

THE Mentor

News from the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System

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MARYLAND
STATE RETIREMENT
and PENSION SYSTEM

Nominations sought for State Police trustee

ACTIVE AND RETIRED members of the Maryland State Police Retirement System this spring will elect a fellow Trooper to represent their interests on the Board of Trustees of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System.

To compete in the election, prospective candidates must collect the signatures of 100 eligible voters. The winner of the election will serve a four-year term in office beginning August 1, 2026.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for establishing investment and administrative policy and overseeing the management of the Maryland State Retirement Agency, which oversees retirement benefits for more than 427,000 System participants. This number includes more than 1,300 active members and 2,630 retirees and beneficiaries of the State Police Retirement System.

Troopers currently are represented by Trustee Richard E. Norman, who has served on the Board since 2014.

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New security features launched for mySRPS member portal

Register now to get estimates of your future pension benefit, find out when you can retire

ON WHAT DATE will I be eligible to retire and begin collecting my hard-earned pension?

How much will my monthly payment be?

And, who did I name as my beneficiary way back when I first was hired?

Members of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System can find these answers — *and more* — after signing up for **mySRPS**, our secure online portal.

How do I register for mySRPS?

Signing up for **mySRPS** is easy. And, with our newly-launched security features, your account is more secure than ever.

Before registering for **mySRPS** using your internet-connected computer, you'll need to have two additional items handy: a camera-equipped mobile phone and your government-issued ID card. That's all! Follow the instruc-

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tions and, in just a few minutes, you'll have access to a powerful retirement planning tool designed just for you.

Watch a video tutorial

We've created a video (it's less than three minutes long!) that will walk you through the registration process. Click [here](#) to view the video on YouTube.

Choosing the right ID card

The app will ask you to photograph your ID. Your employee ID — you know, the one you wear around your neck when you're on the job — won't work. You must use a driver's license, state-issued ID, or passport.

Here are some tips to help you snap a usable photo of your ID card:

- Use a high-resolution camera like a smartphone or tablet camera, rather than a webcam.
- Position your license to fit inside your camera's crop marks.
- Take your photos in a well-lit area with indirect light.
- Hold your device still while taking the photo.

Providing a selfie

You also will need to take a photo of your face to prove your identity. Follow these tips:

- As when you photographed your ID, you'll need to use a phone or tablet camera. You cannot complete this step on a desktop device.
- Wear only accessories, like glasses or hats, that you also wear in your ID photo. Remove other accessories that might block your face.

Ready to access this powerful tool for retirement planning?
Click [here](#).

<https://sra.maryland.gov/member-portal>

- Make sure your face is centered. Take your photo in a well-lit place while avoiding glare. Remain still to avoid a blurry image.
- View account information, such as your years and months of service credit and accumulated contributions.
- Print an asset verification letter for a landlord or lender.
- Check your home address in Retirement Agency files.

What can I do with mySRPS?

Once registered, you'll have 'round the clock access to:

- Find out when you can retire and generate estimates of your future monthly benefit.
- Project your pension with added credit for military service, unused sick leave and future pay raises.
- View and update your beneficiaries.

Sign up for mySRPS now!

With your camera-equipped mobile phone and your government-issued ID card in hand, now is the time to register for mySRPS. Click [here](#) to begin the process.

Harness the power of secure messaging

CONTACTING the Maryland State Retirement Agency no longer requires a phone call, letter or email. Users of our **mySRPS** online portal have the option to submit secure messages any time.

What is secure messaging?

Secure messaging is a convenient way to communicate with us about your retirement account. It's more secure than email. And messages sent through this system are prioritized, often receiving a response within an hour or two.

How do I use secure messaging?

To communicate with the Retirement Agency via secure messaging, simply log into your **mySRPS** account. Then, in the top-right corner of the screen, click **Messages**. Click **Compose** to begin writing your message to us.

The **mySRPS** website maintains an archive of all your sent and received messages, so you can review them at any time

Board of Trustees update

TWO NEW TRUSTEES have joined the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System Board. Trustees Vernon A. Reid, Jr., and Yaakov “Jake” Weissmann will serve on the 15-member panel, which is responsible for the management, general administration and proper operation of the System.

Trustee Vernon A. Reid, Jr.

A gubernatorial appointee to the Board, Trustee Reid is a retired investment professional, previously serving as a Vice-President at T. Rowe Price. He also served as principal partner of V. A. Reid & Associates, a fixed income asset management firm. He has served as a board member at Harford Mutual Insurance Group since 2019.

Trustee Reid attended the United States Naval Academy, holds a B.S. in business administration from Towson State College (Towson University), and an M.B.A. from Indiana University.

