

COMPASS

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF RHODE ISLAND



JUNE 2022

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<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>
 <<Address>>
 <<City>>, <<State>> <<ZIP>>

Before taking that vacation, remember to update or confirm your contact and beneficiary information. Find the appropriate forms at ersri.org/forms.

SUN, SAND AND UPDATES

Office of the General Treasurer
 Seth Magaziner, General Treasurer
 Chairman, ERSRI Board

50 Service Avenue, 2nd Floor,
 Warwick, RI 02886

A message from **GENERAL TREASURER SETH MAGAZINER**

Throughout my time as General Treasurer, you all have been generous with your feedback on how to improve your experience as a member of the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island. Whether state or municipal employees, teachers, firefighters, or police officers – active or retired – you have all devoted yourselves to public service, so it is a great honor for my team and me to serve you and to be responsive to that feedback.

In response to you feedback, we recently launched one-on-one retirement counseling for members within three years of retirement. These personalized one-on-one retirement counseling appointments can help you understand your future benefits and have been very helpful for members planning for their retirement. More information and instructions on how to make an appointment are on page 2.

In the last issue of Compass, we mentioned that we will be launching a new website that will make information about the system and your benefits easier to access. I am excited to share that the new ERSRI.org is officially launching in mid-June, and incorporates features we know are important to you – it is easier to navigate and has an improved search function, so you can find the information you are looking for faster. It will also be accessible for use on mobile devices. I encourage you to check

out the features by going right to the site and check it out (the video is there as well)!

On the investment side, we also continue to outperform most of our peers, strengthening the health of the system. Under the 'Back to Basics' investment strategy we enacted when I came into office, the pension fund has grown by over \$3 billion since 2015 and the 17.27% annualized return achieved last year outperformed 92% of peer public pension plans. Page 5 has a more detailed investment update.

Thank you for all you have contributed to the State of Rhode Island – both in devoting your career to public service and for sharing your feedback to improve ERSRI for all members. The team and I appreciate all you do, and we wish you a fun and safe summer.



Seth Magaziner




Under the 'Back to Basics' investment strategy...the pension fund has grown by over \$3 billion since 2015.

One-on-one

RETIREMENT COUNSELING

MEMBERS—The Retirement System offers one-on-one retirement counseling for members who are within 3 years of their retirement eligibility date. These personalized counseling sessions give you the opportunity to learn about your future benefits to help you plan for your retirement.

To request benefit information or schedule a personalized retirement counseling session, you

can visit www.ersri.org and click on “Planning for Retirement,” under the “Members” dropdown menu at the top of the homepage. We encourage those of you who are planning for retirement and who have questions about your benefits to submit a request. If you do not have internet access, you can always call the ERSRI Member Services Center at 401-462-7600 Monday through Friday between 8:30 am and 4 pm. 

Public Service Loan Forgiveness

LIMITED WAIVER AVAILABLE


MEMBERS—Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) is a program run by the U.S. Department of Education for federal student loan borrowers who are repaying their loans while they work full-time in public service, which includes teaching, and state and municipal employment. After working for 10 years—and making 120 monthly student loan payments—a borrower’s remaining loan balance can be forgiven. However, the paperwork and verification process needed to achieve PSLF can be complicated and many borrowers have struggled to have their loans forgiven.

The U.S. Department of Education recently announced a temporary, but significant, waiver to some PSLF program rules. Borrowers can receive credit for periods of repayment that would not have normally qualified – including payments that may have been late or for less than the full amount due.

Note: the waiver is only available to borrowers until October 31, 2022.

To take advantage of the waiver you need to:

1. If you don’t have one already, register for a Federal Student Aid ID at StudentAid.gov/fsa-id/create-account.
2. If you have Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL), Perkins loans, or other federal student loans, –consolidate your loans into a Direct Consolidation Loan. You can consolidate your loans at StudentAid.gov/consolidation.
3. Submit a PSLF form to certify your employment that you want credit for through the waiver. You can generate a PSLF form at StudentAid.gov/pslf.

There is no specific application for the waiver. Once borrowers have completed these steps, they will automatically be opted in and receive forgiveness if they qualify or an increased qualifying payment count. Note: this opportunity is time sensitive. **Be sure to complete these steps before October 31, 2022.** 

For more information about the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Limited Waiver visit StudentAid.gov/PSLFWaiver.

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS HERE!

