



**OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE  
STATE OF IOWA**

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Auditor of State

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**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE

December 7, 2020

Contact: Marlys Gaston  
515/281-5834

Auditor of State Rob Sand today released a report on the Iowa Judicial Retirement System (System) – Schedule of Employer Pension Amounts.

The report includes the audited Schedule of Employer Pension Amounts required to comply with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions. The Schedule presents the System's employer contributions, net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources and pension expense as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020.

A copy of the report is available for review on the Auditor of State's web site at <https://auditor.iowa.gov/reports/audit-reports/>.

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**IOWA JUDICIAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM**  
**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**  
**SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER PENSION AMOUNTS**  
**JUNE 30, 2020**

**Iowa Judicial Retirement System**



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November 22, 2020

Iowa Judicial Retirement System  
Des Moines, Iowa

To the Members of the Iowa Judicial Retirement System:

I am pleased to submit to you the audit report for the Iowa Judicial Retirement System – Schedule of Employer Pension Amounts for the year ended June 30, 2020. The audit was performed in accordance with U.S. Auditing Standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards.

I appreciate the cooperation and courtesy extended by the officials and employees of Iowa Judicial Retirement System throughout the audit. If I or this office can be of any further assistance, please contact me or my staff at 515-281-5834.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Sand".

Rob Sand  
Auditor of State

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## Iowa Judicial Retirement System

### Officials

Name

Title

### State

Honorable Kim Reynolds  
David Roederer  
Glen P. Dickinson

Governor  
Director, Department of Management  
Director, Legislative Services Agency

### Agency

Honorable Susan Christensen  
Todd Nuccio  
Annette Kunde

Chief Justice  
State Court Administrator  
Interim Director of Finance



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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Iowa Judicial Retirement System:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the columns titled 2020 Employer Contributions, Net Pension Liability, Total Deferred Outflows of Resources, Total Deferred Inflows of Resources and Pension Expense included in the accompanying Schedule of Employer Pension Amounts as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, and the related Notes to the Schedule.

Management's Responsibility for the Schedule

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the Schedule in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the Schedule that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the columns titled 2020 Employer Contributions, Net Pension Liability, Total Deferred Outflows of Resources, Total Deferred Inflows of Resources and Pension Expense included in the Schedule based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Schedule is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Schedule. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Schedule, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the System's preparation and fair presentation of the Schedule in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the System's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the Schedule.

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the Schedule referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the columns titled 2020 Employer Contributions, the Net Pension Liability, Total Deferred Outflows of Resources, Total Deferred Inflows of Resources and Pension Expense as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

### Other Matters

We have audited, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards, the financial statements of the Iowa Judicial Retirement System as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, and our report thereon, dated November 22, 2020, expressed an unmodified opinion on those financial statements.

### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

Our report on the Iowa Judicial Retirement System's internal control over financial reporting and other tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contract and grant agreements and other matters required by Government Auditing Standards has been issued with our report on the aforementioned financial statements of the Iowa Judicial Retirement System dated November 22, 2020. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the Iowa Judicial Retirement System's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

### Restriction on Use

Our report, a matter of public record, is intended solely for the information and use of the System's management and the management and citizens of the State of Iowa and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

  
Marlys K. Gaston, CPA  
Deputy Auditor of State

November 22, 2020



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Iowa Judicial Retirement System  
Schedule of Employer Pension Amounts  
As of and for the Year ended June 30, 2020

2020 Employer Contributions	<u>Net Pension Liability</u> June 30, 2020	Changes of Assumptions	Deferred Outflows of Resources Differences Between Projected and Actual Investments Earnings	Total Deferred Outflows of Resources
\$ 9,210,720	13,747,979	13,410,342	4,176,617	17,586,959

See Notes to Schedule of Employer Pension Amounts.

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Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	Differences Between Projected and Actual Investments Earnings	Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	Pension Expense
7,821,726	10,428,985	18,250,711	8,195,999

Iowa Judicial Retirement System

Notes to Schedule of Employer Pension Amounts

June 30, 2020

**(1) Plan Description**

Plan Membership

The Iowa Judicial Retirement System (System), a single-employer public employee retirement system (PERS), is the administrator of a defined benefit pension plan.

The System was established to provide pension benefits to judges serving on the Supreme Court, the District Courts and the Court of Appeals.

