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GASB STATEMENT NO. 68 REPORT

FOR THE

NEBRASKA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

RETIREMENT SYSTEM

JUDGES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

MEASUREMENT DATE: JUNE 30, 2021

FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR ENDING: JUNE 30, 2022





Cavanaugh Macdonald

CONSULTING, LLC

The experience and dedication you deserve

July 14, 2022

Public Employees Retirement Board
Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems
Post Office Box 94816
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Members of the Board:

Presented in this report is information to assist the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems in providing information required under the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 68 to the State of Nebraska for the Judges Retirement System. GASB Statement No. 68 establishes accounting and financial reporting requirements for governmental employers who provide pension benefits to their employees through a trust. This report, which has been prepared as of June 30, 2021, is intended for use in the State's financial reporting for fiscal year 2022. The calculations in this report have been made on a basis that is consistent with our understanding of this accounting standard (GASB 68). Please note that the discount rate used to determine the Total Pension Liability (TPL) changed from 7.50% at the Prior Measurement Date to 7.30% at the current Measurement Date.

The annual actuarial valuation used as the basis for much of the information presented in this report was performed as of July 1, 2021. The valuation was based upon data, furnished by the staff of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems, concerning active, inactive and retired members along with pertinent financial information. This information was reviewed for completeness and internal consistency, but was not audited by us. The valuation results depend on the integrity of the data. If any of the information is inaccurate or incomplete, our results may be different and our calculations may need to be revised. Please see the actuarial valuation report for additional details on the funding requirements for the System including actuarial assumptions and methods and the System's funding policy.

To the best of our knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate. Certain information about the System and where additional information can be found was provided by the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System and used in this report. The calculations were performed by qualified actuaries according to generally accepted actuarial principles and practices, as well as in conformity with Actuarial Standards of Practice issued by the Actuarial Standards Board. In order to prepare the results in this report, we have utilized actuarial models that were developed to measure liabilities and develop actuarial costs. These models include tools that we have produced and tested, along with commercially available valuation software that we have reviewed to confirm the appropriateness and accuracy of the output. In utilizing these models, we develop and use input parameters and assumptions about future contingent events along with recognized actuarial approaches to develop the needed results. The calculations are based on the current provisions of the System, and on actuarial assumptions that are internally consistent and individually reasonable based on the actual experience of the System. In addition,



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the calculations were completed in compliance with applicable law and, in our opinion, meet the requirements of GASB 68.

These results are only for financial reporting and may not be appropriate for funding purposes or other types of analysis. Calculations for purposes other than satisfying the requirements of GASB 68 may produce significantly different results. Future actuarial results may differ significantly from the current results presented in this report due to such factors as changes in plan experience or changes in economic or demographic assumptions.

We, Patrice A. Beckham, FSA, and Brent A. Banister, FSA, are members of the American Academy of Actuaries and meet the Qualification Standards to render the actuarial opinion contained herein. We are available to answer any questions on the material contained in this report or to provide explanations or further details as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Patrice Beckham' in a cursive script.

Patrice Beckham, FSA, EA, FCA, MAAA
Principal and Consulting Actuary

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brent A. Banister' in a cursive script.

Brent A. Banister, PhD, FSA, EA, FCA, MAAA
Chief Actuary



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GASB STATEMENT NO. 68
NEBRASKA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM
JUDGES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

SECTION I - SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL RESULTS

Valuation Date (VD):	July 1, 2021
Prior Measurement Date:	June 30, 2020
Measurement Date (MD):	June 30, 2021
Membership Data:	
Retirees and Beneficiaries	195
Inactive Vested Members	4
Inactive Nonvested Members	0
Active Employees	<u>145</u>
Total	344
Single Equivalent Interest Rate (SEIR):	
Long-Term Expected Rate of Return	7.30%
Municipal Bond Index Rate at Prior Measurement Date	2.19%
Municipal Bond Index Rate at Measurement Date	2.13%
Year in which Fiduciary Net Position is Projected to be Depleted	N/A
Single Equivalent Interest Rate at Prior Measurement Date	7.50%
Single Equivalent Interest Rate at Measurement Date	7.30%
Net Pension Liability/(Asset):	
Total Pension Liability (TPL)	\$216,938,984
Fiduciary Net Position (FNP)	<u>246,453,303</u>
Net Pension Liability/(Asset) (NPL = TPL – FNP)	(\$29,514,319)
FNP as a percentage of TPL	113.60%
Pension Expense:	(\$4,818,981)
Deferred Outflows of Resources:	\$9,283,348
Deferred Inflows of Resources:	\$37,660,613



SECTION II – INTRODUCTION

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board issued Statement No. 68 (GASB 68), “*Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*” in June 2012. GASB 68’s effective date for employers was the first fiscal year beginning after June 15, 2014 (fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 for the State of Nebraska). The Judges Retirement System (Plan) is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan.

Paragraph 20 of GASB Statement 68 permits the measurement date of the Net Pension Liability reported by a single employer to be “as of” a date no earlier than the end of its prior fiscal year provided that the actuarial valuation used to determine the Net Pension Liability meets the timing requirements of paragraph 22 of GASB 68. This option is available to the State of Nebraska (employer) which has a fiscal year end of June 30. Since June 30 is also the fiscal year end of the Judges Retirement System, a Measurement Date of June 30, 2021 was used to determine the Net Pension Liability and Pension Expense for the employer’s fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

This report, prepared as of June 30, 2021 (the Measurement Date), presents information for the Judges Retirement System to assist the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System in providing the required information under GASB 68 to the State of Nebraska. Much of the material provided in this report, including the Net Pension Liability/(Asset), is based on the results of the GASB 67 report for the Judges Retirement System of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System, which was issued December 9, 2021. See that report for more information on the member data, actuarial assumptions and methods used in developing the GASB 67 results.

GASB 68 requires the inclusion of a Net Pension Liability/(Asset) (NPL) on the employer’s Statement of Net Position and a determination of a Pension Expense (PE) in the Notes to the Financial Statements, that may bear little relationship to the employer’s funding requirements. In fact, it is possible in some years for the NPL to be an asset or the PE to be an income item. The NPL is set equal to the Total Pension Liability (TPL) minus the Fiduciary Net Position (FNP). The benefit provisions recognized in the calculation of the TPL are summarized in Appendix B.

PE includes amounts for Service Cost (the Normal Cost under Entry Age Normal (EAN) for the year), interest on the TPL, employee contributions, administrative expenses, other cash flows during the year, recognition of increases/decreases in the TPL due to changes in the benefit structure, actual versus expected experience, actuarial assumption changes, and recognition of investment gains/losses. The actual experience and assumption change impacts are recognized over the average expected remaining service life of the Plan membership as of the beginning of the measurement period, while investment gains/losses are recognized equally over five years. The development of the PE is shown in Section III. The unrecognized portions of each year’s experience, assumption changes and investment gains/losses are used to develop Deferred Inflows and Outflows of Resources, which also must be included on the employer’s Statement of Net Position.



Among the items needed for the TPL calculation is a discount rate, as defined by GASB, or a Single Equivalent Interest Rate (SEIR). To determine the SEIR, the FNP must be projected into the future for as long as there are anticipated benefits payable under the plan's provision applicable to the membership and beneficiaries of the Plan on the Measurement Date. Future contributions were projected to be made at the current levels set in statute. If the FNP is not projected to be depleted at any point in the future, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments expected to be used to finance the benefit payments may be used as the SEIR.

