

URSJJ Edition Winter 2026

Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Joseph A. Fox, Executive Director

I am pleased to report that the state of your retirement system is good, and the financial condition continues to set high marks.

The Actuarial Valuation Report as of July 1, 2025, shows our actuarial funded ratio at 107.2%, one of the highest in the country. The investment returns for the fund have been among the highest of all public pension plans of similar size in the country for the last three fiscal years.

Our Board of Trustees have been great stewards of the fund and have consistently applied the fund's long-term investment philosophy of maintaining a diversified portfolio at the lowest cost possible. By adhering to this philosophy, the Fund consistently compares favorably to peers by paying much less in investment management fees than the typical public pension plan. This impressive result has not disadvantaged the Fund from a performance perspective, as our performance has been better than most peers but at a fraction of the cost.

The OPERS staff have also been on the award stand in 2025. The Plan received the GFOA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Financial Reporting for both the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, prepared by our Financial/Accounting team, and the Popular Annual Financial Report, prepared by our Communications team. This is the 27th consecutive year for the team to receive the award for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, and the 12th

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Making Your Retirement Dollars Count

URSJJ members often have a long list of things they want to achieve and enjoy during retirement. Between traveling, home renovation, celebrating family milestones and more, budgets can get tight! The following tips can help you make the most of your retirement savings and accomplish those goals.

Free up your budget

The first step to maximizing your savings is to take a close look at your current budget. Which categories have increased the most? Are there ways to trim those costs?

- A few low-cost subscriptions can quickly reach \$100 a month. Trimming those down may free up hundreds of dollars a year.

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INSIDE:

Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges
POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

Making Your Retirement Dollars Count *(continued)*

- Audit your household energy usage. Simple fixes like sealing drafty windows or swapping out energy inefficient lightbulbs can help you keep more of your hard-earned money.
- Look for spending patterns and limit shopping trips or eating out. Even small purchases can really add up when they become habit.

By monitoring your spending and sticking to a budget, you can rest assured you aren't wasting surplus dollars on trivial purchases.

Develop a few homesteading skills

Practical hobbies can be fun and boost your mental health while freeing up a bit of your budget!

- Seek out your local 'Library of Things' for tools and gadgets you can check out to use in DIY projects at home.
- Try growing a few plants each season. For smaller spaces, tomatoes can be grown in a pot, and herbs can thrive on a windowsill.
- Learning to can and preserve food extends the shelf life of produce to enjoy beyond harvest season.
- Basic sewing skills allow you to repair your favorite shirts and jeans. Sewing not only extends the longevity of clothing, but it provides the skillset to tailor thrifted items.

Find free or low-cost entertainment

It isn't hard to find fun for free if you know where to look!

- Check out your city's social media and look for ways to enjoy your community. Depending on the season, there are often outdoor events for free movies or live music.
- For those frosty winter months, local libraries have a rich resource of indoor activities offering books, videos, workshops, book clubs, and classes you can enjoy at no cost. Many have ways you can "check out" a free pass to local museums and art galleries.
- Travel and tourism web pages can point you to local trails and scenic nature to enjoy. You might be able to find hidden treasures just around the corner.

2026 DIRECT DEPOSIT DATES

Benefits are direct deposited on the last working day of the month. If you need to change the financial institution your benefits are deposited, log into the Member Portal at opers.ok.gov or call the OPERS office to request a Direct Deposit Authorization form. We must receive and approve the form no later than the 5th day of the month your benefits are to deposit.

January 30	July 31
February 27	August 31
March 31	September 30
April 30	October 30
May 29	November 30
June 30	December 31



Read More in the Online Edition

This issue highlights our **Popular Annual Financial Report**, leaving less room for our usual features in print. Visit opers.ok.gov/newsletter to read the full 'online' edition with additional stories and bonus content.