Plan Benefits

Pursuant to Chapter 602 of the Code of Iowa, a member who has had a total of at least four years of service as a judge of one or more of the above courts and is at least sixty-five years of age or who has twenty years of consecutive service as a judge of one or more of the above courts and has attained the age of fifty years shall qualify for an annuity. The annual annuity of a judge under the System is an amount equal to three and one-fourth percent of the judge's average annual basic salary for the judge's highest three years as a judge multiplied by the judge's years of service or, for a member who meets the definition of a senior judge under section 602.9202 of the Code of Iowa, three and one-fourth percent of the basic senior judge salary multiplied by the judge's years of service, limited to a specified percentage of the highest basic annual salary or basic senior judge salary, as applicable, which the judge is receiving or had received as of the time the judge or senior judge separated from service. The specified percentage is as follows: (1) 50% for judges who retired prior to July 1, 1998, (2) 52% for judges who retired and received an annuity on or after July 1, 1998 but before July 1, 2000, (3) 56% for judges who retired and received an annuity on or after July 1, 2000 but before July 1, 2001, (4) 60% for judges who retire and receive an annuity on or after July 1, 2001 but before July 1, 2006 and (5) 65% for judges who retired and received an annuity on or after July 1, 2006. In addition, the annual annuity for senior judges who became a senior judge before July 1, 1994 is adjusted at the same salary percentage increase as an active judge. The annual annuity for senior judges who became a senior judge on or before July 1, 1994 is adjusted at 75% of the salary percentage increase of an active judge.

Any member who served as a judge for a total of four years or more and is deemed permanently incapacitated, mentally or physically, to perform his/her duties shall be entitled to an annuity that would be the same as computed under a retirement annuity.

The survivor of a judge who qualified for retirement compensation at the time of the judge's death is entitled to receive 50% of the amount the judge was receiving or would have been entitled to receive at the time of their death.

Contributions

Beginning July 1, 2010, judges contribute to the System at the rate of 9.35% multiplied by the basic salary of the judge. Beginning July 1, 2008, and for each subsequent fiscal year until the System attains fully funded status, the State contributes 30.6% of the basic salary of all covered judges. Commencing with the first fiscal year in which the System attains fully funded status, and for each subsequent fiscal year, the State contribution shall be 60% of the required contribution rate.

The member contributions required and contributed were \$2,814,399, representing 9.35% of current year covered payroll. The State's contribution required by statute was \$9,210,720. The State's share was based on 30.6% of actual salaries. Costs of administering the plan are financed through State appropriations, member contributions and investment income.

## **(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

### **A. Basis of Presentation**

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions, requires certain information be provided about the System. The Schedule of Employer Pension Amounts (Schedule) provides this required pension information to the State of Iowa for inclusion in its financial statements.

The underlying financial information used to prepare the Schedule is based on the System's financial statements which are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Plan members' contributions are recognized in the period in which the contributions are due. State contributions are recognized when due and the State has made a formal commitment to provide the contributions. Benefits and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of the plan.

The Schedule is intended to present the information required by GASB Statement No. 68 and not to present the financial position of the System or the State of Iowa.

The System issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained by writing to the Judicial Retirement System, Iowa Judicial Branch, 1111 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

### **B. Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources**

Differences Between Projected and Actual Earnings – The differences between projected and actual earnings on System investments are recognized over a five-year period. Non-current amounts are presented as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources in the Schedule. The current amount is included as pension expense.

Changes of Assumptions – Changes of assumptions are amortized over the average remaining service life for all members, which is 5.69 years for the year ended June 30, 2020. The non-current amounts are presented as deferred outflows of resources in the Schedules. The current amounts are included as pension expense.

Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience – The difference between expected and actual experience is recognized over the average remaining service life for all members, which is 5.69 years. The non-current amount is presented as a deferred inflow of resources in the Schedule. The current amount is included as pension expense.

### (3) Net Pension Liability

The components of the net pension liability of the System at June 30, 2020 were as follows:

Net Pension Liability:	
Total pension liability	\$ 245,233,479
Plan fiduciary net position	<u>231,485,500</u>
Net pension liability	<u>\$ 13,747,979</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	94.39%

Actuarial Assumptions – The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2020 using the following actuarial assumptions and the entry age normal actuarial cost method, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.60%
Salary increases	3.75%, including inflation
Investment rate of return (effective June 30, 2018)	6.75% compounded annually, net of investment expense, including inflation.

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2014 White Collar Mortality Table for males and females, with a two-year age setback and generational improvements using MP-2017.

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2020 valuation are based on the results of the most recent actuarial experience analysis. The most recent analysis was performed, and results were provided on September 28, 2018.

The long-term expected rate of return on System investments is reviewed as part of the experience study. 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 asset class, were developed by the System's investment consultant. These ranges were combined to produce 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 target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Large Cap Equity	25.00%	6.08%
Small/Mid Cap Equity	15.00	6.89
International Equity	18.75	6.89
Emerging International Equity	6.25	9.72
Core Bonds	22.75	1.17
High-Yield Bonds	2.25	3.51
Real Estate (Core)	<u>10.00</u>	4.50
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	

Discount Rate – The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.75%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed plan contributions from members and the State will be made at the current contribution rates as set in State statute:

- a. Employee contribution rate: 9.35% until the plan is fully funded, after which employees will contribute 40% of the actuarially required contribution rate.
- b. State contribution rate: 30.60% until the plan is fully funded, after which the State will contribute 60% of the actuarially required contribution rate.