If, however, the FNP is projected to be depleted at a future measurement date, the SEIR is determined as the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by discounting all projected benefit payments through the date of depletion by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the depletion date by a 20-year tax-exempt municipal bond (rating AA/Aa or higher) rate (Municipal Bond Index Rate). The rate used, if necessary, for this purpose is the monthly average of the Bond Buyer General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index (formerly published monthly by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System).

Our calculations indicated that the FNP is not projected to be depleted, so the Municipal Bond Index Rate is not used in the determination of the SEIR for either the June 30, 2020 or the June 30, 2021 TPL. The SEIR for the Prior Measurement Date was 7.50% and the SEIR for the current Measurement Date is 7.30%, the long-term assumed rate of return on investments. The SEIR for both the Measurement Date and Prior Measurement Date meets the requirements of GASB 67 and 68.

The FNP projections are based upon the Plan's financial status on the Measurement Date, the indicated set of methods and assumptions, and the requirements of GASB 67 and 68. As such, the FNP projections are not reflective of the cash flows and asset accumulations that would occur on an ongoing plan basis, reflecting the impact of future members. Therefore, the results of this test do not necessarily indicate whether or not the Plan will actually run out of money, the financial condition of the Plan, or the Plan's ability to make benefit payments in future years.

The sections that follow provide the results of all the required calculations, presented in the order laid out in GASB 68 for note disclosure and Required Supplementary Information (RSI). Some of this information was provided by the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System for use in this report. These sections, not prepared by Cavanaugh Macdonald LLC, are: Paragraphs 37, 38, 40(a)-(b), 40(d)-(e), 43 and 45(e)-(f).



SECTION III – PENSION EXPENSE

As noted earlier, the Pension Expense (PE) consists of a number of different items. GASB 68 refers to the first item as Service Cost, which is the Normal Cost using the Entry Age Normal (EAN) actuarial funding method. The second item is interest on the TPL at 7.50%, the SEIR in effect as of the Prior Measurement Date.

The next three items refer to any changes that occurred in the TPL due to:

- benefit changes,
- actual versus expected experience, or
- changes in actuarial assumptions or other inputs.

Benefit changes, which are reflected immediately, will increase PE if there is a benefit improvement for existing Plan members, or decrease PE if there is a benefit reduction. For the year ended June 30, 2021, there were no benefit changes to be recognized.

The next item to be recognized is the portion of current year changes in TPL due to actual versus expected experience for the year. The portion to recognize in the current year is determined by spreading the total change over the average expected remaining service life of the entire Plan membership at the beginning of the measurement period. The average expected remaining service life of active members is the average number of years the active members are expected to remain in covered employment. At the beginning of the measurement period, this number is 9.94 years. The average expected remaining service life of the inactive members is zero. Therefore, the recognition period is the weighted average of these two amounts, or 4.24 years.

The last item under changes in TPL is changes in actuarial assumptions or other inputs. There were a number of changes in the actuarial assumptions or other inputs since the Prior Measurement Date. These changes will be recognized over the average expected remaining service life of the entire Plan membership, using the same approach applied to experience gains and losses as described in the prior paragraph.

Employee contributions for the year and projected earnings on the FNP at the long-term expected rate of return are subtracted from the amount determined thus far. One-fifth of current-period differences between projected and actual earnings on the FNP is recognized in the PE.

The current year portions of previously determined experience, assumption changes and earnings amounts, recognized as Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources are included next. Deferred Outflows of Resources are added to the PE while Deferred Inflows of Resources are subtracted from the PE. Finally, administrative expenses and other miscellaneous items are included.

The calculation of the PE for the year ended June 30, 2021 is shown in the following table.



**Pension Expense
For the Year Ended**

June 30, 2021	
Service Cost at end of year	\$5,725,252
Interest on the Total Pension Liability	15,077,474
Benefit term changes	0
Expensed portion of current-period difference between expected and actual experience in the Total Pension Liability	(426,084)
Expensed portion of current-period assumption changes	838,187
Employee contributions	(2,029,383)
Projected earnings on plan investments	(14,375,075)
Expensed portion of current-period differences between projected and actual earnings on plan investments	(8,592,734)
Administrative expenses	117,122
Other changes	(14)
Recognition of beginning Deferred Outflows of Resources	3,007,762
Recognition of beginning Deferred Inflows of Resources	(4,161,488)
Total Pension Expense	(4,818,981)

Note: Average expected remaining service life for all members is 4.24 years.



SECTION IV – NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The material presented herein will follow the order presented in GASB 68. Paragraph numbers are provided for ease of reference.

Paragraph 37: This information is available in the State CAFR online at:

<https://das.nebraska.gov/accounting/fin-report.html>

Paragraph 38: The State of Nebraska is the plan sponsor for the Judges Retirement System, the State Patrol Retirement System, and the State Employees' Retirement System Cash Balance Benefit Fund. All are single-employer defined benefit pension plans. Information for paragraphs 39 to 45 for the Judges Retirement System can be found on the following pages. Similar information for the State Patrol Retirement System and the State Employees' Cash Balance Benefit Fund can be found in the GASB 68 report for those systems.

Paragraph 39: Not Applicable.

Paragraph 40(a): The name of the pension plan is the Judges Retirement System and it is administered by the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Board which was created in 1971 to administer all of the Nebraska retirement plans. The Judges Retirement System is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan.

The Judges System has been created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Sections 401(a) and 414(h), and 414(k). Please refer to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 24-701 through 24-714 (Reissue 2016, Cum. Supp. 2018) for the Judges Retirement Act. Benefit and contribution provisions are established by State law and may be amended only by the Nebraska Legislature.

Paragraph 40(b):

(1) Classes of employees covered: The membership includes judges and associate judges employed by the State for the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, District Courts, Workers' Compensation Court, County Courts, and Juvenile Courts.

(2) Types of benefits: The main benefits provided are retirement benefits. However, the Plan also provides ancillary benefits in the event of pre-retirement death, disability, or termination of employment prior to meeting the eligibility requirements to retire.

(3) Key elements of the pension formulas: Retirement is at age 65. For an employee who became a member before July 1, 2015, the monthly benefit is calculated using the compensation for the three 12-month periods of service as a judge in which compensation was the greatest. For an employee who became a member on or after July 1, 2015, the monthly benefit is calculated using the average monthly compensation for the five 12-month periods of service as a judge in which compensation was the greatest or, in the event of a judge serving less than five 12-month periods, the average monthly compensation for such judge's entire period of service. Once compensation is determined, it is multiplied by the total years of service and the formula factor of 3.5 percent,



subject to a maximum of 70 percent of the final average salary. The calculation varies with early retirement. Benefits vest when the judge takes office.

(4) Terms with respect to automatic postemployment benefit changes, including automatic COLAs and ad hoc COLAs: The benefit paid to a retired member or beneficiary receives an annual cost-of-living adjustment. For an employee who became a member prior to July 1, 2015, the cost-of-living adjustment is increased by the lesser of the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers or two and one-half percent. The current benefit paid to a retired member or beneficiary shall be adjusted so that the purchasing power of the benefit being paid is not less than 75% of the purchasing power of the initial benefit. For an employee who became a member on or after July 1, 2015, the cost-of-living adjustment is increased by the lesser of the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers or one percent. Additionally, if the annual actuarial report indicates the plan is fully funded with a sufficient actuarial surplus, the retirement board has the authority to issue a supplemental lump-sum cost-of-living adjustment for that year. The supplemental cost-of-living adjustment cannot exceed one and one-half percent.