The Great Gene Gaffe of 2025

We mixed up their Genes! In our Summer 2025 Newsletter, we highlighted the town Gene Autry, Oklahoma and got our famous singin' actors confused! Gene Autry is our beloved Singing Cowboy and the town namesake, and it's Gene Kelly who was Singin' in the Rain. We are sorry for the confusion, and thankful to have heard from many of you about our error. Even if it's due to a blunder, we love hearing from our members! Provide feedback for our newsletters at any time at newsletter@opers.ok.gov.



Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges **Popular Annual Financial Report** For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

Dear Member:

I am pleased to bring you the Popular Annual Financial Report for the Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges (URSJJ) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. This report is a reader-friendly summary of financial information provided in the 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

URSJJ continued to meet our responsibilities during fiscal year 2025 with an absolute commitment to the highest quality service to our members and employers, which shows our dedication to accountability and transparency.

This report represents what is best about the URSJJ and its members. My gratitude goes to those who have worked purposefully and intentionally to prepare this report for our members and employers.

Sincerely,
Joseph A. Fox
Executive Director



Annual Comprehensive Financial Report Online

The 2025 Popular Annual Financial Report for the Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges (URSJJ) contains summary financial information from the 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The full report may be viewed, in its entirety online, at opers.ok.gov/publications.

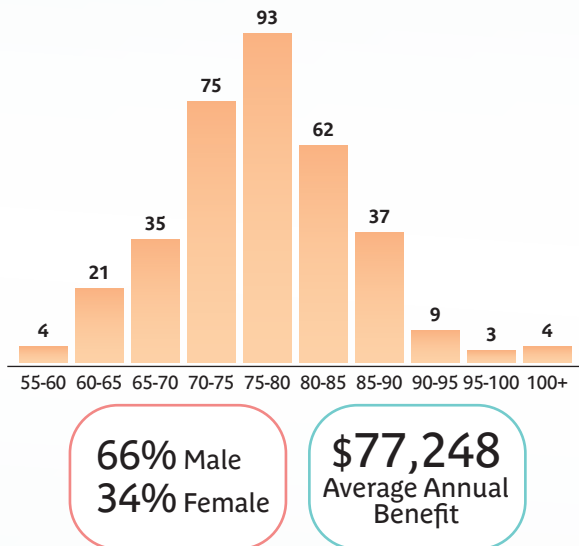
About URSJJ

The URSJJ is a single-employer public employee retirement plan established in 1968 by the Oklahoma Legislature. The Plan covers Justices and Judges who sit on the Supreme Court of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals, the Oklahoma Courts of Civil Appeals, the Oklahoma District Court and the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Court, as well as the Administrative Director of the Courts. As of June 30, 2025, the Plan's membership includes 269 active members, 14 inactive/vested members, and 343 retirees and beneficiaries.

The Active URSJJ Member

1,911 new and 639 rehired members in FY2025.

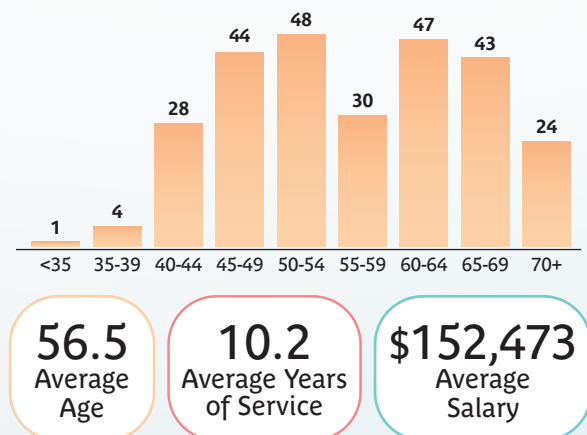
AGES OF MEMBERS RECEIVING BENEFITS



The Retired URSJJ Member

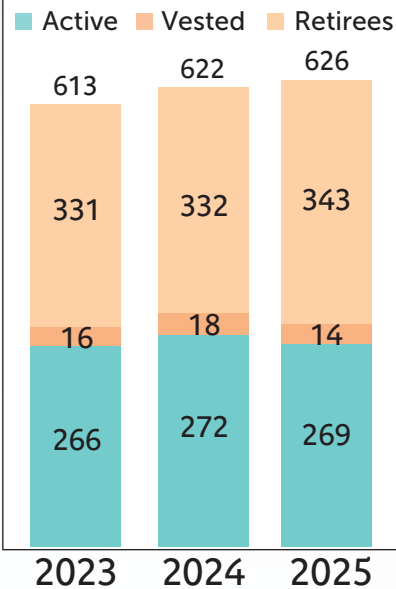
1,268 members retired in FY2025.

