Summer 2023 Magazine for URS Members



*iewPoint* 

INSIDE » "The Long View:" 2022 Summary Annual Report

OURS

TAKING THE LONG VIEW

# Show Us Your Mad Defensive Skills!

Protecting Your Information and Money with URS



#### **Getting Started**

# In This Issue

### Your Money and Your Mind



» Understanding the psychology of money can help you improve your personal finances. **Pages 8-9** 

### Retirement Saving: Getting Started

» A beginners guide to URS Savings Plans.Pages 12-15



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# News & Reminders

### How Can We Be of Service to You?

Have a question about your benefits or need help? Don't hesitate to take advantage of the many ways to engage with URS.

**ONLINE** » Manage your benefits online at myURS. Go to <u>www.urs.org/us/myurs</u> to learn how to create an account.

**MESSAGE** » To communicate with URS or send us any document, consider the secure Message Center at myURS. Go to <u>www.urs.org/us/message</u> to learn more.

**CALL** » Call us any time during regular business hours: 801-366-7700 or 800-365-8772.

**VISIT** » Visit us at 560 East 200 South in Salt Lake City for in-person customer service. See regular business hours at <u>www.urs.org/us/office</u>.



Utah Retirement Systems

Trust · Commitment Value · Innovation · Excellence

# ViewPoint

Utah Retirement Systems 560 East 200 South Salt Lake City, UT 84102-2021 www.urs.org

### Have You Reviewed Your Beneficiaries Recently at myURS?

You earned it, you should decide who inherits it. But if you fail to name beneficiaries, or you let your selections become outdated, the law may decide for you. Make a habit of reviewing them at least once a year to make sure your preferences haven't changed and that your beneficiaries' information is up to date. For example, their names may have changed due to marriage or divorce.

# New Federal Tax Withholding Forms

Effective January 1, 2023, the IRS has new forms for changing your federal tax withholdings from pension and savings plan distributions. The old forms will no longer be accepted. Learn more at www.urs.org/us/taxforms.

ViewPoint is intended to provide general information about retirement, health, and other benefits. Nothing herein should be construed to establish, amend, enlarge, reduce, or otherwise affect any benefits, rights, responsibilities, or privileges. If there is a conflict between any applicable law, rule, regulation, plan provision, or contract and the contents of this newsletter, the law, rule, regulation, plan provision, or contract shall prevail.



### Protecting Your Information and Money with URS

# Not in This House!

Maybe you're not the menacing rim protector you were in high school. But you still need mad defensive skills to protect your URS information and money. Here are a few tips. See more at <u>www.urs.org/us/security</u>.

# Monitor Your Information at myURS

» If you haven't already created a myURS account, do so right away. This allows you to monitor your balances and information and prevents fraudsters from creating an account in your name.

» Log in to myURS frequently to double-check your information.

» Maintain accurate and upto-date contact information to ensure you get prompt notification of account activity.

# Pay Attention to Mail and Email

» Let us know right away if you get notice about a transaction you didn't authorize.

» Do not enter any personal URS information into any webpage that you loaded by following an email link. URS will never request personal information via email.



Keep your eye on the ball! Go to <u>www.urs.org/us/security</u> for tips on creating a winning game plan for your information and money.



#### Important Reminder for URS Members

# Third-Party Advisors Don't Represent URS



# Be cautious of any outside advisor who claims to represent URS or have expertise in URS benefits.

URS doesn't discourage members from using third-party advisors. However, be cautious of any non-URS advisor or financial planner who claims to represent URS or have expertise in URS benefits. URS does not contract with or otherwise outsource investment advising to any third-party for any reason.

Don't confuse third-party advisors with URS employees. URS Advisors (who *are* employees of URS) will only meet with you at URS, at your agency, or a nearby agency, during business hours. URS Advisors will not visit your home or set up evening/weekend appointments.