VISIT [ERSRI.ORG](https://ersri.org)

Optimized
search
functionality

Easy-to-find
account login

Frequently
asked questions at
your fingertips

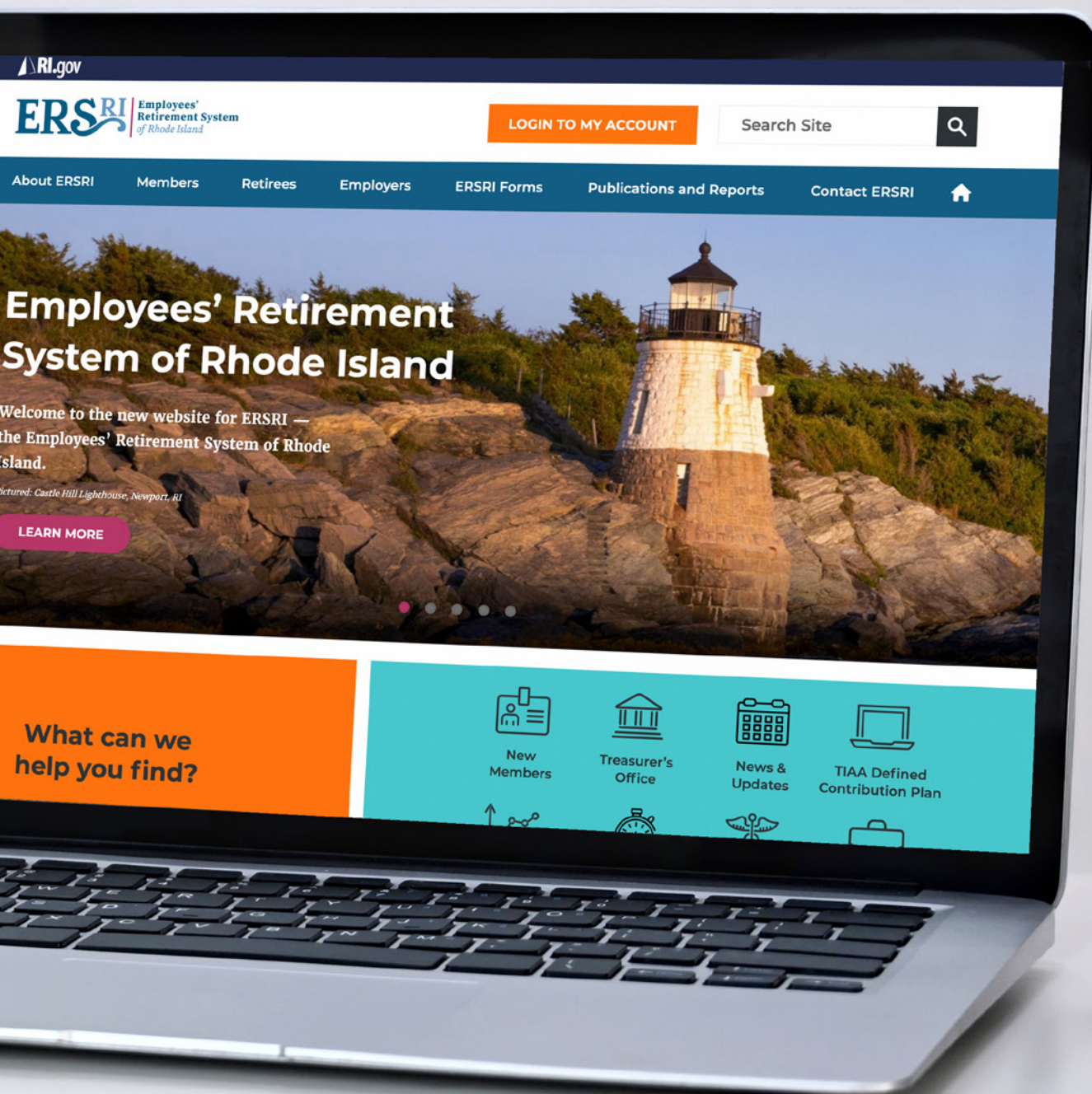
Interactive
carousel for
announcements
and more

Intuitive
navigation

Most-visited
pages available
at a glance



Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to watch a video detailing the new features of our website!




