



## **PRB PLANS**

### **As troubled Dallas pension fund gets help, issues loom in other states**

June 11, 2017, By Claudia Lauer

One by one, Pete Bailey, Clint Conway, Julian Bernal and a half-dozen other retired police officers and firefighters stood up in December and told the Dallas Police and Fire Pension Board that they had been counting on their deferred retirement accounts to supplement their pensions. They had medical bills. They had mortgages. They had college tuition to pay. And they had played by the rules of the fund.

But they faced severe restrictions on fund payments after a number of officers retired and fears spread that a generous provision allowing retiring workers to take a large lump sum payment would be stopped. In about four months last year, more than \$500 million - or about 20 percent of the fund - was withdrawn, pushing it within a decade of insolvency. Dallas police staffing fell below 3,000 officers even though there is funding for 3,600 positions.

#### **Statesman**

### **County receives financial return**

June 13, 2017, By Jason B. Hogan

A year of frugality paid off for Colorado County when it came to its general fund, the county's primary fund account, where measures were taken to ensure at least a break even threshold, if not an actual gain.

Lewis Crain of Rutledge Crain & Company, PC, an accounting firm out of Arlington, addressed the county's financial outlook and proposed a plan for the future at a Monday commissioners court meeting.

Crain reviewed the county's comprehensive annual financial report with commissioners and spent a short span of time discussing employee pension options.

#### **The Colorado County Citizen**

### **\$2 Million Dispute Between City Of Dallas & Police, Fire Pension Fund**

June 13, 2017, By Jack Fink

For 22 years, the Dallas Police and Fire Pension Fund has been contributing to the pensions of police officers and firefighters who go on military leave.

While police and firefighters have been compensated, the fund's board members said the city should have made the pension contributions and owes the fund \$2 million dollars - since 1995.

#### **CBS DFW**

# **TEXAS ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

## **Texas Petro Index up on increased production**

June 11, 2017

Upstream oil and gas development in Texas rallied for the fifth straight month in April, according to the Texas Petro Index, which improved to 164.3 to post its first year-over-year increase in 27 months.

Among TPI indicators logging big year-over-year gains in April were wellhead prices for crude oil and natural gas, the number of drilling rigs at work, well-permitting activity, and the value of Texas-produced oil and gas.

### **Standard-Times**

## **Texas governor signs \$217 billion budget, vetoes \$120 million**

June 12, 2017, By Edgar Walters

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed the state's two-year budget Monday, giving his approval to the \$217 billion document crafted by the Legislature.

But the governor did cut about \$120 million from various programs through a mechanism known as a line-item veto - including measures meant to improve the region's air quality and assist the colonias, impoverished areas on the Texas-Mexico border.

### **Texas Tribune**

## **It's time to modernize NAFTA and Texas knows how**

June 14, 2017, By John Cornyn and Ted Cruz

When the North American Free Trade Agreement was enacted 23 years ago, an economic surge in Texas ensued thanks, in part, to a significant boost in trade with our neighbor to the south. Today, more than 380,000 Texas jobs hinge on free trade with Mexico. Agreements like NAFTA have strengthened our state's economy as a whole, too. More than a third of total goods, worth \$92 billion, are exported from Texas to Mexico annually.

But as our economy has expanded, it has matured and diversified. In 1994, when NAFTA went into effect, floppy disks were the norm and streaming videos over the internet was fantasy. The past 20 years has introduced the internet into our everyday lives, which in turn has developed industries like information technology and digital trade.

### **Dallas News**

# **LEGAL PROCEEDINGS, LAWS & REGULATIONS**

## **House passes Dodd-Frank replacement bill**

June 8, 2017, By Hazel Bradford

Legislation replacing much of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act was passed by the House on Thursday, along party lines by a vote of 233-186.

The Financial CHOICE Act makes substantial changes at the Securities and Exchange Commission and other financial regulators, including the Financial Stability Oversight Council, which would no longer be able to designate non-bank firms as systemically important and would have to repeal previous designations.