To make sure you're acting in your best interests, talk to us first before making any decisions about your retirement benefits or moving your money out of URS Savings Plans. Call us at 801-366-7318 or schedule a free URS Individual Retirement Planning Session (www.urs.org/us/irps). URS is a nonprofit trust, and our low fees reflect that. Our advisors never earn commissions.

### Remember...

- >>> URS Advisors can explain the basics of claiming your Social Security benefits. Be careful of advertisements that create "fear of missing out" (FOMO) of thousands of dollars by warning of a supposed "incorrect" Social Security decision.
- » A URS pension benefit is like an "annuity" in that it provides lifetime income. You likely also have a second "annuity" called Social Security (more lifetime income). Do you really need a third? Commercial annuities can have much higher costs than URS and Social Security and can be too complex to easily understand.

You can keep your funds in URS Savings Plans throughout your retirement. You're never required to move your funds.



Healthcare in Retirement » PEHP Medicare Supplement

# Don't Let Healthcare Costs Dampen Your Plans.

# Unexpected healthcare expenses can really soak your retirement budget.

Seek shelter with a PEHP Medicare

plan. PEHP Retiree Health Counselors can help answer your questions and



give you a benefit package that fits your budget. Call 801-366-7499 to learn how we can help.

# Key Benefits...

- » Comprehensive coverage: PEHP plans cover what Medicare doesn't cover, such as deductibles, coinsurance, copayments, pharmacy, dental, and vision.
- » Freedom to travel: Out-of-state and outof-country coverage included, takes the worry away when you're away from home.
- **» Flexibility:** See any healthcare provider who accepts Medicare.
- » **Guaranteed coverage:** No medical questions asked, just enroll in the plans you want.

Visit <u>www.pehp.org/medsup</u> or call 801-366-7499 to learn more about PEHP Medicare Supplement or to enroll.



#### **Planning for Retirement**

# The Big Question: Do I Have Enough Money to Retire?

How much money will I need? Consider your retirement expectations and budget to determine what percentage of your salary you'll need to replace. It may be significantly less than 100%. Later in life, your mortgage and other debt may be paid off, and your financial obligations to your children may require less. And, of course, once you retire, you won't be saving for retirement any more. On the other hand, maybe you have grand plans for world travel or major purchases that require income equal to or greater than your current salary.

**How much money will I get?** Three main sources of retirement income will likely be your pension, Social Security, and withdrawals from any retirement savings plans, like a 401(k). Online calculators at myURS can help you estimate how much money you can expect from each of these three sources.

How can URS help? URS offers free one-on-one consultations to help you calculate your retirement income and needs. See Page 16 to learn more.



# Free Webinar: Estimating Your Retirement Income

### 1 p.m. , Friday, September 15, 2023

Want to see how you can "predict" what income you'll have in retirement? This webinar will show you how to glance into your retirement future using URS Calculators. www.urs.org/us/webinars

Retirement isn't just about the money! Be prepared to adapt to major lifestyle challenges. Learn more at <u>www.urs.org/us/lifestyle</u>.



**Understanding Your Employer-Funded Benefits** 



# Maybe it feels like the distant future to you, but retirement

**is real!** And thanks to the substantial retirement benefit your employer funds on your behalf every paycheck, you've got a huge advantage over most Americans. As you make career decisions, consider the impact

### See How You Can Learn More About Your Employer's Retirement Benefits:

www.urs.org/us/real

on your retirement. Career longevity is the secret sauce for leveraging your benefit toward a financially secure future every time you get a raise, your retirement benefit gets a raise too! It's vital to understand your retirement benefits so you can make the most of them. Your Money Your Mind

Does it seem like you can never get ahead in your financial life? Maybe the problem's all in your head! URS is hosting a free webinar to help you understand the psychology of money to improve your personal finances. Here are a few of the concepts you'll learn about.

BANK

**Loss Aversion** Is the pain you feel from financial losses greater in proportion to the satisfaction you feel from financial gains? This can cause you to make investment decisions unduly influenced by fear of losses. An over-emphasis on avoiding the short-term pain of financial losses can lead to overly conservative investment allocations. Instead of acting on emotion, consider your time horizon and reasonable risk/reward balance.