(5) Authority under which benefit terms are established or may be amended: Benefit and contribution provisions are established by State law (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 24-701 through 24-714 (Reissue 2016, Cum. Supp. 2018)) and may be amended only by the Nebraska Legislature.

Paragraph 40(c): The data required regarding the membership of the Plan were furnished by the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System. The following table summarizes the membership of the Plan as of July 1, 2021 (the Valuation Date). The July 1, 2021 valuation was used to determine the June 30, 2021 TPL.

Membership

Number as of July 1, 2021	
Inactive Members Or Their Beneficiaries	195
Currently Receiving Benefits	
Inactive Members Entitled To But Not Yet Receiving Benefits	4
Inactive Non-vested Members Entitled to a Refund of Member Contributions	0
Active Members	<u>145</u>
Total	344

Paragraph 40(d):

(1) Basis for determining the employer’s contributions to the plan: Pursuant to state statute, an actuarial valuation is performed each year to determine the actuarial required contribution. To the extent member contributions and court fees are insufficient to meet the full actuarial required contribution, the remainder is paid by the State (see 40(d)(3)).



- (2) **Identification of the authority under which contribution requirements of the employer and employees are established or may be amended:** contribution provisions are established by State law (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 24-701 through 24-714 (Reissue 2016, Cum. Supp. 2018)) and may be amended only by the Nebraska Legislature.
- (3) **The contribution rates (in dollars or as a percentage of covered payroll) of those entities for the reporting period:**

Members: Members, who entered the plan between July 1, 2004, and June 30, 2015 and those active members who elected within 90 days of July 1, 2004, contribute nine percent of their monthly salary until the maximum benefit has been earned. After earning the maximum benefit, members contribute five percent of their monthly salary for the remainder of their active service. All other members entering the Plan before July 1, 2015 contribute seven percent of their monthly salary until the maximum benefit has been earned. After earning the maximum benefit, those members contribute one percent of their monthly salary for the remainder of their active service. Members entering the Plan on or after July 1, 2015, contribute ten percent of their monthly salary.

Court fees: Beginning July 1, 2017, a fee of \$6 (previously \$4 effective July 1, 2015) is taxed for each cause of action in district and county courts and a fee of 10% of court costs in county courts is contributed to the Judges Retirement Fund. Beginning July 1, 2021, the fee for each cause of action in district and county courts was increased to \$8 and is scheduled to increase by \$1 each year until reaching the ultimate rate of \$12 beginning July 1, 2025. Actual court fees for FY 2021 were \$3,319,567 and were assumed to be 115% of actual FY 2021 court fees for fiscal year ending 2022, 120% of actual FY 2021 court fees for fiscal year ending 2023, 125% of actual FY 2021 court fees for fiscal year ending 2024, 130% of actual FY 2021 court fees for fiscal year ending 2025, and 135% of actual FY 2021 court fees thereafter.

Actual court fees for FY 2021 were \$3,319,567.

State contributions: An actuarial valuation is performed each year to determine the actuarial required contribution. To the extent member contributions and court fees are insufficient to meet the full actuarial required contribution, the remainder is paid by the State. Beginning July 1, 2023, the State shall contribute up to 5% of total annual compensation to the System as recommended by the actuary and approved by the Board. If the 5% contribution is insufficient to meet the full actuarial required contribution in any given year, then an additional State contribution will still be required. If the funded ratio on the actuarial value of assets is at or above 100% for two consecutive years, then the actuary shall assess whether the contribution percentage should be adjusted.

Actual additional state appropriations for FY 2021 were \$1,427,719.

Amount of contributions recognized by the pension plan from the employer during the reporting period (only the total amounts recognized as additions to the plan's fiduciary



net position are reflected here): For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 the plan received \$3,319,567 in court fees and \$1,427,719 in additional state appropriations.

Paragraph 40(e): Whether the pension plan issues a stand-alone financial report (or the pension plan is included in the report of a public employee retirement system or another government) that is available to the public and, if so, how to obtain the report: Annually, the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System prepares stand-alone financial statements for the Judges Retirement System. The audited financial statement reports can be found at:

<http://www.nebraska.gov/auditor/FileSearch/entityresults.cgi?id=Retirement%20Systems%2C%20Public%20Employees>

Paragraph 41: This paragraph requires information to be disclosed regarding the significant actuarial assumptions and other inputs used to measure the TPL. The complete set of actuarial assumptions and other inputs utilized in developing the TPL are outlined in Appendix C. The TPL as of June 30, 2021 was determined based on an actuarial valuation prepared as of July 1, 2021, using the following key actuarial assumptions and other inputs:

Price Inflation	2.65 percent
Wage Inflation	3.15 percent
Salary increases, including wage inflation	3.40 percent
Long-term Rate of Return, net of investment expense, including price inflation	7.30 percent
Municipal Bond Index Rate	2.13 percent
Year FNP is projected to be depleted	N/A
Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of investment expense, including price inflation	7.30 percent
Cost-of-living adjustment	2.15 percent per annum, compounded annually for Tier 1 members, 1.00 percent per annum, compounded annually for Tier 2 members.
Mortality	
a. Healthy lives – Active members	Pub-2010 General Members (Above Median) Employee Mortality Table (100% of male rates, 95% of female rates), both



male and female rates set back one year, projected generationally using MP-2019 modified to 75% of the ultimate rates.

- b. Healthy lives – Retired members
Pub-2010 General Members (Above Median) Retiree Mortality Table (100% of male rates, 95% of female rates), both male and female rates set back one year, projected generationally using MP-2019 modified to 75% of the ultimate rates.
- c. Healthy lives – Beneficiaries
Pub-2010 General Members (Above Median) Contingent Survivor Mortality Table (100% of male rates, 95% of female rates), both male and female rates set back one year, projected generationally using MP-2019 modified to 75% of the ultimate rates.
- d. Disabled members
Pub-2010 Non-Safety Disabled Retiree Mortality Table (static table).

The actuarial assumptions used in the valuation are based on the results of the actuarial experience study, which covered the four-year period ending June 30, 2019. The experience study report is dated December 21, 2020.

Paragraph 42:

(a): Discount rate (SEIR). The discount rate used to measure the TPL at June 30, 2021 was 7.30%. The discount rate used to measure the TPL at June 30, 2020 was 7.50%.