Yaakov “Jake” Weissman

As the newly appointed Acting Secretary of Budget and Management, Trustee Weissman is an ex officio member of the Board.

Trustee Weissman previously served as Vice President for Government Relations and Community Affairs at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Before joining UMBC, he served as Assistant Chief Administrative Officer for Montgomery County.

Trustee Weissmann holds a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law, a master’s in social work from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and a bachelor’s in social work and psychology from UMBC.

Trustees Daly, Prouty conclude service on Board

Trustees James P. Daly, Jr., and Douglas Prouty, who served five and eight years, respectively, on the Board of Trustees, concluded their Board service this summer.

Trustee Daly, a gubernatorial appointee, and Trustee Prouty, twice elected by members and retirees of the Teachers’ Systems, were honored by the Board with resolutions at their last meeting.

Public Advisor named

The Board of Trustees this summer appointed Joanna Pratt as one of three Public Advisors to the Board’s Investment Committee.

Ms. Pratt is a leader in endowment and foundation investment management, currently advising large non-profits independently. Previously, she served in leadership roles at Investure, the Johns Hopkins University Investment Office, and Stanford Management Company.

Ms. Pratt holds an M.B.A. from Stanford University, an A.B. in economics and certificate in finance from Princeton University, and the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation.



Trustee Vernon A. Reid, Jr., left, and Investment Committee Public Advisor Joanna Pratt. A photo of Trustee Weissmann was not available at presstime.

Ms. Pratt succeeds former Public Advisor Michael K. Barry, who served the System for nine years.

Your Board of Trustees

The Board is composed of seven trustees appointed by the Governor of Maryland, five trustees elected by members and retirees of the System, and three trustees (the State Treasurer, State Comptroller and Secretary of Budget and Management) who serve on the Board because of their position in state government.

For more information on the Board of Trustees, including member biographies and photos, go to sra.maryland.gov, click on *About*, then *Board of Trustees*.

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Nomination petitions for this Board seat may be requested by emailing elections@sra.state.md.us. Completed nomination forms must be received at the Retirement Agency no later than 4:30 p.m. ET on January 31, 2026.

Election results will be announced at the July 14, 2026, meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Secure your pension during a leave of absence

A DECADES-LONG CAREER

in public service is seldom uninterrupted. An illness, welcoming a child to your family or a return to school could result in a break in service. An unpaid leave of absence like this could affect your pension, but it doesn't have to. Follow these steps to preserve your future retirement benefits.

Filing for a leave of absence

To protect your benefits, you must properly file for a qualifying leave of

absence. Proper filing ensures that if you die while on an approved qualifying leave, your pre-retirement survivor benefits for your beneficiaries remain in effect. Proper filing also makes you eligible to purchase or claim the leave period later if you wish to add to your service credit.

Before your leave of absence begins, submit a [Qualified Leave of Absence Request OR Notification of Military Service Entry \(Form 46\)](#) with the Retirement Agency, as well as

any forms your employer requires. Your employer also must certify that the leave has been approved for one of the following reasons:

- Personal illness (This means *your own* illness, not the illness of a family member.)
- Birth or adoption of a child
- Temporary assignment with another governmental employer
- Study
- Military service

Retiring soon? Consider how much tax to withhold from your pension

DURING YOUR RETIREMENT,

you will be required to pay both federal and state taxes on your Maryland state pension income. The amount of these withholdings is up to you.

Choosing your withholdings

When you apply to retire, you will complete two tax withholding forms:

- *Withholding Certificate for Periodic Pension or Annuity Payments* (IRS Form W-4P)
- *Maryland State Tax Withholding Request* (Form 766.11) for Maryland residents

Both forms are available on the Retirement Agency [website](#).

The Maryland State Retirement Agency does not withhold taxes for

states other than Maryland. If you live in another jurisdiction during retirement, payment of any local taxes will be your responsibility.

During retirement, the Retirement Agency will send you an IRS Form 1099-R every January. This tax statement also will be available by logging into your account on our secure **mySRPS** portal. Your 1099-R provides information you will need for filing your annual tax returns.

The Maryland State Retirement Agency does not provide tax advice. Payment of tax is your responsibility. You may wish to contact a tax consultant or the appropriate taxing authority for specific information regarding your tax liabilities.

Proper filing is essential

To help ensure that your leave request is approved, make sure your application meets these requirements:

- Your Retirement Coordinator must complete the bottom portion of Form 46.
- You must submit your completed Form 46 to the Retirement Agency. Giving the form to your employer is not sufficient.
- The dates you enter on Form 46 must match your work hours as reported to us by your employer.

When in doubt, ask

For more information on approved leaves of absence, contact the Maryland State Retirement Agency.

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