ViewPoint

Language Yes, even the words we choose can influence our behavior. Would you rather build a *budget*, or a *spending plan*? How a concept is worded can make it more or less likely that you will or won't take action. The way you talk about time can influence your financial actions. Research shows that thinking in the present tense helps. Instead of saying, "I *will* start saving more when I get a raise," say, "I save more every time I get a raise."

Financial Wellness » The Psychology of Money

Go to <u>www.urs.org/us/finwell</u> for financial wellness resources, including education materials, calculators, and free counseling.



### Financial Wellness » The Psychology of Money

# Free Webinar » 10 a.m., Wednesday, August 16, 2023



This free webinar will explain the mentality behind common money habits and actions. By recognizing these biases in your own thinking, you can learn to make better personal finance decisions.

### Learn more and register at <u>www.urs.org/us/moneywebinar</u>

Mental Accounting Depending on how we receive money (for example, earning money versus receiving it as a gift), we often treat those funds differently — even though a dollar is a dollar. Say you earn an extra \$300 in overtime pay. You will most likely use that money like your regular paycheck to cover essential living expenses, monthly bills, etc. Now imagine you win \$300 from a random drawing at a social event. Will you use that "found money" as prudently as the money from your regular paycheck? Or will you splurge on some shiny new toy? That's mental accounting. It's the same \$300, but depending on where it comes from, we have a tendency to treat it differently.

**Status Quo** Imagine you just bought a new smartphone. How many of the default settings do you change, such as the ringtone, the text notification alert, the search engine? Most consumers stick with the status quo, avoiding the effort to change various settings. The same inertia can also apply to a decision you may have made far in the past. Think about the decision of how much to contribute to URS Savings Plans. Perhaps throughout your career you've gotten comfortable saving a certain amount from your paycheck (such as 5%). In your mind, 5% may become the "status quo," and inertia may prevent you from increasing that amount and benefiting from additional savings growth.

# Go to <u>www.urs.org/us/webinars</u> to see our full schedule of upcoming topics and for videos of previously conducted webinars.



# **UPCOMING PRE-RETIREMENT WEBINARS**



# Solving the Puzzle of Retirement Taxes

### 9 a.m., Thursday, August 3, 2023

You worked hard to build your retirement nest egg. Don't put it at risk with poor tax planning. In this webinar, we'll teach you some strategies to keep more of your money.



# Social Security-Exempt Employers and Your Benefit

### Noon, Tuesday, September 5, 2023

If you currently work or have worked for an agency that did not pay into the Social Security system, this webinar explains how your Social Security benefit may be affected.

# Go to <u>www.urs.org/us/webinars</u> to learn more and register.

# Make Sure Your Retirement Isn't at Risk

To retire with URS, you must have a bona fide termination with every URS participating employer before your retirement date, regardless of benefits. If you fail to do so, your monthly retirement benefit will be canceled, and you must reimburse URS for any retirement benefits you received when you were not eligible. A participating employer includes: any department, division, agency, office, authority, commission, board, institution, or hospital of the State; any county, city, municipality, town, local government, local district, or special service district; a state college or university, school district, charter school; or any other participating employer. **Employment includes, but is not limited to:** parttime, seasonal, temporary, adjunct, substitute, hourly, contract arrangements, or any service for which you receive compensation, stipends, or grants, regardless of benefits.

**Questions?** Call us at 801-366-7770 to doublecheck that nothing will disqualify your retirement.

Retire right! See our full library of pre-retirement publications and other resources at <u>www.urs.org/us/retiresoon</u>.



Post-Retired Employment

# Plan to Work After Retirement?

Understand how it will affect your retirement benefit

f you return to work for a URS participating employer after you've retired, make sure you understand how it will affect your pension.

Different standards apply depending on the length of time between when you retire and return to work. A brief overview is below.

