

## **AGENDA ITEM DETAILS**

- Subject:** Agency Update
- 2024 Summer Enrollment Communications
  - Strategic Planning
  - Trustee Self-Assessment
  - Legislative Appropriations Request for Fiscal Years 2026 – 2027
  - 2024 Get Fit Texas State Agency Challenge Results
  - Leasing Update Regarding 1836 San Jacinto Boulevard
  - Recent Agency Developments
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### **2024 Summer Enrollment Communications**

Summer Enrollment is usually ERS' biggest single communication project each year. Kathryn Tesar, director of the Benefits Communications Division, will give a brief update on plans for reaching state agency and higher education Human Resource departments, employees and non-Medicare retirees to help them make informed decisions about their benefits.

In addition to enrollment fairs and presentations, each member gets a customized packet that provides them with their current coverages and the cost of those coverages, as well as benefits for which they are eligible. Since eligibility for benefits changes based on someone's category, for instance a retired employee has different benefit options than current employees, there are several versions of the personal enrollment benefit statement that are produced and mailed to homes. This communication piece is one of the key communication items that ERS provides.

### **Strategic Planning**

As part of its biennial strategic planning efforts, ERS is collecting input from external stakeholders, including agency and institution leaders, association groups, and advisory committees, on ways to achieve our goals and better serve the employees and retirees of the State of Texas. ERS will review the suggestions offered by its stakeholders to accomplish its four strategic goals (listed below) to produce an actionable plan for the next five to 10 years.

- 1) Support our members' retirement income security
- 2) Sustain a competitive Group Benefits Program
- 3) Engage stakeholders for informed decision making
- 4) Enhance agency performance and accountability

Key takeaways from this year's strategic planning project will be presented later this year following collection and review of all stakeholder input.

### **Trustee Self-Assessment**

As a governance best practice, periodically the Board completes a self-assessment. The assessment is done through a survey sent directly to each member of the Board. Trustees are asked to assess the Board as a whole, and also evaluate their own individual contributions and performance. Results are

anonymous to ERS, other than knowing who has and who has not completed the survey. A summary of the results is presented to the Board.

The Board has indicated that they would like the survey to be conducted every two years, in even numbered years, which puts the survey on track for this summer. ERS plans to survey the Board in June, receive and compile responses in July and report results at the August 2024 meeting.

Previous surveys have provided board members and staff with follow-up items. For instance, previous surveys have indicated that some members of the Board would like to increase their interaction with stakeholders. As a result, ERS encouraged employee and retiree groups to invite ERS board members to events, and established a repeating agenda item bringing stakeholders to present at board meetings.

### **Legislative Appropriation Request for Fiscal Years 2026-2027**

The Legislative Budget Board (LBB) issues instructions for the preparation and submission of Legislative Appropriations Requests (LAR) in the spring preceding the legislative session. The deadline for ERS to submit its LAR is typically the third week of August.

The Legislative Budget Board and Governor's Office staff determine the base level of funding for ERS programs. Funds needed to meet program obligations not included in the base budget must be requested as exceptional items.

### **2024 Get Fit Texas State Agency Challenge Results**

Between January 22 and May 31 of this year, more than 41,000 people from 102 state agencies and higher education institutions participated in the Get Fit Texas challenge, administered by the Department of State Health Services. The goal is to engage in 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity each week of the challenge. Get Fit Texas is designed to make physical activity at work a team-based experience. This year, organizers of the initiative found new ways to build community. Participants could attend Mindfulness, Movement & Motivation check-ins several days a week, as well as share wellness stories on the Get Fit Texas website and attend webinars on various topics. These features were popular and will continue next year. In total, challenge participants logged more than 198 million minutes of exercise and movement.

ERS came in second place this year, behind the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. However, we had a higher number of ERS participants (293) and a higher percentage of completions (67.20%) than in previous years.

### **1836 San Jacinto Building Update**

- The University of Texas at Houston School of Public Health has begun moving into their space on the first, fifth and sixth floors
- ERS has signed a lease with Capitol Café for the first floor southeast corner retail space
- ERS is in lease negotiations with a restaurant for the first floor north retail space
- ERS is exchanging a Letter of Intent with a potential office tenant

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Slides – Agency Update