(b): Projected cash flows. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from members will be made at the current contribution rates as set out in state statute, revenue from court fees is assumed to be higher during the next five years then remain level, and that the State of Nebraska will make any additional contribution needed to fund the full actuarial contribution as an additional state appropriation:

- a. Employee contribution rate: Between 1.00% and 10.00% based on hire date and years of service. See Appendix B for more detail.
- b. Court Fees: Beginning July 1, 2017, a fee of \$6 (previously \$4 effective July 1, 2015) is taxed for each cause of action in district and county courts and a fee of 10% of court costs in county courts is contributed to the Judges Retirement Fund. Beginning July 1, 2021, the fee for each cause of action in district and county courts was increased to \$8 and is scheduled to increase by \$1 each year until reaching the ultimate rate of \$12 beginning July 1, 2025. Actual court fees for FY 2021 were \$3,319,567 and were assumed to be 115% of actual FY 2021 court fees for fiscal year ending 2022, 120% of actual FY 2021 court fees for fiscal year ending 2023, 125% of actual FY 2021 court fees for fiscal year ending 2024, 130% of actual FY 2021 court fees for fiscal year ending 2025, and 135% of actual FY 2021 court fees thereafter.
- c. State contribution rate: The State makes an additional contribution if the actuarial contribution exceeds the expected member contributions and court fees. Beginning July 1,



2023, the State shall contribute up to 5% of total annual compensation to the System as recommended by the actuary and approved by the Board. If the 5% contribution is insufficient to meet the full actuarial required contribution in any given year, then an additional State contribution will still be required. If the funded ratio on the actuarial value of assets is at or above 100% for two consecutive years, then the actuary shall assess whether the contribution percentage should be adjusted.

- d. Administrative expenses for the current and future years were assumed to be 0.31% of the current members' proportionate share of covered payroll.

Based on those assumptions, the Plan's FNP was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments of 7.30% was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the TPL.

The FNP projections are based upon the Plan's financial status on the Measurement Date, the indicated set of methods and assumptions, and the requirements of GASB 67 and 68. As such, the FNP projections are not reflective of the cash flows and asset accumulations that would occur on an ongoing plan basis, reflecting the impact of future members. Therefore, the results of this test do not necessarily indicate whether or not the fund will actually run out of money, the financial condition of the Plan, or the Plan's ability to make benefit payments in future years.

(c): Long-term rate of return. The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments is reviewed regularly as part of the experience study. The experience analysis used to determine the long-term rate of return used in this report was performed and results provided in a report dated December 21, 2020. Generally, several factors are considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and an analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of investment expense and inflation), along with estimates of variability and correlations for each asset class, were developed by the System's investment consultant. These ranges were combined to develop the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The capital market assumptions developed by investment consultants are often intended for use over a 10-year investment horizon and are not always useful in setting the long-term rate of return for funding pension plans which covers a longer timeframe. The long-term rate of return assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption (30 to 50 years) and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

(d): Municipal bond rate. A municipal bond rate was not used in determining the discount rate. If it were required, the rate would be 2.13% on the Measurement Date.

(e): Periods of projected benefit payments. Projected future benefit payments for all current plan members were projected through 2120.



(f): Assumed asset allocation. The target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class as of the most recent experience study, as provided by the System’s investment consultant, Aon Investments USA, Inc., are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return*
U.S. Equity	27.0%	4.5%
Non-U.S. Equity	11.5%	5.8%
Global Equity	19.0%	5.3%
Fixed Income	30.0%	0.7%
Private Equity	5.0%	7.4%
Real Estate	<u>7.5%</u>	4.2%
Total	100.0%	

*Arithmetic mean, net of investment expenses

(g): Sensitivity analysis. This paragraph requires disclosure of the sensitivity of the NPL to changes in the discount rate. The following presents the NPL of the System, calculated using the discount rate of 7.30 percent, as well as the System’s NPL calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (6.30 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.30 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (6.30%)	Current Discount Rate (7.30%)	1% Increase (8.30%)
Total Pension Liability	\$239,706,020	\$216,938,984	\$197,480,885
Fiduciary Net Position	<u>246,453,303</u>	<u>246,453,303</u>	<u>246,453,303</u>
Net Pension Liability	(\$6,747,283)	(\$29,514,319)	(\$48,972,418)

Paragraph 43: The Plan’s financial statements were prepared on the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred. Employee and employer contributions are recognized in the period in which employee services are performed. Benefits and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of each Plan.



Investments as reported in the financial statements include long-term investments. Law or legal instruments may restrict these investments. All investments are stated at fair value based on quoted market prices. For investments where no readily ascertainable fair value exists, management has received an estimate of fair value from the investment fund manager based, in part, on real estate appraisals. The State Treasurer is the custodian of all funds; however, investment of funds is under the responsibility of the Nebraska Investment Council.

There have been no changes since the Measurement Date that would materially alter the Plan's financial report.

This information can be found in the published financials online at:

<http://www.nebraska.gov/auditor/FileSearch/entityresults.cgi?id=Retirement%20Systems%2C%20Public%20Employees>



Paragraph 44 (a) – (c): This paragraph requires a schedule of changes in NPL. The necessary information is provided in the table below for fiscal year ended June 30:

	Total Pension Liability (a)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position (b)	Net Pension Liability/(Asset) (a) – (b)
Balances at June 30, 2020	\$206,455,118	\$194,521,175	\$11,933,943
Changes for the year:			
Service Cost at end of year	5,725,252		5,725,252
Interest on TPL	15,077,474		15,077,474
Benefit term changes	0		0
Differences between expected and actual experience	(1,806,596)		(1,806,596)
Assumption changes	3,553,913		3,553,913
Court fees		3,319,567	(3,319,567)
State Appropriations		1,427,719	(1,427,719)
Employee contributions		2,029,383	(2,029,383)
Net investment income		57,338,744	(57,338,744)
Benefit payments, including member refunds	(12,066,177)	(12,066,177)	0
Administrative expenses		(117,122)	117,122
Other changes		14	(14)
Net changes	<u>10,483,866</u>	<u>51,932,128</u>	<u>(41,448,262)</u>
Balances at June 30, 2021	\$216,938,984	\$246,453,303	(\$29,514,319)

Paragraph 44(d): There is no special funding situation.



Paragraph 45:

(a): The Measurement Date of the NPL is June 30, 2021. The TPL as of June 30, 2021 was determined based upon an actuarial valuation performed as of the Valuation Date, July 1, 2021.

(b): There is no special funding situation.

(c): There were a number of changes in the actuarial assumptions since the Prior Measurement Date. These changes are detailed in Appendix C of this report.

(d): There were no changes in the benefit terms since the Prior Measurement Date.

(e): There were no benefit payments in the measurement period attributable to the purchase of allocated insurance contracts.

(f): Based on the available information, the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System believes that there are no changes between the Measurement Date of the NPL (June 30, 2021) and the employer's reporting date (June 30, 2022) that are expected to have a significant effect on the NPL.

(g): Please see Section III of this report for the development of the PE.

(h): Since certain expense items are recognized over closed periods each year, the deferred portions of these items must be tracked annually. If the amounts serve to reduce PE they are labeled Deferred Inflows of Resources. If they will increase PE they are labeled Deferred Outflows of Resources. The recognition of these amounts is accomplished on a level dollar basis, with no interest included in the deferred amounts. Experience gains/losses and the impact of changes in actuarial assumptions, if any, are recognized over the average expected remaining service life of the active and inactive Plan members at the beginning of the measurement period. Investment gains and losses are recognized equally over a five-year period.



The following tables provide a summary of the amounts of the Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources as of the Measurement Date (June 30, 2021). Per GASB 68, reporting of the differences between projected and actual earnings should be on a net basis, with only one Deferred Outflow or Inflow. This information is provided in the following table:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources	Net Deferred Outflows/(Inflows) of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$0	\$2,898,002	(\$2,898,002)
Changes of assumptions	2,715,726	0	2,715,726
Differences between projected and actual earnings	<u>6,567,622</u>	<u>34,762,611</u>	<u>(28,194,989)</u>
Total	\$9,283,348	\$37,660,613	(\$28,377,265)



The following tables show the Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources separately to provide additional detail.