Investment update

NEW ALL-TIME HIGHS

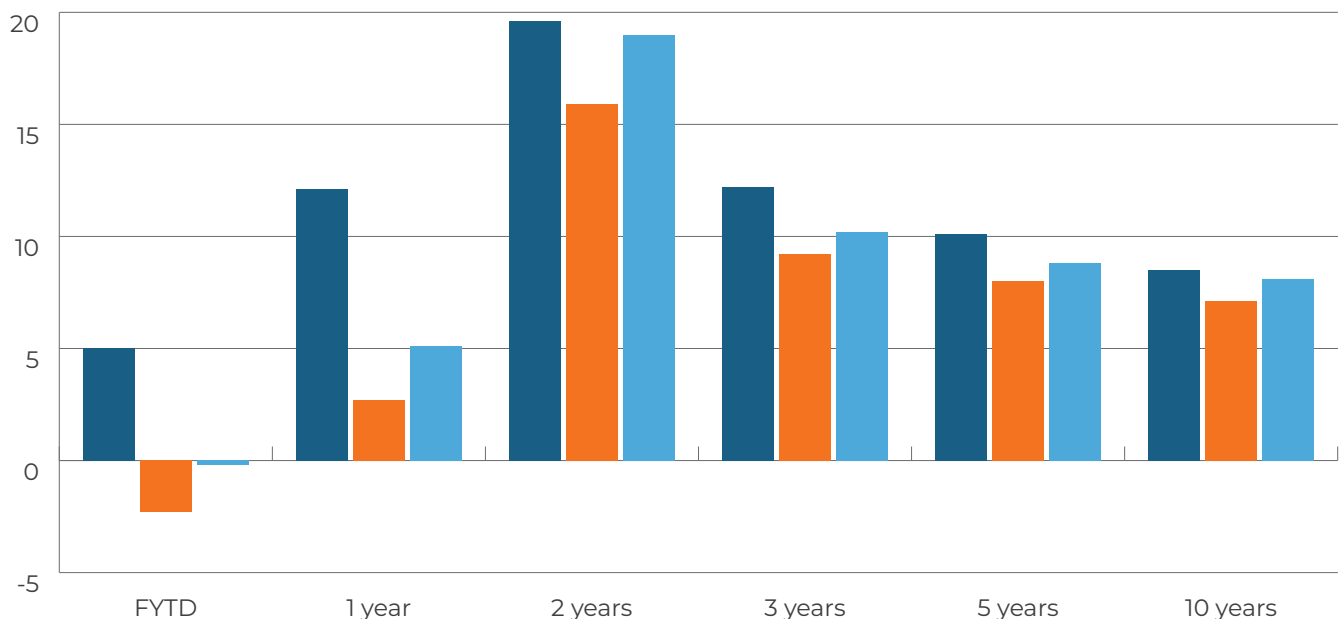
The financial health of the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island is essential to providing retirement security to all members who have devoted their lives to serving the public. Under Treasurer Magaziner's administration, the pension fund's investment performance has been historically strong, and the plan has reached new all-time highs while consistently outperforming our peers.

The pension fund finished 2021 at an all-time high of approximately \$10.79 billion after achieving an annualized return of 17.27%, significantly ahead of the median large public pension plan performance of 13.9% and the highest calendar year return since 2009. According to the InvMetrics Public DB Database, which tracks the performance of

594 public pension plans, Rhode Island outperformed 92% of pension plans. According to InvMetrics, Rhode Island has outperformed most public pension funds in three of the last four full fiscal years.

Thanks to our 'Back to Basics' investment strategy, the pension fund has grown by over \$3 billion since Treasurer Magaziner took office in 2015, strengthening retirement security for more than 60,000 Rhode Islanders and their families. The plan has returned 12.15% over the past year as of March 31, 2022 and achieved an average annualized return of 12.19%, and 10.09% three-year and five-year periods, respectively, outperforming a traditional 60% stock/40% bond portfolio across all periods. 

Rhode Island Pension Return Summary vs. Traditional 60/40 Portfolio and Peer Universe



● State of Rhode Island Plan ● Typical 60% stock/40% bond portfolio ● Median US Public Pension Plan

Data as of March 31, 2022. All performance is reported on a "net of fees" basis. Additional information about the fund, including the 'Back to Basics' investment strategy, performance, and detailed information about its managers are published online as part of Treasurer Magaziner's Transparent Treasury initiative at investments.treasury.ri.gov.