Rules for post-retirement employment are complicated. Call us at 801-366-7770 or 800-695-4877 to make sure your pension isn't in jeopardy.

### **What Happens to Your Pension**

When you go to work for a URS participating employer after your retirement date with URS...

#### Within 60 Days

Your retirement benefit will be canceled. You'll return to active status and earn additional service credit, if you're eligible.

#### After 60 Days and Within One Year

Your retirement benefit will continue only if you meet these criteria:

- » You don't receive any employer provided benefits, including, but not limited to: medical, dental, paid time off, annual leave, sick leave, other insurance benefits, excluding workers' compensation.
- » Your salary is limited to the lesser of \$19,504.61 (as of 2023) or half of your final average salary during a calendar year. If you exceed the earnings' limitation or receive benefits, your retirement benefit will be canceled.

The rules regarding returning to work are statutory and can be found in Utah Code Sections 49-11-1201 through 1208.

#### **After One Year**

If you meet the separation requirement, you choose to either keep receiving your retirement benefit or to cancel your retirement benefit and earn additional service credit. If you choose the latter, a separate benefit will be calculated based on your new service and salary at the time of your second retirement. Your original retirement benefit and the new retirement benefit will be combined.

To meet the separation requirement, you must not work for any URS participating employer (including part-time and contract arrangements) for 12 consecutive months.

#### **To Learn More**

Find this <u>Post-Retirement</u> Employment brochure at www.urs.org. Or request a copy: publications@urs.org.



Post-Retirement



# Getting Started With Retirement Savings Harness the power This simple

of time to grow money for retirement. simple guide will help you get started today!

# Why Should I Save for Retirement?

The retirement system benefit provided by your employer gives you an incredible head start over most Americans. But you should still save for retirement on your own. Becoming an individual investor can help you cover all your costs in retirement, perhaps enable you to retire early, and help you build generational wealth. URS Savings Plans provide an easy, low-cost, tax-advantaged way for you to get into the game. Start saving now and make time work for you. See how time, consistency, and URS Savings Plans can be a powerful, wealthbuilding combination! Use the Savings Plan Future Values Calculator at myURS. Plug in a few variables and prepare to be amazed at what can happen when you save just a little over a long period of time.

Compare your options by reading the "Investment Options and Savings Plan Overview" brochure at <u>www.urs.org/us/savings</u>.



# What Savings Plans Are Right for Me?

The 401(k), 457(b), and Traditional IRA are tax-deferred plans; you generally pay taxes when you withdraw funds in retirement. The Roth IRA provides potential tax-free retirement income; you pay taxes now.

The Roth IRA is often advantageous early in your **career** when your income taxes are low. Consider transitioning to tax-deferred plans as your income and tax burden grows. Contribute to more than one plan to enjoy diverse benefits.

ΡΑΥ	ТАХЕЅ	LATER	PAY TAXES NOW
401(k)	457(b)	Traditional	Roth
Contribute with payroll deduction	Contribute with payroll deduction	Contribute with payroll deduction <b>or</b> personal deposits	Contribute with payroll deduction <b>or</b> personal deposits
•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••
Penalty-free withdrawals*: » Generally after age 59 ½ *Other special circumstances, such as disability or qualified birth/adoption, may qualify for penalty-free withdrawals.	Penalty-free withdrawals*: » After age 59 ½ » When you end all employment with URS Participating Employers for any reason	Penalty-free withdrawals*: » After age 59½ » To pay for your first home or higher education	Withdraw contributions tax and penalty free at any time. Penalty-free withdrawal of earnings*: » Same as Traditional IRA Contributions subject to earned income and other limitations See IRA (udebook.

# How Should I Invest My Savings?

You don't have to be a financial expert or understand the inner-workings of the stock market to choose URS investments. To keep it simple, consider the Target Date Fund for the year closest to your expected retirement date. If you don't choose, the default option is a Target Date Fund based on your age. Otherwise, if you want to be more involved in your investments or have a different risk tolerance, URS offers a range of other investment options.