Deferred Outflows of Resources				
	June 30, 2020	Additions	Recognition	June 30, 2021
Differences between expected and actual experience				
FY 2017 Base	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
FY 2018 Base	0	0	0	0
FY 2019 Base	0	0	0	0
FY 2020 Base	0	0	0	0
FY 2021 Base	0	0	0	0
Total	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Changes of assumptions				
FY 2017 Base	\$ 719,177	\$ 0	\$ 719,177	\$ 0
FY 2018 Base	0	0	0	0
FY 2019 Base	0	0	0	0
FY 2020 Base	0	0	0	0
FY 2021 Base	0	3,553,913	838,187	2,715,726
Total	\$ 719,177	\$ 3,553,913	\$ 1,557,364	\$ 2,715,726
Differences between projected and actual earnings				
FY 2017 Base	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
FY 2018 Base	0	0	0	0
FY 2019 Base	894,396	0	298,132	596,264
FY 2020 Base	7,961,811	0	1,990,453	5,971,358
FY 2021 Base	0	0	0	0
Total	\$ 8,856,207	\$ 0	\$ 2,288,585	\$ 6,567,622
Total	\$ 9,575,384	\$ 3,553,913	\$ 3,845,949	\$ 9,283,348



Deferred Inflows of Resources				
	June 30, 2020	Additions	Recognition	June 30, 2021
Differences between expected and actual experience				
FY 2017 Base	\$ 97,060	\$ 0	\$ 97,060	\$ 0
FY 2018 Base	608,677	0	596,742	11,935
FY 2019 Base	2,597,452	0	1,202,524	1,394,928
FY 2020 Base	158,106	0	47,479	110,627
FY 2021 Base	0	1,806,596	426,084	1,380,512
Total	\$ 3,461,295	\$ 1,806,596	\$ 2,369,889	\$ 2,898,002
Changes of assumptions				
FY 2017 Base	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
FY 2018 Base	0	0	0	0
FY 2019 Base	0	0	0	0
FY 2020 Base	0	0	0	0
FY 2021 Base	0	0	0	0
Total	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Differences between projected and actual earnings				
FY 2017 Base	\$ 1,826,005	\$ 0	\$ 1,826,005	\$ 0
FY 2018 Base	783,354	0	391,678	391,676
FY 2019 Base	0	0	0	0
FY 2020 Base	0	0	0	0
FY 2021 Base	0	42,963,669	8,592,734	34,370,935
Total	\$ 2,609,359	\$ 42,963,669	\$ 10,810,417	\$ 34,762,611
Total	\$ 6,070,654	\$ 44,770,265	\$ 13,180,306	\$ 37,660,613



(i): Amounts reported as Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources related to pensions will be recognized in PE in future fiscal years as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources	Net Deferred Outflows/(Inflows) of Resources
2023	\$3,126,772	\$10,672,432	(\$7,545,660)
2024	3,126,772	9,258,701	(6,131,929)
2025	2,828,639	9,034,487	(6,205,848)
2026	201,165	8,694,993	(8,493,828)
2027	0	0	0
Thereafter	0	0	0

(j): Based on information supplied by NPERS, the Judges Retirement System receives no revenue from non-employer contributing entities.



SECTION V – REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

There are several tables of Required Supplementary Information (RSI) that need to be included in the System’s financial statements:

Paragraphs 46(a) - (c): The required tables of schedules are provided in Appendix A.

Paragraph 47: Significant methods and assumptions used in calculating the Actuarially Determined Contributions, if any, should be presented as notes to the schedule required by paragraph 46(c). In addition, for each of the schedules required by paragraph 46, information should be presented about factors that significantly affect trends in the amounts reported.

Changes of benefit and funding terms: The following changes were made by the Nebraska Legislature and reflected in the valuation performed as of July 1 listed below:

2021: LB 17, which was passed by the 2021 Nebraska Legislature, provided for an increase in the amount of court fees directed to fund the System, beginning in FY 2022 with further scheduled increases over a five-year period. The bill also authorized a payroll-related contribution from the state, beginning July 1, 2023 for the plan year ended June 30, 2023. The payroll-related contribution can be no greater than 5% of total annual compensation, based on the total member compensation reported in the most recent actuarial valuation. If the funded ratio is equal to or greater than 100% for two consecutive years, the actuary must assess whether the state contribution rate should be adjusted and make a recommendation to the Board in the annual actuarial valuation report. If the state contribution rate has been adjusted to less than 5% and the funded ratio is below 100% for two consecutive years, the actuary must assess whether the state contribution rate should be adjusted (not greater than 5%) and make a recommendation to the Board. LB 17 also changed the amortization period for amortization bases established on or after July 1, 2021 from 30 to 25 years. If the UAAL is less than or equal to zero, then all prior amortization bases are considered fully funded and the UAAL is reinitialized and amortized over a 25-year period as of the actuarial valuation date.

2017: LB 415, which was passed by the 2017 Nebraska Legislature, made changes to the benefit structure for judges who become members on or after July 1, 2017 by granting the Public Employees Retirement Board (PERB) the authority to set the actuarial assumptions used to determine the benefit amounts payable under optional forms of payment.

2015: LB 468, which was passed by the 2015 Nebraska Legislature, made changes to the benefit structure for judges who become members on or after July 1, 2015 including the calculation of final average salary based on the highest 5 years rather than the highest 3 years of salary and a cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) of 1% rather than 2.5%. The bill also provided for a supplemental COLA, to be granted at the Board’s discretion, up to an additional 1.5% if the System is more than 100% funded. In addition, the member contribution rate for those hired on or after July 1, 2015 was increased to 10% of pay. LB 468 also increased the amount of court fees directed to fund the Judges



Retirement System with the increases phased-in over two years. Ultimately, in fiscal year 2018 the additional funding is estimated to be \$1.3 million. Due to the valuation date of July 1, 2015, the change to the benefit structure had no impact on the valuation results.

2013: Legislative Bill 553 (LB 553) changed the amortization of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability from a level dollar payment to a level percent of payroll payment. The court fee designated for the Judges Retirement System was scheduled to decrease from \$6 to \$5 dollars on July 1, 2014. Legislative Bill 306 (LB 306) removed the language to decrease the court fees so the court fee in future years remains at six dollars. The passage of Legislative Bill 414 (LB 414) in 2009 increased the member contribution rate by 1 percent, but this increase was scheduled to be removed July 1, 2014. Legislative Bill 306 (LB 306) removed the sunset provision on the increase in the member contribution rate, thereby retaining the higher contribution rates.

Changes in actuarial assumptions:

7/1/2021 valuation:

- Price inflation decreased from 2.75% to 2.65%.
- Long-term investment return decreased from 7.50% to 7.30%.
- General wage growth decreased from 3.50% to 3.15%.
- Payroll growth decreased from 3.50% to 3.15%.
- Salary increases were lowered from a flat 3.50% to 3.40%.
- Interest on employee contribution balances decreased from 3.00% to 2.50%.
- Cost of living adjustment assumption decreased to 2.15% for Tier 1 members.
- An explicit assumption for administrative expenses was adopted as a component of the actuarial contribution rate and was set to 0.31% of pay.
- Mortality assumption for non-disabled participants was changed to the Pub-2010 General Members (Above Median) Mortality Tables (100% of male rates, 95% female rates), set back one-year, projected generationally using MP-2019 modified to 75% of ultimate rates.
- Mortality assumption for disabled participants was changed to the Pub-2010 Non-Safety Disabled Retiree Mortality Table (static).
- Retirement rates changed to better fit the observed experience

7/1/2020 valuation:

- Court fees for fiscal year 2021 are assumed to be 85% of actual fiscal year 2020 court fees. This assumption had no impact on the TPL.