Based on those assumptions, the fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on System assets was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability. The municipal bond rate was not used in determining the discount rate, but if it were required, the rate would have been 2.19%. The projected future benefit payments for all current plan members were projected through 2119.

Sensitivity Analysis – The sensitivity of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate presents the net pension liability of the System calculated using the discount rate of 6.75%, as well as what the System’s net pension liability calculated using a discount rate 1% lower (5.75%) or 1% higher (7.75%) than the current discount rate:

	1% Decrease (5.75%)	Current Discount Rate (6.75%)	1% Increase (7.75%)
Net pension liability	\$ 40,198,660	13,747,979	(8,760,117)

## Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources

The summary of the Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources as of June 30, 2020 is as follows:

	Year of Deferral	Amortization Period	Balance Beginning of Year	Additions	Deductions	Balance End of Year
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources:</b>						
Changes of assumptions	2015		\$ -	-	-	-
	2016		-	-	-	-
	2017		-	-	-	-
	2018	5.00 years	20,115,512	-	6,705,170	13,410,342
	2019		-	-	-	-
	2020		-	-	-	-
			<u>20,115,512</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,705,170</u>	<u>13,410,342</u>
Differences between projected and actual earnings	2015		-	-	-	-
	2016	5.00 years	2,993,148	-	2,993,148	-
	2017		-	-	-	-
	2018		-	-	-	-
	2019	5.00 years	5,568,822	-	1,392,205	4,176,617
	2020		-	-	-	-
			<u>8,561,970</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,385,353</u>	<u>4,176,617</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources			<u>\$ 28,677,482</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,090,523</u>	<u>17,586,959</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources:</b>						
Differences between expected and actual experience	2015	5.25 years	\$ 313,615	-	313,615	-
	2016	5.14 years	810,620	-	711,070	99,550
	2017	5.18 years	364,238	-	167,082	197,156
	2018	5.00 years	1,933,047	-	644,349	1,288,698
	2019	5.13 years	263,914	-	63,902	200,012
	2020	5.69 years	-	7,323,370	1,287,060	6,036,310
			<u>3,685,434</u>	<u>7,323,370</u>	<u>3,187,078</u>	<u>7,821,726</u>
Differences between projected and actual earnings	2015		-	-	-	-
	2016		-	-	-	-
	2017	5.00 years	5,830,252	-	2,915,126	2,915,126
	2018	5.00 years	7,360,811	-	2,453,604	4,907,207
	2019		-	-	-	-
	2020	5.00 years	-	3,258,315	651,663	2,606,652
			<u>13,191,063</u>	<u>3,258,315</u>	<u>6,020,393</u>	<u>10,428,985</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources			<u>\$ 16,876,497</u>	<u>10,581,685</u>	<u>9,207,471</u>	<u>18,250,711</u>

## Pension Expense

The summary of pension expense for the year ended June 30, 2020 is as follows:

Service cost at end of year	\$ 7,665,784
Interest on total pension liability	15,957,220
Expensed portion of current-period differences between expected and actual experience in the total pension liability	(1,287,060)
Expensed portion of prior-period differences between expected and actual experience in the total pension liability	(7,268,748)
Employee contributions	(2,814,399)
Projected earnings on plan investments	(14,517,853)
Expensed portion of current-period differences between projected and actual earnings on plan investments	(651,663)
Expensed portion of prior-period differences between projected and actual earnings on plan investments	11,090,523
Administrative expenses	<u>22,195</u>
Total pension expense	<u>\$ 8,195,999</u>

### **(4) COVID-19**

In March 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was declared a global pandemic. The disruption to businesses across a range of industries in the United States continues to evolve. The full impact to local, regional and national economies, including that of the Iowa Judicial Retirement System, remains uncertain.

To date, the outbreak has not created a material disruption to the operations of the Iowa Judicial Retirement System. However, the extent of the financial impact of COVID-19 will depend on future developments, including the spread of the virus, duration and timing of the economic recovery. Due to these uncertainties, management cannot reasonably estimate the potential impact to the Iowa Judicial Retirement System's operations and finances.



Iowa Judicial Retirement System

Staff

This audit was performed by:

Marlys K. Gaston, CPA, Deputy  
Deborah J. Moser, CPA, Manager  
Anthony M. Heibult, Senior Auditor II  
Kathryn L. Blumer, Assistant Auditor