AGES OF ACTIVE MEMBERS



DEMOGRAPHICS

as of June 30



KNOW THE TERMS:

Active Members – Members who actively contributed through employment during the fiscal year.

Inactive/Vested Members – Members with contributions in the system but did not participate through employment during the fiscal year.

Retired Members – Members and surviving beneficiaries who received a benefit during the fiscal year.

Net Position

The net position restricted for pension and health insurance subsidy plan (HISP) totaled \$452.6 million at June 30, 2025, compared to \$414.4 million at June 30, 2024 and \$380.8 million at June 30, 2023. The net position restricted for pension/HISP benefits is available for payment of monthly retirement benefits and other qualified distributions to the System's participants. The increase of \$38.2 million and \$33.6 million of the respective years have resulted primarily from the changes in the fair value of the System's investments.

CONDENSED SCHEDULES OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION*

(\$ millions)

	2025	2024	2023
Assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$4.5	\$10.4	\$2.0
Receivables	4.1	15.7	12.1
Investments	459.1	421.6	386.4
Securities lending collateral	9.5	15.4	10.2
Total assets	477.2	463.1	410.7
Liabilities:			
Other liabilities	15.1	33.3	19.7
Securities lending collateral	9.5	15.4	10.2
Total liabilities	24.6	48.7	20.9
Ending fiduciary net position	\$452.6	\$414.4	\$380.8

Changes in Fiduciary Net Position

URSJJ is funded through a combination of member contributions, employer contributions and investment earnings. For the year ended June 30, 2025, fiduciary net position increased \$38.2 million, or 9.2%. Total assets rose by \$14.1 million, or 3.0% increase, driven by a 8.9% rise in investments and a 29.8% increase in receivables. The System achieved a rate of return of 12.9%, same as the previous year, contributing to the growth in net position. However, total liabilities decreased by 49.5%, primarily due to a 38.3% fall in securities lending collateral followed by a 54.7% decrease in other liabilities.

Deductions to fiduciary net position are incurred primarily for the purpose for which the URSJJ was created, namely the payment of benefits to retirees. In fiscal year 2025, total additions increased by \$5.3 million, while total deductions rose by \$0.7 million compared to the previous year. The 8.9% increase in additions was primarily driven by \$4.5 million rise in investment income, attributed to a stronger market. The 2.7% increase in total deductions was mainly due to a 2% rise in retirement, death and survivor benefits. While the administrative costs remained consistent with prior year.

CONDENSED SCHEDULES OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION*

(\$ millions)

	2025	2024	2023
Member contributions	\$3.3	\$3.1	\$3.1
State and local agency contributions	9.2	8.6	8.4
Net investment income (loss)	52.2	47.7	36.7
Total additions	64.7	59.4	48.2
Retirement, death and survivor benefits	26.2	25.5	24.8
Refunds and withdrawals	0.1	0.1	-
Administrative expenses	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total deductions	26.5	25.8	25.0
Net increase in fiduciary net position	38.2	33.6	23.2
Beginning of year	414.4	380.8	357.6
End of year	\$452.6	\$414.4	\$380.8

*Values in this chart reflect the combined total of the pension and health insurance subsidy plan (HISP). A breakdown of each can be viewed in the 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report at opers.ok.gov/publications.

KNOW THE TERMS:

Net Position – The total money and investments the Plan has after subtracting any liabilities. This represents the amount available to pay benefits and other qualified distributions.

