



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
GENERAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
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SUMMER 2025
ISSUE A

The Retirement Register

New Credited Service Purchase Rates and Final Average Salary Adjustment Factors

Active members may elect to purchase up to twenty-four (24) months of additional credited service. The cost as of July 1, 2025, will be as follows and is dependent upon which benefit multiplier the employee has selected:

<u>Benefit Multiplier Selected</u>	<u>Cost Per Year Purchased</u>
2.7%	14.53%
2.5%	13.46%
2.2%	11.84%
2.0%	10.77%
1.8%	09.69%

Any permanent, full-time member of the General Retirement System is eligible for this purchase. The purchase can be accomplished by making a lump sum payment, payroll deduction (on a pre-tax or after-tax basis) for up to five years, a combination of an initial lump sum after-tax payment and payroll deduction, or a lump sum rollover from the member's deferred compensation account or qualified retirement account. Please make sure that if you purchase credited service you will not exceed your bargaining unit's credited service cap (years of service plus credited service purchased).

The Final Average Salary Adjustment Factors for retirement dates of **07/01/25—06/30/26** are as follows:
ECO I, II, and III: 40.6%

Executive Director Retires

Trustees and staff would like to congratulate Ms. Peggy Korzen on her retirement on February 4, 2025. Ms. Korzen served as the Executive Director of the Retirement Systems for just under 25 years. We wish her many happy years of retirement!

What If I Leave Employment Before Being Able to Retire?

Terminated employees may withdraw their accumulated contributions (i.e. - their member contributions together with 3% annual interest credits, as provided by City Code). Those leaving System-covered employment after the completion of 8 years of credited service are eligible for a deferred monthly benefit if their accumulated member contributions and interest earned on deposit are not withdrawn from the Retirement System.

For payment of a deferred allowance to begin, the member may make application to the Board of Trustees once he/she attains age 62, but no later than attainment of age 75. Benefits begin on the first day of the month following application. The amount is computed the same way as an age and service benefit using credited service, final average salary and the multiplier in effect at the time City employment was terminated. Failure to make application during the above time frame will result in forfeiture of the retirement benefit. Should a deferred member die before reaching age 62, his/her designated beneficiary has the option to immediately apply to receive a Joint-100% deferred pension benefit subject to an actuarial reduction based upon the age the former member would have attained at the time of application. If, at the time City employment was terminated, the member completed 10 or more years of credited service, once he/she attains age 55, he/she will annually be afforded the opportunity to elect receiving an early allowance, by making written application to the Board, beginning on the first day of the month following the month in which employment was terminated.

New Retirees

The Trustees and staff of the General Retirement System are pleased to congratulate the following new retirees:

Terry Frechette*	(Water-Lake MI Filtration)	12/1/2024	Joanne Dixon	(61st District Court)	2/19/2025
Ronald Wigger	(Motor Equipment)	12/3/2024	Jean Sanders*	(Library)	3/1/2025
Judy Hebert	(Police)	1/2/2025	Teresa Basore	(61st District Court)	3/4/2025
Mark Longfield	(Police)	1/2/2025	Deborah Maxon	(61st District Court)	3/4/2025
Gretchen Ross	(Police)	1/2/2025	Brian McKay	(Water-Engineering)	3/4/2025
Carolyn Phillips	(Library)	1/3/2025	Freddie Gladyness, Jr.	(Code Compliance)	3/6/2025
Karolee Tobey	(Library)	1/3/2025	Breese Stam	(Engineering Services)	3/8/2025
Dawn Kulak	(Fire)	1/9/2025	Mark Hoffman*	(Motor Equipment)	4/1/2025
Jeffrey Stewart	(Water)	1/18/2025	Martin Harnish	(Water)	4/26/2025
Patrick Bush*	(Traffic Safety)	2/1/2025	Brian Hansen	(Parks & Recreation)	5/8/2025
Bradley Gilliam*	(Water-Lake MI Filtration)	2/1/2025	David Harris	(Environmental Services)	6/4/2025
Leon Sargent*	(Streets & Sanitation)	2/1/2025	Jack Stegehuis	(Engineering)	6/17/2025
Tonya Voakes*	(Attorney's Office)	2/1/2025	James Rule, Jr.	(Water)	7/8/2025
Peggy Korzen	(Retirement Systems)	2/4/2025	Eric Jordan	(Code Compliance)	7/9/2025
Scott Novitsky	(Environmental Services)	2/6/2025	Steven Kragt	(Water)	7/12/2025

*Deferred Member

2025 Pre-Retirement Planning Session for Active Employees

The Retirement Systems Office will offer evening presentations for small groups of 5-6 active employees, and their beneficiaries, to discuss retirement issues. The presentations are geared for those employees who are contemplating retiring within the next couple of years. Information on the 457-deferred compensation plan will be distributed to participants, and there will also be a representative from Insurance Services to speak about retiree healthcare provisions.

The remaining presentation for 2025 is scheduled for November 5. The meeting will be held from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Retirement Systems Office, 233 E. Fulton, Suite 216. If you are interested in attending this session, please contact Lisa Balkema at (616) 365-5015 to register.

In Memory of Departed Friends

Mary Riley	11/8/2024	William Bott	1/23/2025	Deborah Bose	3/24/2025
James Treece*	11/9/2024	Daniel Baldwin	1/27/2025	David H. Shepard	3/26/2025
Susan Olmstead*	11/19/2024	Joan Mast	1/27/2025	Danny Simila	5/1/2025
Wallace Bouchard	12/7/2024	Melanie Merdzinski*	2/4/2025	Patsy Turner*	5/3/2025
Jerrolyn Hancock	12/24/2024	David C. Feldpausch	2/11/2025	Theresa Smith*	5/21/2025
Thomas Eckenberg	12/30/2024	Myrtle Hamilton*	2/12/2025	Alvinies Elder	5/26/2025
Keith Larson	1/5/2025	Lester VandenBerg	2/13/2025	Ethel Applewhite	6/30/2025
Judy Biener*	1/20/2025	Leo Polega*	3/2/2025		

*Denotes Beneficiary