MTRS member news, %%return [clock format [clock seconds] -format "%B %d, %Y"]%%

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RetirementPlus (R+) ballots in the mail

Watch your mailbox for R+ election materials, which will be mailed out by our election vendor *YesElections*, by 1/13/2023 only to members **like you** who qualify for a final, one-time election under **Chapter 134 of the Acts of 2022**.

PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT NOTICE!

It is critical that you complete and submit your R+ election form, no matter what your current contribution rate is. Even if you are contributing 11% to the MTRS, you are NOT participating in R+ because you have not yet submitted an affirmative election. If you don't respond to this final election, you will not have another chance to participate in R+ and will not be eligible for the enhanced R+ benefits. Even if you do not want to participate in R+, you must still respond and opt-out.

You can make your election either online or by returning the printed election form in the postage-paid envelope provided by our vendor. **Online elections must be submitted by midnight on 6/30/2023, and paper ballots must be postmarked by 6/30/2023**.

If you make your election using the paper form, you will receive a postcard acknowledging receipt of your election in 4-6 weeks. If you submit your R+ election online (recommended), you will receive an online confirmation upon completion of the process, as well as the postcard. Please retain copies for your records.

As you might imagine, this election requires a significant amount of work and coordination between the MTRS and your employer. After you submit your election, we ask for your patience until we finalize the remaining parts of the election process, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Researching contribution rate histories for the 8,000 members eligible for this R+ election.
2. Notifying employers of rate changes, as necessary, for members who have not contributed at the correct rate based on their R+ election, and confirming the rate changes have been implemented.
3. Sending member communications:
    a. Calculating and issuing refunds to members who opt-out of R+ and have contributed at 11%; OR
    b. Calculating and sending invoices, with installment options, to members who elect to participate in R+ and have not contributed at 11% (they are required to make up the difference between 11% and any lower rate); OR
    c. Sending confirmations to members who elect to participate in R+ and have already made the required 11% contributions.

More information about R+ benefits, contribution rates, and potential invoice/refund amounts can be found at the MTRS **R+ resource center**.

Remember to respond to the election notice no later than 6/30/2023. Please be patient as we work together with your employers and other stakeholders to have

a successful R+ election for those members who transferred into the MTRS and are eligible for this final, one-time opportunity to participate in the R+ program.

Please note: this opportunity does not apply to MTRS members and teachers in the Boston Retirement system, who already had the opportunity to participate in R+ during the original election window prior to July 1, 2001.

Questions?

Due to the anticipated high call volume, for the most efficient service we encourage you to email your questions to us at **RetirementPlus@trb.state.ma.us**. Please include the following so that we can better assist you:

- First name
- Last name
- Former name (if applicable)
- Date of birth
- Member number (listed on your paper ballot)

Do not include your Social Security Number as our web filter will reject emails that contain them.

Please allow several days for your ballot to arrive in the mail. If you do not receive your ballot by Monday, January 23rd, call our office at 617-679-6877 to request a replacement.

MTRS
MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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500 Rutherford Avenue, Suite 210
Charlestown, MA 02129-1628

617-679-6877 Visit our website View as a webpage

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