KPPA Kentucky Public Pensions Authority

PENSION INSIGHTS

Fall 2026 Issue

The official newsletter for retired members of CERS, KERS, and SPRS.



From the Desk of Ryan Barrow, Executive Director

Happy Fall!

As always, this newsletter is chock full of good stuff. But if there's one main point you should take from it, it's this: If you are a retiree participating in the Kentucky Employees Health Plan (KEHP) for health insurance, you MUST enroll this October to have insurance coverage in 2027. Enrollment for non-Medicare retirees is MANDATORY. It's the first time since I have been with state government that enrollment is mandatory for coverage to continue, so we're doing everything we can, in conjunction with KEHP, to get the word out.

Learn more about this important mandatory open enrollment for health insurance elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website.

Recent Retirements
July and August are always big months for retirements in state and local government. This year, KPPA saw at least 16 longtime employees file for retirement during this time frame. As they left, they carried with them the respect and admiration of their peers. When people come to work at KPPA, they often stay for decades.

We very much appreciate all the work our employees put in on behalf of our members, and we thank each of these recent retirees and wish them the best in this next phase of life.

Investment Results
Fiscal Year 2026 was a good one for investments on behalf of our pension and insurance plans. Returns far exceeded assumed rates of return, and in almost all cases system portfolios outperformed the average return for pension plans with more than $1 billion in assets as tracked by Wilshire Associates.

Over the past five years investment returns per unit of risk in each portfolio rank among the top 5% of all peer public pension funds. That means the systems are getting exceptional investment performance for the amount of risk they're taking. Hats off to our investment committees for setting solid investment policies and to our Office of Investments team for carrying out those policies. More detailed information on investments can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.



Ryan Barrow, KPPA Executive Director

NON-MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT REQUIRED



Non-Medicare Open Enrollment for the Kentucky Employees' Health Plans (KEHP) for Plan Year 2027 began October 1, 2026, and ends October 31, 2026. If you wish to be enrolled in health insurance for the 2027 plan year, you **are required to submit a Health Insurance Enrollment Form (6200)** during this period. To review your options, go to the **2027 Non-Medicare webpage** on our website.

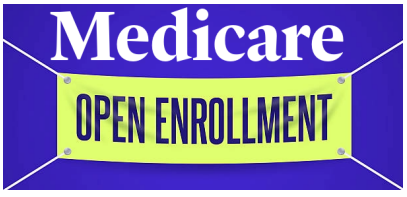
If you do not submit an enrollment form by October 31, 2026, you will NOT have coverage in 2027.

ENROLL ONLINE. It is the **fastest and easiest** way to complete your enrollment form. **No need to print or mail any forms**. Simply **log in to Self Service** to review and submit your enrollment form, Form 6200.

You will need your 4-digit PIN to submit the enrollment form. If you can't locate your PIN, log into your account and request a new one. If you have not registered for Self Service, **watch the registration video** for step-by-step instructions. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact us. We are here to help ensure a smooth enrollment process.

Hazardous duty retirees with health insurance dependents must file a Form 6256 every year.

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT



Open enrollment for Medicare-eligible retirees seeking Humana coverage for 2027 will take place from October 26 through November 30, 2026. To review, go to the **2027 Medicare webpage** on our website.

If you do not want to change plans, you will automatically remain enrolled in the same plan and benefit level for 2027. No action is required.

Hazardous duty retirees with health insurance dependents must file a Form 6256, even if the enrollment is not mandatory.

For questions or assistance during Open Enrollment, please call KPPA between October 26 and November 30, 2026.

ID.me

In the coming months, KPPA will be using

ID.me - a secure digital identity service used by many federal and state agencies. You may already be familiar with ID.me, as it is currently used by the Social Security Administration, IRS, Veterans Affairs, and Medicare. Kentucky's Office of Unemployment Insurance has also used this service for several years.

With ID.me, you won't need multiple passwords. The new process will provide quicker access and easier account management.

To help with the transition, members are encouraged to **create their ID.me account** ahead of time. Once ID.me is in place, members will be required to use ID.me to log in to their Self Service account.

SPRS ELECTION

SPRS State Police Retirement System

At the September 10, 2026 KRS Board of Trustees meeting, the Board nominated Russell Harney and Dean Patterson to be on the SPRS 2027 election ballot. Additional individuals may be placed on the election ballot by submitting a petition from the SPRS membership. The petition and all other documentation must be submitted to the Division of Internal Audit no later than October 31, 2026.

For more information on Board elections, go to our **website**.

DIRECT DEPOSIT



Are you still receiving paper checks? Did you know you can receive your payments faster-and more securely- by taking advantage of direct deposit? To sign up for direct deposit, log into your **Self Service account** and add your information online.