7/1/2017 valuation:

- Price inflation decreased from 3.25% to 2.75%.
- Long-term investment return decreased from 8.00% to 7.50%.
- General wage growth decreased from 4.00% to 3.50%.
- Salary increase assumption decreased by 0.50% at each age.



- Interest on employee contribution balances decreased from 4.25% to 3.00%.
- Cost of living adjustment assumption decreased to 2.25% for Tier 1 members.
- Mortality assumptions changed to reflect recent mortality experience and future projected improvements.
- Retirement rates changed to better fit the observed experience.

7/1/2012 valuation:

- The interest rate on employee contributions was lowered to 4.25% from 5.50%.
- Salary increase were lowered to 4.00% from 4.50%.
- Retirement rates were decreased for ages under 65 and age 66.
- Pre- and post-retirement healthy mortality assumptions were changed from the 1994 Group Annuity Mortality (GAM) table projected to 2010 (for pre-retirement males rates were 65% of rates and female rates were 50% of rates) to the 1994 GAM table, with a 1 year setback, projected to 2015.
- Deferred vested members were changed to assume they elected the greater of the present value of an annuity at age 63 or a refund of contributions.
- Consumer price inflation was lowered to 3.25% from 3.50%.
- Economic productivity was lowered to 0.75% from 1.00%.



Method and assumptions used in calculations of Actuarially Determined Contributions.

The System is funded with contribution rates that vary by date of hire and years of service, court fees that vary from year to year, as well as contributions from the State of Nebraska that cover the remaining required amounts, if necessary. The Actuarially Determined Contributions in the *Schedule of Employer Contributions* are calculated as of the beginning of the fiscal year in which contributions are reported.

The following actuarial methods and assumptions were used to determine the Actuarially Determined Contribution reported for the most recent fiscal year, June 30, 2022 (based on the July 1, 2021 actuarial valuation).

Actuarial cost method	Entry age
Amortization method	Level percentage of payroll, closed
Remaining amortization period	25 years
Asset valuation method	5-year smoothed market
Price Inflation	2.65 percent
Wage Inflation	3.15 percent
Salary increases, including wage inflation	3.40 percent
Long-term Rate of Return, net of investment expense, including price inflation	7.30 percent
Cost-of-living adjustment	2.15 percent per annum, compounded annually for Tier 1 members, 1.00 percent per annum, compounded annually for Tier 2 members.

Please see the information presented earlier in regard to Paragraph 47 for detailed information on the benefit changes and assumption changes that may have impacted the Actuarially Determined Contributions shown in the *Schedule of Employer Contributions*.



APPENDIX A

Exhibit A

**GASB 68 Paragraphs 46(a) – (b)
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE NET PENSION LIABILITY/(ASSET)**

Fiscal Year Ended June 30

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total Pension Liability								
Service Cost	\$5,725,252	\$5,550,688	\$5,640,784	\$5,589,181	\$4,997,654	\$4,721,039	\$4,759,455	\$4,257,200
Interest	15,077,474	14,471,871	14,199,759	13,720,785	13,100,385	12,642,618	12,170,797	11,567,915
Benefit term changes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Differences between expected and actual experience	(1,806,596)	(205,585)	(5,002,500)	(2,398,903)	(1,714,732)	(2,303,032)	(2,613,808)	41,752
Assumption changes	3,553,913	0	0	0	12,705,465	0	0	0
Benefit payments, including member refunds	(12,066,177)	(11,477,914)	(10,991,157)	(10,144,103)	(9,690,310)	(9,052,110)	(8,547,892)	(8,121,996)
Net change in Total Pension Liability	\$10,483,866	\$8,339,060	\$3,846,886	\$6,766,960	\$19,398,462	\$6,008,515	\$5,768,552	\$7,744,871
Total Pension Liability - beginning	\$206,455,118	\$198,116,058	\$194,269,172	\$187,502,212	\$168,103,750	\$162,095,235	\$156,326,683	\$148,581,812
Total Pension Liability - ending (a)	\$216,938,984	\$206,455,118	\$198,116,058	\$194,269,172	\$187,502,212	\$168,103,750	\$162,095,235	\$156,326,683
Plan Fiduciary Net Position								
Court fees	\$3,319,567	\$3,548,379	\$3,946,292	\$4,112,543	\$3,578,851	\$3,458,665	\$2,977,205	\$3,102,864
State Appropriations	1,427,719	348,794	442,599	667,613	118,714	0	94,000	803,383
Employee contributions	2,029,383	1,962,507	1,854,712	1,814,533	1,743,103	1,651,432	1,610,529	1,518,801
Net investment income	57,338,744	4,549,079	12,436,060	15,070,504	21,699,250	2,453,560	5,958,799	24,543,298
Benefit payments, including member refunds	(12,066,177)	(11,477,914)	(10,991,157)	(10,144,103)	(9,690,310)	(9,052,110)	(8,547,892)	(8,121,996)
Administrative expenses	(117,122)	(82,168)	(71,663)	(71,266)	(84,626)	(70,707)	(82,746)	(78,263)
Other changes	14	0	0	0	0	0	3	45
Net change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	\$51,932,128	(\$1,151,323)	\$7,616,843	\$11,449,824	\$17,364,982	(\$1,559,160)	\$2,009,898	\$21,768,132
Plan Fiduciary Net Position – beginning	\$194,521,175	\$195,672,498	\$188,055,655	\$176,605,831	\$159,240,849	\$160,800,009	\$158,790,111	\$137,021,979
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - ending (b)	\$246,453,303	\$194,521,175	\$195,672,498	\$188,055,655	\$176,605,831	\$159,240,849	\$160,800,009	\$158,790,111
Net Pension Liability - ending (a) - (b)	(\$29,514,319)	\$11,933,943	\$2,443,560	\$6,213,517	\$10,896,381	\$8,862,901	\$1,295,226	(\$2,463,428)
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	113.60%	94.22%	98.77%	96.80%	94.19%	94.73%	99.20%	101.58%
Covered payroll	\$24,667,689	\$24,366,968	\$23,215,585	\$23,125,170	\$22,801,593	\$22,178,157	\$21,586,829	\$20,099,647
Employer's Net Pension Liability as a percentage of covered payroll	(119.65%)	48.98%	10.53%	26.87%	47.79%	39.96%	6.00%	(12.26%)

Note: Schedule is intended to show 10-year trend. Additional years will be reported as they become available.



