan Assets



Investments & Earnings				
	Market Value*		Total Investment and Interest Income**	
Fixed Income Pools	\$	38,221,100	\$	2,165,902
Domestic Equity Pools		68,752,209		18,231,410
Real Estate Pool		33,914,462		2,663,651
Alternative Investment Pools		38,584,080		4,350,091
International Equity Pools		36,290,565		5,088,423
Absolute Return Pools		23,672,845		1,558,767
Short Term Investment Pools		7,082,937		17,187
Securities Lending Income				527,762
Investment Expenses				<u>(858,948)</u>
<b>Market Value and Net Investment Gain</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>246,518,198</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>33,744,245</u></b>

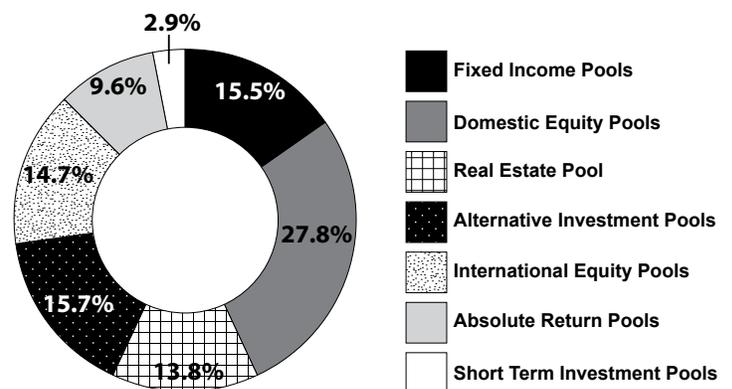
\* Market value excludes \$19,535,974 in securities lending collateral for fiscal year 2012.

\*\* Total Investment & Interest Income excludes net security lending income of \$457,656 and unrealized gain of \$1,060,889 for securities lending collateral for fiscal year 2012.

## Investments

The State Treasurer administers all of the system's investments. The main objective is to maximize the return rate and meet the actuarial assumptions by being prudent with investments, and maintaining a diverse portfolio to eliminate unnecessary risk.

## Investment Asset Classes



## Finance in Plain English

**Why does the funding ratio change?** One of the main contributors to the rise or fall of the funding ratio is investment performance. Performance affects the amount of assets available to offset the system's liabilities. Any liabilities that aren't offset make up the unfunded accrued liability (UAL).

**Why are there different types of assets in the retirement plan's portfolio?** Having a diverse portfolio is like having shocks on a car. It minimizes the volatility, so the returns vary less from year to year. Even though market performance may fluctuate, the long-term performance of the retirement system's portfolio remains stable. This ensures our funds are financially sound.

## Ask an Expert

ORS experts answer frequently asked questions



**Q:** *How do I get more information about my life insurance coverage?*

**A:** Information about your life insurance coverage is on file with our office. You can request this information through the miAccount message board; make sure to login to your account before you submit your question.

**Q:** *How can I get my 1099R or my income verification letter?*

**A:** The quickest way to get both these documents is through miAccount at [www.michigan.gov/orsmiaccount](http://www.michigan.gov/orsmiaccount), where you can view and print copies for your records. ORS representatives are not able to give you your 1099R tax information over the phone. If you believe you need a corrected 1099R, please contact our office.

**Q:** *What's the best way to contact ORS?*

**A:** The best way to contact ORS is through the miAccount Message Board. An ORS representative will respond to your message within one to two business days. If you need to speak to someone on the phone, the best time to call our office is before 1 p.m.

## Pension Pay Dates

Pension payments are issued on the 25th of the month. If the 25th falls on a weekend or holiday, your pension will be paid the previous business day. If your direct deposit is not credited within three days after that date, contact ORS.

## When to contact ORS

**Address, email, tax, or changing banks: right away.** It's critical that you make these changes with our office. If you're on Medicare, correct address information could affect your eligibility to be enrolled in our insurance plan.

**Death: right away.** If a pension recipient, a pension beneficiary, or anyone enrolled in your health, prescription drug, dental, or vision insurances dies.

**Divorce: right away.**

**Marriage: within 30 days.**

**Medicare: right away,** if you, your spouse, or any of your dependents become eligible for Medicare before age 65. Be sure to have the enrollment dates and policy numbers ready.

*The fastest, easiest way to report these and other life events is through miAccount. You can make instant changes from 5 a.m. to midnight, rather than calling our office during work hours.*



### Office Closures

May 27 – Memorial Day

July 4 – Independence Day

September 2 – Labor Day

Our website is available seven days a week, even when our office is closed: [www.michigan.gov/orsjudgesdb](http://www.michigan.gov/orsjudgesdb)

**Office of Retirement Services (ORS)**

P.O. Box 30171

Lansing, MI 48909-7671

[www.michigan.gov/ors](http://www.michigan.gov/ors)

[www.michigan.gov/orsmiaccount](http://www.michigan.gov/orsmiaccount)

Office of Retirement Services

**Director Phil Stoddard**

*Connections* is published semiannually for retirees served by the Department of Technology, Management and Budget.

Printed by authority of 1980 P.A. 234