Target Date Funds offer a one-fund approach to investing, giving you a diversified portfolio through a single investment option. Each fund contains a different mix of investments that



gradually adjust over time to become more conservatively invested as you approach retirement.

Still not sure about your investment choices? Take our Investor Profile Questionnaire. Go to www.urs.org/us/profile to learn more.



# How Do I Save For Retirement?

Getting started is easy. Sign up online and we'll contact your employer to have your contributions withheld from your paycheck.

**1)** Log in to myURS at <u>www.urs.org</u>. Don't have an account? Go to <u>www.urs.org/us/myURS</u> for instructions to create one.

**2)** Choose among the plans offered by your employer and click **Enroll**.

**3)** Choose the amount to withhold. Select a dollar amount or, preferably, a percentage of your paycheck.

**4)** Choose your investments. A Target Date Fund based on your age is the default.

**5)** Periodically review your account to make sure it's still in line with your goals.



### How Much Should I be Saving?

At a minimum, make sure you're contributing enough to get your employer match. Then, get into the habit of stretching your savings comfort zone. Saving just an additional fraction of your paycheck puts only a tiny dent in your current lifestyle, but it makes a big difference by retirement time. Consider setting your contributions as a percentage of your paycheck. This way, as your salary grows, your contributions will automatically grow too. Don't burn your match! A 401(k) match is like free money from your employer. But to get it, you have to chip in some of your own. Check with your employer to see if and how much it matches. For example, the State of Utah generally matches up to \$26 of your employee contributions per paycheck.

Set up your beneficiaries at the time you enroll. Make a habit of reviewing them at least once a year in case anything changes.



# How Do I Learn More and Get Help?



### WEBINAR: Understanding and Choosing URS Savings Plans and Investment Options

#### 10 a.m., Wednesday, October 4, 2023

In this one-hour webinar, we'll walk through savings plans and investment options to help you understand which are right for you.

Register at www.urs.org/us/webinars

### **ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATION:**

### Individual Retirement Planning Sessions

Still not confident about which URS savings plans and investment options are right for you? Meet with us in-person or virtually.



www.urs.org/us/irps

### BROCHURE: Investment Options and Savings Plan Overview

Get additional details about your options and see URS investments' historic returns.





Use this QR code or go to <u>www.urs.org/</u> us/savings.

### **FREE SEMINARS**

Held throughout Utah and virtually, this is a great starting point to learn about URS Savings Plans.

www.urs.org/us/seminars

### **BY PHONE**

Call the URS Savings Plans Department **801-366-7720 • 800-688-401k** 

Go to <u>www.urs.org/us/rollover</u> to see the simple steps to rollover money from other retirement savings plans to URS Savings Plans.



#### **Summer** 2023



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Are your account preferences and information current? Go to www.urs.org/info to learn more.

# Individual Needs, Individual Help

Three ways to meet one-on-one with URS, either in-person or virtually

# Retirement Application Appointment

Review your URS retirement eligibility and available benefit options.

Are you close to retiring, but not sure where to start or what options are available? We can guide you.

- » Discuss your URS retirement benefit options.
- » Purchasing service credit.
- » Provide payment estimates and payout dates.
- » Assistance with retirement applications.

Call for an appointment: 801-366-7770

# Individual Retirement Planning Session

### These free sessions help you financially plan for retirement.

Have questions about your URS benefits? Want some guidance to see if you're on track for a comfortable retirement? Let us help.

- » Am I on track for retirement?
- » What are my retirement needs, and how can I meet them?
- » What payout options are right for me?

Register at: www.urs.org/us/IRPS

# Financial Wellness Counseling Session

# These free sessions cover a variety of financial topics.

We'll assess your overall financial situation, address your areas of concern, and help you set and reach your financial goals. Topics include:

- » Financial wellness basics.
- » Personal spending.
- » Managing debt.
- » How to get financially organized.

### Register at: www.urs.org/us/finwell