## [Pensions & Investments](#)

### **Washington University Is 15th School Sued Over Retirement Plan**

June 9, 2017, By Jacklyn Wille

Washington University in St. Louis is the latest college to face a proposed class action over the fees and investment options in its retirement plan ( *Davis v. Wash. Univ. in St. Louis* , E.D. Mo., No. 4:17-cv-01641, complaint filed 6/8/17 ).

The lawsuit, filed June 8 in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, says the university's retirement plan overpaid for administrative and record-keeping services and offered "historically underperforming" investment options. The lawsuit takes particular aim at the plan's reliance on two companies—TIAA and Vanguard—for record-keeping services. The use of multiple record keepers confuses investors and leads to higher fees, the lawsuit claims.

## [Bloomberg BNA](#)

### **More challenges promised despite church-plan victory**

June 12, 2017, By Hazel Bradford

Sponsors of church-related pension plans are celebrating a Supreme Court decision upholding their right to be exempt from federal pension rules, but participant advocates vow to continue challenging them on other legal points and in new venues, including state courts.

The unexpectedly unanimous Supreme Court decision June 5 brought a collective sigh of relief from religiously affiliated health-care systems that long have operated as exempt from the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, with its detailed rules on funding obligations, vesting, reporting, disclosure and more.

## [Pensions & Investments](#)

### **Gov. Wolf signs Pennsylvania pension reform into law**

June 12, 2017, By Logan Hullinger

A row of cameras, an ensemble of bystanders and a small table draped with blue cloth on Monday provided the backdrop for Gov. Tom Wolf to sign what he called "historic" pension reform into law.

The measure, passed by the Republican-controlled legislature, reconstructs the state's current pension system for future state employees and public school teachers, replacing the current generous retirement benefit with three new options that rely partially or entirely on a 401(k)-style plan.

## [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

### **One size doesn't fit all in dealing with DOL's rule**

June 12, 2017, By Robert Steyer

Record keepers are taking multiple approaches to complying with the Department of Labor fiduciary rule despite their uncertainty about whether that rule later will be amended, revised or even repealed.

Some are stepping up fiduciary advice responsibilities to participants over what had been previously viewed as non-fiduciary education. Others are staying a step back from most fiduciary activities, focusing on continued and expanded education services.

## [Pensions & Investments](#)

### **Michigan Leaders Reach Deal on Teacher Pensions, Budget**

June 13, 2017, By David Eggert

Gov. Rick Snyder and Republican legislative leaders reached a budget deal Tuesday that would automatically enroll newly hired school employees in a 401(k)-only retirement plan unless they opt into a costlier pension benefit within 75 days.

The change would apply to teachers and other school workers hired next Feb. 1 or later and may cost the state much less than an earlier version of legislation introduced last month, according to a summary of the agreement circulated to GOP senators at a caucus meeting and obtained by The Associated Press.

## [US News](#)

# **NATIONAL ECONOMIC, PENSION, INVESTMENT & BANKING INFORMATION**

### **Hedge funds face a crisis of confidence**

June 11, 2017, By John Aldan Byrne

Hedge funds are dancing with the devil.

They are facing a crisis of confidence and potential lawsuits amid unprecedented fund closures, job losses and - most critically - low investment returns.

It's finally time to bail, one money man in Short Hills, NJ, warned last week of these leveraged alternative investments for superwealthy and not-so-wealthy middle-class investors.

## [New York Post](#)

### **Ohio's public-employee pensions face cutbacks**

June 12, 2017, By Alan Johnson

Public-employee pension funds are big business in Ohio, providing a safety net for 1.75 million people.

There's a lot riding on them.

Collectively, Ohio's five public pension funds have \$192 billion in assets and last year paid out more than \$15 billion in pension benefits and \$1.1 billion in health-care benefits. They are not required by law to provide health insurance, but all five do. Whether they will in the future is uncertain.

