

## TEXAS PENSIONS

### **Fort Worth Workers Approve Pension Fund Fix**

February 25, 2019, By Christopher Connelly

After years of work to solve its pension problems, Fort Worth will make changes to shore up the Fort Worth Employees Retirement Fund. City workers, voting over the past few weeks, gave their approval to a series of changes aimed at keeping the fund solvent.

The city has been staring down the barrel of a \$1.6 billion shortfall in the retirement program for workers across city agencies, including police and firefighters. Twice, credit agencies have downgraded the city's credit rating because of the pension problems.

#### [KERA News](#)

### **Texas Has a Robust Savings Account. Here's How Some Would Like to Spend It.**

February 26, 2019, By Ben Philpott, KUT

The Texas Economic Stabilization Fund, often called the rainy-day fund, is doing well. Really well, actually. By the end of 2021, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar projects, it will have about \$15 billion in it. Lawmakers say the account needs to have a minimum of \$7.5 billion to help the state maintain a top credit rating.

What should happen to the rest of that money?

There are several suggestions. And in the end, some of it will be spent. Let's run down a list of the different players asking for money, and what they'd like to spend it on.

#### [KUT](#)

### **Texas Teachers' Hires CalSTRS, Illinois Teachers' Officials**

February 26, 2019, By Chris Butera

The Teacher Retirement System of Texas has added two new pension veterans to its roster to boost its emerging manager program and internal operations.

Introduced at Friday's board meeting, Kirk Sims will direct the \$153 billion pension plan's \$5.7 billion fledgling manager objective. He will also oversee a \$3 billion injection for its Emerging Manager 3.0 Program, which funds innovations among rising investment professionals. The project started in 2005. Sylvia Bell, the pension fund's chief operating officer, currently runs the portfolio.

#### [Chief Investment Officer](#)

# TEXAS ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## **Texas Rocket Company Signs Deal to Build Manufacturing Facility at Cape Canaveral**

February 25, 2019, By Lori Hawkins

Austin-area rocket company Firefly Aerospace has signed an agreement with Space Florida to launch business operations at Cape Canaveral Spaceport.

Under the deal, Firefly Aerospace -- which is based in Cedar Park -- will build a 150,000-square-foot rocket manufacturing facility at Space Florida's Exploration Park and establish a launch facility at Cape Canaveral's Space Launch Complex 20.

Firefly said it plans to invest \$52 million in the project and "bring more than 200 high paying jobs to Florida." Space Florida will in turn match up to \$18.9 million of Firefly's infrastructure investments through the Florida Department of Transportation Spaceport Improvement Plan.

### [Dallas News](#)

## **Texas Senate Panel Advances \$5,000 Teacher Pay Raise Proposal**

February 25, 2019, By Aliyya Swaby

After a contentious three-hour public hearing Monday, the Senate Finance Committee unanimously passed a bill that would provide annual \$5,000 pay raises for all full-time classroom teachers in the state.

One of Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's top priorities this legislative session, Senate Bill 3 is now eligible to be taken up by the full Senate, with a bipartisan group of more than 20 co-authors signed on.

### [East Texas Matters](#)

## **Texas Makes Move to Lure Companies to the State to Enhance Its Biotech Industry**

February 26, 2019, By Alex Keown

During his two years in office, former Texas Secretary of State Rolando Pablos flexed the muscles of his office to make recruiting biotech and pharma companies a priority.

During an interview with BioSpace two years ago, Pablos shares his strategy for luring the biotech industry to the Lone Star State, which included not only touting the state's business-friendly climate, but also the existing biotech infrastructure in the state, such as The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center or Texas Children's Hospital. During that interview conducted at the 2017 BIO convention in San Diego, Pablos said the delegation he led to the week-long event was reaching out to U.S.-based companies as well as foreign trade leaders for potential deals.

### [BioSpace](#)

# NATIONAL PENSION, INVESTMENTS & LEGAL

## **U.S. States May See Negative Revenue Effects from Aging Demographic Trends**

February 14, 2019, By Timothy Little and David Hitchcock

In S&P Global Ratings' opinion, the aging of the U.S. population has significant implications for future state tax revenues. State governments will need to adapt their revenue structure and service levels to accommodate the growing elderly population. S&P Global Ratings considers managing demographic trends a long-term factor affecting the credit quality of state governments and an important part of its holistic analysis of state credit quality.

During 2010-2017, older-aged households increased more rapidly than younger households, with higher income levels becoming more concentrated among the older cohort. Current projections indicate this trend will continue, with the difference between a state's population concentrated among its prime working-age adults (25 to 54) and those 65 and older widening dramatically. This increasing gap will also likely lead to more income concentration.

### **[S&P Global Ratings](#)**

## **Audit Tallies \$600M In Nonpayment by University System to GA Pensions**

February 22, 2019, By James Salzer

A new audit says the University System of Georgia stopped making some legally required payments to the state pension system, shortchanging the retirement program \$600 million to \$660 million over a decade.

The state audit, which was released Friday, said the money wasn't paid into the Teachers Retirement System between 2008 and 2018. The General Assembly has had to pour about \$600 million extra into the TRS the past two years to make it more financially stable.

### **[Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#)**

## **New CIOs, Possible Teachers Pension Overhaul for Kentucky**

February 26, 2019, By Chris Butera

Despite the acrimonious stalemate over how to fix the Bluegrass State's \$43 billion-plus teachers pension deficit, there are small signs of progress: new leaders for the Kentucky system and a bipartisan proposal to fix the problem, or at least part of it.

Rich Robben will finally get the Kentucky Retirement Systems' corner office on April 1 when he becomes its chief investment officer after serving in interim status since 2017, when David Peden left the CIO post. The organization initiated a search in November before determining Robben was the man all along.

### **[Chief Investment Officer](#)**

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