

Retiree News & Notes



MARYLAND STATE RETIREMENT and PENSION SYSTEM



JANUARY 2026

VOL. 44 NO. 1



A Newsletter for Retirees from the Maryland State Retirement & Pension System

Newsletter, deposit advice to continue in paper form

YOUR TWICE-YEARLY *RETIREE NEWS & NOTES* newsletter, along with Automatic Deposit Advice statements in January and July, will continue to be printed and mailed to your home as the Maryland State Retirement Agency postpones its transition to paperless communication with payees.

See Paper, page 6



Check your mail, mySRPS for your 1099-R tax statement

See page 2

sra.maryland.gov

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120 East Baltimore Street
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How to understand your tax statement

WHETHER YOU RETRIEVE it from your mailbox or download it from our secure **mySRPS** portal, your annual 1099-R tax statement is an invaluable tool for income tax preparation. Internal Revenue Service Form 1099-R will be mailed to retirees' homes and posted online no later than January 31, 2026.

During your working career, you may have received a W-2 form listing your wages from employment. Now, during retirement, Form 1099-R provides detailed information on the payments you received from the Maryland State Retirement Agency.

Most payees will receive only one 1099-R tax form each year. Two types of retirees will receive two 1099-R forms:

- Members who retired in 2025 will receive a second 1099-R tax form for any additional payments, such as a refund of any excess member contributions.
- Retirees who turned age 59½ in calendar year 2025 will receive a 1099-R tax form for pension payments distributed in the calendar year prior to reaching age 59½ with a distribution code 2. They will receive a separate 1099-R tax form for pension payments distributed in the calendar year on or after the date they reached age 59½ with a distribution code 7.

Print your 1099-R

You can access and print your 1099-R tax statement in three easy steps:

1. Log into your **mySRPS** account.
2. Click on the **My Documents** tab in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.
3. Select **View** next to the tax form that you wish to access.

You can use **mySRPS** to access and print 1099-R tax statements for previous years, too.

Not registered for mySRPS?

Signing up is easy! Visit us online at sra.maryland.gov, click on **mySRPS Login**, then follow the prompts.

Employer Pick-up and your taxes

FOR ELIGIBLE RETIREES, Box 19 of the 1099-R form contains the amount of your tax-deferred contributions made under the Employer Pick-up Program. This figure is important for Maryland State income tax preparation.

The Employer Pick-up Program provides for the deferral of federal taxes for pension plan contributions made while working. They are federally taxable when received as part of your pension.

Since this program defers only federal taxes at the time the contributions are made, state income taxes were withheld and paid during the taxable year in which the contribution was made.

Your participation in the Employer Pick-up Program was determined by whether your employer elected to participate and by whether your pension plan required you to make employee contributions.

Federal taxes

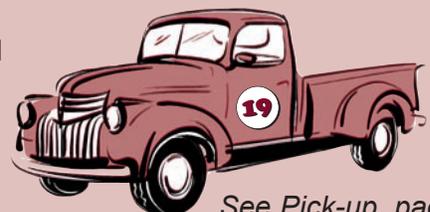
Since eligible members did not pay any federal taxes on their pick-up contributions during employment, taxes must be paid during retirement.

You do not need to make any special entries on your federal tax form. The Maryland State Retirement Agency has included your pick-up contributions when computing the taxable amount of your pension for federal tax purposes.

Maryland State taxes

You have already paid Maryland State taxes on the pick-up contributions listed on your 1099-R. To avoid paying taxes twice, you must subtract the pick-up amount from your federal adjusted gross income shown on page 2 of your Maryland tax return (Form 502) as follows:

Enter your pick-up amount on line "r" of Form 502SU. Enter the sum of all subtractions from Form 502SU on line 13 of Form



See Pick-up, page 3

Board of Trustees update

NEW ACTING BUDGET SECRETARY Yaakov “Jake” Weissmann, appointed in October 2025 by Governor Wes Moore, is the newest member of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System Board of Trustees.

The Maryland Budget Secretary, Treasurer and Comptroller are ex officio members of the Board.

Ex officio members serve on the Board because of their position in state Government. The 15-person panel also includes seven gubernatorial appointees and five elected members.

Trustee Weissmann previously served as Vice President for Government Relations and Community Affairs at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), leading efforts to strengthen relationships with policymakers and secure key operating and capital funding. Before joining UMBC, he served as Assistant Chief Administrative Officer for Montgomery County.

He holds a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law, a master’s in social work from the University of Maryland,



Yaakov “Jake” Weissmann, as Acting Secretary of the Maryland Department of Budget and Management, is an ex officio member of the SRPS Board of Trustees.

Baltimore, and a bachelor’s in social work and psychology from UMBC.

Trustees Grady, Nicewarner conclude terms

Former Budget Secretary Helene T. Grady concluded her

tenure on the Board after more than 2.5 years of dedicated service. Trustee Scott Nicewarner, a gubernatorial appointee to the Board, also concluded his term of service.

Nominations closed for Trooper rep.

THE NOMINATION PERIOD to elect a Trustee to represent the Maryland State Police Retirement System closed January 31, 2026, after presstime for this newsletter.

If two or more candidates satisfy the requirements to vie for the Board seat, election materials will be mailed to active and retired State Troopers on May 15, 2026. Election results will be announced July 14, 2026.

Pick-up, from page 2

502, and enter code letter “r” on the code letter line next to line 13. Please attach Form 502SU to Form 502. This serves as a subtraction from your income which will reduce your taxable net income on line 20 (Form 502).