Exhibit B
GASB 68 Paragraphs 46(c)
SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS
Fiscal Year Ended June 30

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Actuarially determined employer contribution	TBD	\$4,747,286	\$3,897,173	\$4,388,891	\$4,780,156	\$3,697,565	\$3,458,665	\$3,727,054	\$3,906,247	\$3,180,367
Court fees	TBD	3,319,567	3,548,379	3,946,292	4,112,543	3,578,851	3,458,665	2,977,205	3,102,864	3,180,367
State contributions	<u>TBD</u>	<u>1,427,719</u>	<u>348,794</u>	<u>442,599</u>	<u>667,613</u>	<u>118,714</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>94,000</u>	<u>803,383</u>	<u>0</u>
Actual employer contributions	TBD	4,747,286	3,897,173	4,388,891	4,780,156	3,697,565	3,458,665	3,071,205	3,906,247	3,180,367
Annual contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>TBD</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$655,849</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Covered payroll	TBD	\$24,667,689	\$24,366,968	\$23,215,585	\$23,125,170	\$22,801,593	\$22,178,157	\$21,586,829	\$20,099,647	\$19,005,478
Actual contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	TBD	19.24%	15.99%	18.90%	20.67%	16.22%	15.59%	14.23%	19.43%	16.73%

Note: Actuarially determined employer contributions, actual employer contributions and covered payroll prior to 2013 was produced by the prior actuary.

For years 2014 and prior, covered payroll was estimated based on the valuation.



APPENDIX B

SUMMARY OF MAIN BENEFIT PROVISIONS

Member

Original A judge who first serves prior to December 25, 1969, and who does not elect to become a Future member on or before November 1, 1981.

Future A judge who first serves on or after December 25, 1969, or who elects to become a Future member on or before November 1, 1981.

Participation Date Date of becoming a member.

Definitions

Final average earnings For Judges who became members prior to July 1, 2015, the average of the highest three 12-month periods of covered pay, ending on the earlier of the participant's termination date or retirement date.

For Judges who became members on or after July 1, 2015, the average of the highest five 12-month periods of covered pay, ending on the earlier of the participant's termination date or retirement date.

Fiscal year Twelve month period ending June 30.

Member contributions All members hired after July 1, 2004, but before July 1, 2015, and members that elected an enhanced Joint and Survivor Benefit contribute 9% of pensionable pay up to 20 years of service, and 5% of pensionable pay thereafter. All other members contribute 7% of pensionable pay during the first twenty years of service, and 1% of pensionable pay thereafter. Such contributions are credited with interest based on the 1-year Treasury yield curve on July 1 of each year, as determined by State Statutes.

Monthly pension benefit A monthly benefit equal to one-twelfth of 3.5% of final average salary times total years of service, subject to a maximum of 70% of final average salary. Effective July 1, 2001, an automatic annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) equal to the change in the CPI-W index, with a maximum increase of 2.5% in any one year, is provided for Judges who became members prior to July 1, 2015. Also provided is a minimum floor benefit equal to 75% of the purchasing power of the original benefit. For Judges who became members on or after July 1, 2015, an automatic cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) is provided equal to the change in the CPI-W index, not to exceed 1.0% in any one year. No purchasing power COLA applies.



Normal Retirement Date (NRD) Attainment of age 65.

Pension service Length of service includes all service as a Supreme Court, District Court, Worker’s compensation Court, separate Juvenile Court, County Court, Municipal Court, or Appeals Court judge in Nebraska, computed to the nearest one-twelfth year and includes declared emergency service in the armed forces.

Eligibility for Benefits

Deferred vested Termination for reasons other than death, disability, or retirement. No service requirement for vesting.

Disability retirement Retirement by reason of permanent disability as determined by the Commission of Judicial qualifications.

Early retirement Retirement before NRD and after attaining age 55.

Normal retirement Retire on NRD.

Postponed retirement Retire after NRD.

Pre-retirement spouse benefit Death prior to retirement.

Monthly Benefits Paid Upon the Following Events

Normal retirement Monthly pension benefit determined as of NRD.

Early retirement Monthly pension benefit determined as of early retirement date, reduced by 3% if the member retires at age 64, 6% at age 63, or 9% at age 62, and actuarially reduced for each month that commencement of payment precedes age 62. The actuarial reduction is based on the 1994 Group Annuity Mortality Table, 25% female, 75% male and 8% interest for members hired prior to July 1, 2017. For members hired on or after July 1, 2017, the Public Employees Retirement Board sets the actuarial assumptions used for actuarial reduction, with guidance from the System’s actuary.

Postponed retirement Monthly pension benefit determined as of actual retirement date.

Termination with deferred vested benefit Members may elect to receive either (I) a refund of their contributions with regular interest, or (II) a deferred normal retirement benefit payable at age 65 and calculated based upon service and salary at the date of termination.

Disability retirement Monthly pension benefit determined as of disability retirement date.



Pre-retirement spouse benefits

- 1) **With 5 or more years of service:** A life annuity is payable to the surviving spouse in the amount which would have been payable had the member retired on the date of death and elected a joint and 100% survivor annuity.
- 2) **With less than 5 years of service:** A lump sum equal to the member's contributions plus regular interest.

Forms of payment

All members hired after July 1, 2004, and members who elected increased contributions are eligible to receive benefits paid in the normal form of an enhanced 50% Joint and Survivor Annuity. All other members receive benefits paid in the normal form of a modified cash refund annuity. Optional forms are: life annuity, life annuity with period certain, contingent annuity and join annuity. Pre-retirement spouse benefits are payable only as described above.

Funding Arrangement

The Nebraska Retirement Fund for Judges is established in the State Treasury. The fund receives member contributions and pays benefits and expenses. Additional funds are received as follows:

Court Fees

Beginning July 1, 2017, a fee of \$6 (previously \$4 effective July 1, 2015) from each (a) civil cause of action, criminal cause of action, traffic misdemeanor or infraction, and city or village ordinance violation filed in the district courts, the county courts, and the separate juvenile courts, (b) filing in the district court of an order, award, or judgment of the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court or any judge thereof pursuant to section 48-188, (c) appeal or other proceeding filed in the Court of Appeals, and (d) original action, appeal, or other proceeding filed in the Supreme Court will be re-directed from the General Fund to the Judges' Retirement Fund. Beginning July 1, 2021, this fee was increased to \$8 and is scheduled to increase by \$1 each year until reaching the ultimate rate of \$12 beginning July 1, 2025. These increases do not apply to any criminal cause of action, traffic misdemeanor or infraction, and city or village ordinance violation, which shall remain at \$6 after July 1, 2021.

In county courts, a sum shall be charged which is equal to 10% of each fee provided by Nebraska statutes sections 33-125 and 33-126.03, rounded to the nearest even dollar.

State

Prior to July 1, 2023, the State makes any additional contributions that are necessary each year to pay the excess of the actuarial contribution (normal cost plus an amortization payment to fund unfunded actuarial accrued liability bases) over member contributions, court fees, and state appropriations.

Beginning July 1, 2023, the State shall contribute up to 5% of total annual compensation to the System as recommended by the actuary and approved by the Board. If the 5% contribution is insufficient to meet the full required contribution in any given year, then an additional State contribution will still be required. If the funded ratio on the actuarial



value of assets is at or above 100% for two consecutive years, then the actuary shall assess whether the contribution percentage should be adjusted.

Benefits Reflected in Valuation

All benefits were valued, including future cost of living increases.

Plan Provision Effective After July 1, 2021

No future changes in plan provisions were recognized in determining the funded status or in determining the State's contribution amount.

Changes since the Prior Year

There was one change in the benefit provisions since the prior valuation. LB 17, which was passed by the 2021 Nebraska Legislature, increased the amount of court fees directed to fund the Judges Retirement System with increases phased-in over five years. The bill also provided for a payroll-related contribution from the State beginning July 1, 2023, not to exceed 5% of pay.