## [The Columbus Dispatch](#)

## **Christie Betting That Lottery Can Bail Out Troubled Pensions**

June 13, 2017, By The Associated Press

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is betting that the lottery is the ticket to shoring up one of the state's most vexing money problems: ever-growing obligations to the pensions for public employees.

The idea of linking the lottery to pensions has been around for years, but legislation backed by the Republican governor was introduced this week to make the lottery the property of the pension system for 30 years.

### [The New York Times](#)

## **New Mexico Pension Tries to Head off Possible Shortfall**

June 15, 2017, By Morgan Lee

Public school and college employees in New Mexico are confronting a widening gap between promised pension benefits and the money currently available to pay for their retirements.

Managers of New Mexico's retirement fund for public education employees have acknowledged an \$800 million increase in needs, after they lowered expectations for future investment returns.

### [US News](#)

# **WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC, PENSION, INVESTMENT & BANKING INFORMATION**

## **Picture remains fuzzy a year after Brexit**

June 12, 2017, By Paulina Pielichata

A year after U.K. citizens voted to leave the European Union, more questions than answers remain for European pension funds and other institutional asset owners working to assess the risks associated with the U.K.'s surprise decision to exit the bloc.

And currency risk is far from the only peril on their radars.

For some pension funds, Brexit is expected to prompt allocation adjustments to U.K. alternatives and equities due to concerns about the country's economic growth and London's declining status as Europe's premier financial hub.

### [Pensions & Investments](#)

## **Global public investor assets reach \$33.5 trillion at end of 2016 — report**

June 13, 2017, By Paulina Pielichata

Global public investors' assets rose 1.4% to \$33.5 trillion at the end of 2016 from \$33.05 trillion at the end of 2015, according to a report published Monday by the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum.

Pension fund assets increased \$435 billion, or 2.9%, to \$13.8 trillion, while sovereign wealth funds rose \$143 billion, or 1.9%, to end 2016 at \$7.4 trillion in assets, the think tank said in its Global Public

Investor report, which surveyed 750 public investors consisting of pension funds, sovereign wealth funds and central banks. Global central bank assets declined by 0.8%, or \$103 billion, to \$12.3 trillion.

## [Pensions & Investments](#)

### **PensionsEurope launches reports on DB and DC design**

June 13, 2017, By Susanna Rust

The majority of new pension design ideas use elements from the development of defined contribution (DC) plans, but defined benefit (DB) plan features still have a role to play in future proof pension design, according to PensionsEurope.

The argument was the premise of one of two reports that the European pensions trade association launched last week.

PensionsEurope is a thought leader in Europe and we have designed these two reports to stimulate discussion and debate around defined benefit and defined contribution pensions, said Janwillem Bouma, chair of PensionsEurope.

## [Investment & Pensions Europe](#)

### **Greece to get some cash - and some idea of future debt relief**

June 15, 2017, By Francesco Guarascio and Renee Maltezou

Greece's international lenders prepared on Thursday to unblock about 8.5 billion euros (\$9.5 billion) in loans that Athens desperately needs next month to pay its bills, and to give some idea of what debt relief they may offer over the long-term.

The chairman of euro zone finance ministers Jeroen Dijsselbloem told reporters the size of the payment to Athens would be discussed during a meeting, since lenders agreed that Greece had pushed through all the requested reforms.

## [Reuters](#)

### **Bank of England keeps rates unchanged but more hawkish approach seen**

June 15, 2017, By Paulina Pielichata

The Bank of England left the main interest rate and the current pace of asset purchases unchanged Thursday.

The BoE's monetary policy committee voted 5-3 to maintain the key bank rate at 0.25%.

Government bond purchases, financed by the issuance of central bank reserves, will remain at £435 billion (\$554 billion) and corporate bond purchases, financed by the issuance of central bank reserves, at £10 billion, the Bank of England said in a news release Thursday.

## [Pensions & Investments](#)

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