TAX WITHHOLDING



The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) adjusts tax brackets each January, which can change the amount of income that gets taxed at each rate. As a result, the amount of your retirement payment may change. KPPA sends retirees a notification letter whenever a change affects their benefit payment, such as an adjustment resulting from updates to IRS tax withholding tables.

A member's original withholding election will remain in effect until KPPA receives a new tax withholding form. To change withholdings, a member may:

- Update withholdings online through **Self Service**
- Submit **Form 6017 - Federal Income Tax Withholding Preference** to KPPA

1099-R

The Form 1099-R is an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax form for reporting distributions from pensions. Each January, KPPA issues a 1099-R to retirees

providing the information needed to file a tax return on pension benefits. 1099-Rs for tax year 2026 will be mailed by the end of January.

You can view, print, and download your 1099-R form when available by logging into **Retiree Self Service**.

PHONE SURVEY AND CALL BACK ASSIST



Good Call!
Your Feedback Is Making a Difference!
Most callers now have the opportunity to complete a brief survey after speaking with a KPPA counselor. Just stay on the line after your counselor disconnects to share your experience.

Thank you to everyone who has participated! Your feedback is helping KPPA build on our strengths and identify opportunities to better serve our members.

Save Time with Call Back Assist
When offered, Call Back Assist keeps your place in line without requiring you to remain on hold. Leave your contact information, and a counselor will call you when your place in the queue is reached. We strongly encourage members to take advantage of this convenient, time-saving option!

SELF SERVICE FEATURES



Log into Self Service anytime to manage your account 24/7. You can upload documents, complete health insurance enrollment, verify contact information, update federal tax withholdings, view and update direct deposit information, and much more.

To learn about all the benefits of using Self Service, visit our **Self Service page**.

SECURITY SPOTLIGHT



Emerging Cyber Threats Targeting Older Adults
Cyberattacks continue to rise across the country, and older adults are frequently targeted through scams designed to steal personal or financial information. Staying informed is one of the best ways to protect yourself.

Phishing Scams
Phishing remains one of the most common attacks against older adults. These scams usually arrive as emails or text messages that appear to come from trusted sources—like your bank, a government agency, or even friends and family. Their goal is to trick you into clicking harmful links or sharing sensitive information.
Tips:

- Be cautious with unexpected emails or text messages containing links.

- If a message claims to be from someone you know but feels urgent or alarming, call them directly to confirm before taking any action.

Tech Support Scams
Scammers may pretend to be from companies such as Microsoft or Apple, contacting you by phone or through alarming pop-up messages. The scammers claim your device has a virus and they can help, often by asking for remote access or payment for fake services.
Tips:

- Legitimate companies do not call you about computer problems.
- If you receive an unsolicited tech support call, hang up immediately.
- If a pop-up warns of a “virus” and asks you to click or call, close your browser and do not respond.

Social Engineering Scams
These scams use emotions like fear, urgency, or trust to persuade victims to break normal security habits. Scammers may pretend to be family members needing money, charities asking for donations, or organizations requesting personal details.
Tips:

- If someone contacts you asking for money, gift cards, or sensitive information, hang up.
- Call the person or organization back using a verified phone number to confirm the request.

REEMPLOYMENT AFTER RETIREMENT

If you're considering employment after you retire, it's important to understand the rules and how reemployment could affect your benefits.

Before clocking back in, review the **guidelines** or watch our **Reemployment after Retirement video** to ensure you’re in compliance.

If the requirements aren’t met, your retirement benefits will be void and repayment of all retirement benefits will be required.

Need to submit paperwork or get reemployment guidance? You can contact KPPA by secure email at Retired.Reemployed@kyret.ky.gov using our **Secure Email Portal**.

INVESTMENT RETURNS

Pension Fund Performance

	FY 2026*	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
CERS NH	13.8%	8.0%	9.3%	7.7%
CERS H	13.8%	8.0%	9.3%	7.7%
KERS NH	12.3%	6.8%	8.3%	7.4%
KERS H	13.6%	7.8%	9.1%	7.7%

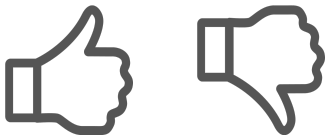
SPRS	12.1%	6.9%	8.3%	7.4%

Insurance Fund Performance

	FY 2026*	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
CERS NH	13.4%	8.0%	9.2%	7.2%
CERS H	13.2%	8.0%	9.3%	7.2%
KERS NH	13.3%	7.7%	9.0%	7.1%
KERS H	13.0%	7.8%	9.1%	7.1%
SPRS	12.9%	7.8%	9.2%	7.2%

*Through June 2026 and trailing 12-month periods.
NH - Nonhazardous
H - Hazardous

Do you currently use ID.me to log in to other government services?



Kentucky Public Pensions Authority | 1260 Louisville Road Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET | Frankfort, KY 40601 US

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