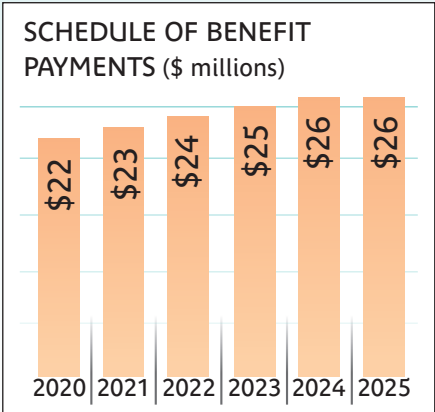
Changes in Fiduciary Net Position – This tracks new money coming in like contributions and investment earnings and money going out like benefit payments and expenses.

Fair Value of Investments – This is the current worth of the Plan's investments if they were sold today based on market prices.

Securities Lending Collateral – The cash or other assets from a borrower, like a security deposit, when the Plan lends out investments. Because collateral is returned upon loan repayment, securities lending collateral is recorded as both an asset and a liability.

Benefits Paid to Members

Participants who became members prior to January 1, 2012, qualify for full retirement benefits at the earliest of the following: age 65 with eight years of judicial service; age 60 with 10 years of judicial service; or, when the sum of at least eight years of credited service and age equals or exceeds 80. Participants who became members on or after January 1, 2012, qualify at age 67 with eight years of judicial service, or at age 62 with 10 years of judicial service.



The **Schedule of Benefit Payments** provides information on the total benefit expenses incurred by the Plan consisting of age and service, disability, and beneficiary death benefits.

Investments

The Board of Trustees adheres to the highest standard in making investment decisions for the Plan – the Prudent Investor Rule. URSJJ’s funds are invested solely in the best interest of the members

and their beneficiaries with a goal of keeping administrative expenses as low as practical. The 2025 increase in the System’s investments is driven by strong performance in U.S. and international equities. The System’s overall return for the year ended June 30, 2025 was 12.9% percent. The **Rate of Return** table reflects overall investment returns over the past six fiscal years.

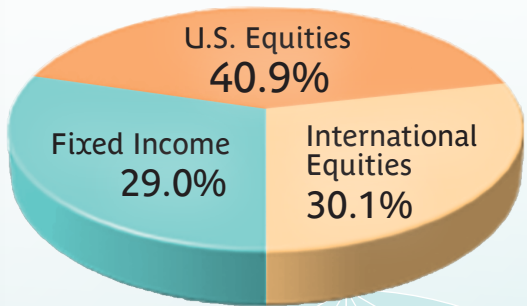
RATE OF RETURN	
Year Ended June 30,	Total %
2025	12.9 %
2024	12.9 %
2023	10.6 %
2022	(14.8) %
2021	27.7 %
2020	4.6 %

The Board has established an investment policy and guidelines that identify asset allocation as the key determinant of return and risk. Diversification, both by and within asset classes, is the primary risk control element. Passive funds are considered to be suitable investment strategies, especially in highly efficient markets.

The Board engages outside investment managers to manage the various asset classes where URSJJ has exposure. At fiscal year end, the investment portfolio of URSJJ was actively managed by three fixed income managers and passively managed by another investment manager with holdings in one fixed income index fund, two domestic equity index funds and one international equity index fund.

For fiscal year 2025, investments provided a return of 12.9 percent. The annualized rate of return for URSJJ as of June 30, 2025, was 12.1 percent over the last three years and 8.9 percent over the last five years. As of June 30, 2025, the allocation of the investment portfolio is shown in the **Asset Mix** chart.