The subtraction is limited to the amount of pick-up contribution stated on the 1099-R or the taxable pension, whichever is less. The remainder of the pick-up amount is carried over to next year’s taxes. When the pick-up amount reaches zero, “EP USED” will be printed in the pick-up box on your 1099-R. This usually occurs within a few years after the date of retirement.

Did you retire in 2025?

For members who ended active employment and retired in 2025, the W-2 form you receive from your former employer will show 1) your annual wages earned prior to retirement and 2) any state pick-up contributions made in 2025. This state pick-up amount serves as an addition to state income for 2025. Enter this figure on line 3 of your Maryland tax return (Form 502).

Need assistance?

For more information on Maryland State income tax, visit the Comptroller of Maryland at www.marylandtaxes.gov

Fund tops benchmark with 9.83% return

System achieves strong returns in FY '25 amidst market volatility, meeting actuarial assumptions over the long term

THE MARYLAND STATE RETIREMENT AND PENSION SYSTEM achieved a net investment return of 9.83% for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, surpassing its policy benchmark by 29 basis points and continuing its strong long-term performance trajectory. This solid performance was driven by effective asset management and a resilient market environment. The System's assets on June 30, 2025, were \$73.5 billion.

"This year's results are a testament to the strength of our long-term investment strategy and the skill of our investment team," said Acting Chief Investment Officer Robert Burd. "We outperformed our benchmark across nearly every asset class over the five-year period, and our ten-year return of 7.04% continues to exceed the actuarial assumption of 6.8%."

The fiscal year 2025 performance builds upon a solid founda-

tion of long-term returns. Over the five-year period, the plan averaged 8.29%, outperforming its policy benchmark by 88 basis points. The System's diversified portfolio and strategic asset allocation have been critical to its success, generating strong returns that help fulfill the retirement commitments to its more than 400,000 active and retired members.

"We are long-term investors, and our strategy is designed to weather market cycles while delivering consistent value to our members," said State Treasurer Dereck E. Davis, Chair of the System's Board of Trustees. "This year's performance reinforces our commitment to a risk-aware, forward-looking investment approach."

"Our commitment to meeting long-term actuarial assumptions



Maryland State Treasurer and SRPS Board Chair Dereck E. Davis, Maryland Comptroller and Board Vice-Chair Brooke Lierman, and Acting Chief Investment Officer Robert Burd, clockwise from top left.

and providing retirement security for our members remains unwavering," said Comptroller Brooke Lierman, Vice-Chair of the Board. "This year's results demonstrate the value of strategic oversight and effective asset management."



Benchmarks are set by the Board of Trustees, which directs the management of the System's investment portfolio. The returns of each asset class and the System's total portfolio are measured against their benchmarks to evaluate the impact of manager performance and tactical asset allocation.

Total Fund Summary as of June 30, 2025

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Fund Return	9.83%	6.60%	8.29%	7.04%
Policy Benchmark	9.54%	5.98%	7.41%	6.62%

Market value: \$73,594 million

Register now and unlock the power of mySRPS



New features launched for member portal

HOW CAN I quickly and easily update my federal and Maryland State tax withholdings?

Where can I print tax statements for 2025 and previous years?

And, how do I change my direct deposit preferences without cumbersome paper forms?

Retirees of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System can do all these things — *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 instructions 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. To watch the video, scan the QR code or go to **sra.maryland.gov** and click **About** then **mySRPS**.

Choosing the right ID card

The app will ask you to photograph your identification card. A driver's license, state-issued ID, or passport will work great.

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

- 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.
- Make sure your face is centered. Take your photo in a well-lit place while avoiding glare. Remain still to avoid a blurry image.

What can I do with mySRPS?

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

- Sign up or change your direct deposit
- Update your federal and Maryland State tax withholdings

See *mySRPS*, page 6

mySRPS, from page 5

- Identify and, for single life annuities, change beneficiaries
- Print your annual tax statement
- Review your payment history and deductions
- Print an income verification letter for a landlord or lender

Harness the power of secure messaging

Another handy feature of mySRPS is secure messaging, a quick and convenient way to communicate with us about your retirement account. Secure messaging is more secure than email. And messages sent through this system are prioritized, with optimal response times occurring within a few hours.

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

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. Go to sra.maryland.gov and click mySRPS Login to get started.

Clip & Save: 2026 Payment dates

THE SCHEDULE FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT of retirement benefits for calendar year 2026 has been announced by the Maryland State Retirement Agency. For retirees with an approved waiver, mailed check delivery dates also are listed.

Date direct deposit is credited to retirees' accounts

- Friday, January 30
- Friday, February 27
- Tuesday, March 31
- Thursday, April 30
- Friday, May 29
- Tuesday, June 30
- Friday, July 31
- Monday, August 31
- Wednesday, September 30
- Friday, October 30
- Monday, November 30
- Thursday, December 31

Date post office begins to deliver retirement checks

- Saturday, January 31
- Saturday, February 28
- Tuesday, March 31
- Thursday, April 30
- Saturday, May 30
- Tuesday, June 30
- Friday, July 31
- Monday, August 31
- Wednesday, September 30
- Saturday, October 31
- Monday, November 30
- Thursday, December 31

Deposit advice slips are mailed in your first month of retirement. Then, they are mailed in January and July or when a benefit change occurs. Retirees may obtain their payment information at any time by accessing our secure portal mySRPS.

Paper, from page 1

Announced last year, the transition to electronic-only distribution for news and check stubs has been deferred.

You will continue to receive *Retiree News & Notes* in paper form. Your paper Automatic

Deposit Advice (also called a check stub of advice slip) also will be mailed to your home each January, July and during any month in which a change to your direct deposit occurs.

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