APPENDIX C

STATEMENT OF ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

Economic Assumptions

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Long-term Rate of Return | 7.30% per annum, compounded annually, net of all expenses.
Note: The assumption will decrease by 0.10% per year until reaching the ultimate rate of 7.00% in the 2024 valuation. |
| 2. Inflation | 2.65% per annum, compounded annually.
Note: The assumption will decrease by 0.10% per year until reaching the ultimate rate of 2.35% in the 2024 valuation. |
| 3. Salary Increases | Salaries are assumed to increase 3.40% each year.
Note: The assumption will decrease by 0.10% per year until reaching the ultimate rate of 3.10% in the 2024 valuation. |
| 4. Payroll Growth | 3.15% per year
Note: The assumption will decrease by 0.10% per year until reaching the ultimate rate of 2.85% in the 2024 valuation. |
| 5. Interest on Employee Contributions | 2.50% per annum, compounded annually. |
| 6. Increases in Compensation And Benefit Limits | 2.65% per annum on the 401(a)(17) compensation limit and 415 benefit limit
Note: The assumption will decrease by 0.10% per year until reaching the ultimate rate of 2.35% in the 2024 valuation. |

Demographic Assumptions

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Mortality | |
| a. Healthy lives - Active Members | Pub-2010 General Members (Above Median) Employee Mortality Table (100% of male rates, 95% of female rates), both male and female rates set back one year, projected generationally using MP-2019 modified to 75% of the ultimate rates. |
| b. Healthy lives - Retired Members | Pub-2010 General Members (Above Median) Retiree Mortality Table (100% of male rates, 95% of female rates), both male and female rates set back one year, projected generationally using MP-2019 modified to 75% of the ultimate rates. |
| c. Healthy lives - Beneficiaries | Pub-2010 General Members (Above Median) Retiree Mortality Table (100% of male rates, 95% of female rates), both male and female rates set back one year, projected generationally using MP-2019 modified to 75% of the ultimate rates. |
| d. Disabled Members | Pub-2010 Non-Safety Disabled Retiree Mortality Table (static table). |



e. Healthy mortality rates and projection scale are shown below at sample ages:

<u>Pre-retirement Mortality</u> Mortality Rate (Base Rates)		
Sample Age	Males	Females
20	0.04%	0.01%
30	0.04	0.01
40	0.07	0.03
50	0.11	0.06
60	0.27	0.16

<u>Post-retirement Mortality</u> Mortality Rate (Base Rates)		
Sample Age	Males	Females
50	0.11%	0.06%
60	0.53	0.35
70	1.17	0.80
80	3.60	2.60
90	11.73	9.07

<u>Projection Scale – Post-retirement Mortality</u>						
Sample Age	Scale (2020)		Scale (2030)		Scale (2040)	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
50	0.0004	0.0030	0.0026	0.0036	0.0075	0.0075
60	0.0004	-0.0041	0.0063	0.0069	0.0075	0.0075
70	0.0017	0.0052	0.0069	0.0063	0.0075	0.0075
80	0.0064	0.0061	0.0066	0.0070	0.0075	0.0075
90	0.0048	0.0032	0.0067	0.0067	0.0069	0.0069

f. Disabled mortality rates are shown below at sample ages:

Sample Age	Males	Females
30	0.35%	0.26%
40	0.65	0.63
50	1.61	1.48
60	2.50	1.96
70	3.90	2.86
80	7.35	6.01



2. Retirement

Rates vary by age. Rates are as follows:

Rates by Age	
Age	Rate
55-59	1.5%
60-63	3.0
64	15.0
65	20.0
66-71	15.0
72	100.0

3. Termination

None.

4. Disability

None.

Other Assumptions

1. Form of Payment

Modified Cash Refund Annuity for members hired prior to July 1, 2004 and not electing the 50% Joint & Survivor Benefit. A 50% Joint & Survivor Benefit for members electing this provision, and new members hired on or after July 1, 2004. Deferred vesteds are assumed to take the greater of the present value of an annuity at age 63 or a refund of contributions.

For members hired on or after July 1, 2017, the Public Employee Retirement Board sets the actuarial assumptions used to determine the benefit amounts payable under optional forms of payment, with guidance from the System's actuary.

2. Actuarial Equivalence Basis for Members Hired after July 1, 2017

a. Interest

7.00%

b. Mortality

Pub-2010 General Members (Above Median) Employee Mortality Table (100% of male rates, 95% of female rates), both male and female rates set back one year, projected to 2040 using MP-2019 modified to 75% of the ultimate rates using a 75% male, 25% female blend.

3. Marital Status

a. Percent married

100% married

b. Spouse's age

Females assumed to be three years younger than males.



4. Administrative Expense	0.31% of payroll
5. Cost of Living Adjustment	2.15% per annum, compounded annually for members hired prior to July 1, 2015. Note: The assumption will decrease by 0.05% per year until reaching the ultimate rate of 2.00% in the 2024 valuation. 1.00% per annum for members hired on or after July 1, 2015.
6. State Contribution	State contributions for the current plan year are assumed to be contributed in a lump sum on the July 1 following the plan year end. These amounts from the prior plan year are treated as a contribution receivable on the plan's financial statements.

Changes in Assumptions since the Prior Year

At their meeting on December 21, 2020, the Public Employees Retirement Board adopted a new set of actuarial assumptions based on the recommendations in the 2020 experience study. Changes to the set of economic assumptions are phased in over four years. Below is a summary of the key assumption changes:

- Price inflation assumption was lowered from 2.75% to 2.65%.
- Investment return assumption was lowered from 7.50% to 7.30%.
- Interest on employee contributions was lowered from 3.00% to 2.50%.
- COLA assumption for Tier 1 members was lowered from 2.25% to 2.15%.
- General wage inflation assumption was lowered from 3.50% to 3.15%.
- Payroll growth assumption was lowered from 3.50% to 3.15%.
- Salary increases were lowered from a flat 3.50% to 3.40%.
- An explicit assumption for administrative expenses was adopted as a component of the actuarial contribution rate and was set to 0.31% of pay.
- Retirement rates were adjusted to better reflect observed experience.
- Mortality assumption for non-disabled participants was changed to the Pub-2010 General Members (Above Median) Mortality Tables (100% of male rates, 95% of female rates), set back one-year, projected generationally using MP-2019 modified to 75% of ultimate rates.
- Mortality assumption for disabled participants was changed to the Pub-2010 Non-Safety Disabled Retiree Mortality Table (static).

TECHNICAL VALUATION PROCEDURES

Data Procedures

Client data caps active service at 20 years. While capping the benefit amount at 20 years of service, we keep a record of actual service beyond 20 years in order to remain consistent with the Entry Age Method.

Salaries for first year members are annualized by NPERS and reflected in the Calculated Salary field in the census data. This is used in the valuation process for new members. For continuing active members, the Accumulated Salary field from the data, representing the actual salary earned in the prior fiscal year, is used in the valuation process.



Other Valuation Procedures

Projected benefits were limited by the dollar limitation required by the Internal Revenue Code Section 415 as it applies to governmental plans and compensation limited by Section 401(a)(17).

Decrements are assumed to occur mid-year, except that immediate retirement is assumed for those who are at or above the age at which retirement rates are 100%. Standard adjustments are made for multiple decrements.

No actuarial liability is included for participants who terminated without being vested prior to the valuation date, except those who are owed a refund of the employee contribution account balance.