2025 ASSET MIX



KNOW THE TERMS:

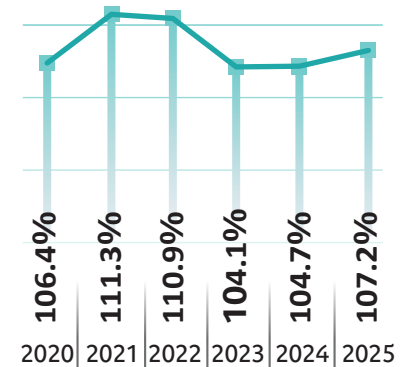
- Rate of Return** – Expressed as a percentage, this measures how much the Plan earned or lost on its investments over a certain time.
- Asset Allocation** – This is how the Plan invests in different asset classes like stocks, bonds and real estate to balance risk and reward.
- Diversification** – This is when the Plan spreads its funds across different investment types.
- Passive Funds** – These are investments that follow a market index and usually cost less to manage.
- Funded Ratio** – This shows the how much money the Plan has compared to how much it will need to pay future benefits and obligations.
- Actuarial Accrued Liability** – The amount of funds the Plan needs today to pay for promised future benefits.

Funding

A pension fund is well funded when it has enough money in reserve to meet all expected future obligations to participants. It must also have a revenue source sufficient to keep up with future obligations. The funding objective for URSJJ is to meet long-term benefit promises through contributions that remain approximately level as a percent of member payroll. The greater the level of funding, the larger the ratio of assets accumulated to the actuarial accrued liability and the greater the level of investment potential. The advantage of a well-funded plan is that the participants can look at assets that are committed to the payment of benefits. The actuarial accrued liability and actuarial value of assets as of July 1, 2025, amounted to \$401.7 million and \$430.5 million, respectively.

The URSJJ funded status increased from 104.7 percent to 107.2 percent at July 1, 2025. This is a significant rebound from 96.3 percent at July 1, 2011. Historically, the URSJJ has been well-funded with the funded status reaching as high as 148.2 percent at June 30, 2002. The **Funded Ratio** chart shows the change in funded status over the past six fiscal years.

FUNDED RATIO
as of July 1



URSJJ Awarded for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to the Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The Award for Outstanding Achievement is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

To receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal. An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the award requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA. This is the eleventh year the URSJJ has received this award.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 20,000 members and the communities they serve.

URSJJ Pension Supports Local and State Economies

Our retired members provide a strong economic base in Oklahoma. The spending of retirement benefits ripples through local economies. One person's spending turns into another person's income – creating a multiplier effect. A 2022 study by the National Institute on Retirement Security found that each dollar invested by Oklahoma taxpayers in pension plans supported \$4.01 in total economic activity in the state.¹

¹Pensionomics State Data Fact Sheet: nirsonline.org/resources/pensionomics-state-data

\$26.5M
Benefits Paid

90%
Benefits Paid to
Oklahoma Residents



P.O. Box 53007
Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3007

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Contact URSJJ

Mailing Address:

Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges
Post Office Box 53007
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152-3007

Local Phone:

(405) 858-6737

Outside Local Calling Area:

(800) 733-9008

Website:

www.opers.ok.gov

Article Idea? Comments?

We want to hear from you!
newsletter@opers.ok.gov

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

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consecutive year for the team to receive the award for the Popular Annual Financial Report.

But that's not all. The Plan also received, for the 15th consecutive year, the Public Pension Coordinating Council's Standard Award for Funding and Administration for 2025. This award recognizes outstanding achievement and excellence in meeting professional standards for management, administration, and funding of public plans.

As I reported in our last newsletter (Summer 2025), the legislature will likely be considering COLAs this legislative session. There are three bills to watch: HB 2193 (scaled COLA based on retirement date and capped), SB 90 (2% COLA), and SB 172 (2% COLA based on Plan's funded ratio and allows boards of state pension systems to approve). Each of these bills are in the respective pension committees in the House and Senate. We will continue to keep you informed of any action on these bills through our website as the legislative session progresses.

This publication printed by OU Printing Services is issued by the Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges (URSJJ) authorized by its Executive Director. Six hundred and fifty (650) copies have been prepared and distributed at a cost of \$174.85. An electronic version of this publication has been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

Mailed February 2026.