

TEXAS PENSIONS

Texas County & District Slates \$399 Million for 3 Alternatives Funds

July 10, 2019, By Christine Williamson

Texas County & District Retirement System committed a total of \$399 million to three alternative investment funds, transaction reports from the \$30.4 billion pension fund showed.

From the \$3.3 billion strategic credit portfolio, \$300 million was committed to OWS Credit Opportunity Fund, managed by One William Street Capital Management, a new manager for the Austin-based defined benefit plan.

The commitment to the relative-value structured-credit fund was the single largest made by TCDRS' investment team to strategic credit so far this year.

[Pensions & Investments](#)

TEXAS ECONOMIC INDICATORS

The 'Texas Miracle' Missed Most of Texas

July 7, 2019, By Tim Tankersley

On the eastern plains of Texas, local leaders are trying to stop the bleeding of talent to the bright lights of Dallas and Austin. They are sprucing up downtown, completing 10 miles of walking trails, investing in parks and schools and making other improvements that they hope will entice young workers to stay and help this part of the state finally claim a share of the Texas Miracle.

Few parts of America have nurtured faster job growth than Texas in the years since the 2008 financial crisis, in what is now the longest sustained economic expansion in American history. But that growth has largely left cities like Longview in the dust. No state — not even California, long held up as the embodiment of America's widening geographic inequality — has seen a larger post-recession divergence between its elite cities and everywhere else.

Nearly all of the net growth in jobs and new businesses in Texas over the last decade, Labor Department data show, has been concentrated in four large metropolitan areas — Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio. Those areas accounted for more than four out of every five jobs created in the state since the recession ended, their populations swelling with surges of young and talented workers. Collectively, the four saw double the rate of job growth as the rest of Texas.

[The New York Times](#)

Knox County Wind Farm to Provide 200 Jobs During Construction

July 10, 2019, By Kacie Taylor and AJ Gersh

Knox County announced the start of construction of its El Campo wind farm on Tuesday.

According to a press release, Longroad Energy, along with Danish pension funds PKA and PenSam, represented by their investment manager AIP, is in charge of the project.

While the total cost will be approximately \$335 million, it will contribute nearly \$20 million in property taxes to the Benjamin Independent School District, Knox County, Knox County Hospital District, and other local taxing authorities.

Knox County Judge Stan Wojcik says the project will help bolster his county's budget.

[KTXS](#)

CNBC Ranking Hammers Home What Kept Texas From Winning Best State for Business Title

July 10, 2019, By Dom DiFurio

This year, Texas fell from its coveted No. 1 position atop CNBC's annual ranking of best states for business because of two critical factors — the state's schools and declining energy prices.

The Lone Star State received some of the highest overall scores in 2019 for its workforce, economy and infrastructure, but ranked 12th-worst in terms of its quality of education. Virginia, which supplanted Texas, tied with Massachusetts for having the highest quality of education in the U.S., according to the business news network's study.

[Dallas News](#)

NATIONAL PENSION, INVESTMENTS & LEGAL

Law Requires Maryland Pension Fund to Disclose Carried Interest Payouts

July 8, 2019, By Brian Croce

A new law requires the \$52.7 billion Maryland State Retirement & Pension System, Baltimore, to disclose the amount of carried interest it pays to private equity general partners.

The bill passed unanimously in both chambers of the state Legislature in March and was signed into law in April by Gov. Larry Hogan. It went into effect July 1.

As carried interest represents shared profits that are retained by the general partner rather than paid by the investor, it is not typically reported as investment fees paid. Generally, GPs retain 20% of the investment profits in a limited liability partnership while the limited partners receive the other 80%, according to a summary of the bill.

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Illinois Teachers Promotes from Within to Fill Emerging Managers Position

July 9, 2019, By Christine Williamson

Jose Gonzalez was promoted to investment officer of the emerging managers program at the \$51.1 billion Illinois Teachers' Retirement System.

Mr. Gonzalez, who has served as senior investment analyst for global bonds and real assets since 2015, now assumes oversight of TRS' emerging managers program, which has a target allocation of \$750 million, spokesman David Urbanek confirmed in an email.

Currently, 18 small and early stage managers run an aggregate \$501 million across a variety of asset classes for the Springfield-based pension fund. Many, but not all, of the firms in TRS' emerging managers program are women- and minority-owned companies, a news release said.

Pensions & Investments

Kentucky House Leader: Special Legislative Session Likely for July 19

July 10, 2019, By Ryland Barton

A leader in Kentucky's House of Representatives says Gov. Matt Bevin's special legislative session on pensions will have to start on July 19, or else regional universities, health departments and others will have to wait until after a critical deadline to receive relief from a massive increase in their pension costs.

Bevin has promised to call a special legislative session to address the issue, but has had trouble securing enough votes to pass his proposed solution — partly because many lawmakers have been traveling to conferences or on vacation during the summer and partly because all Democrats and a handful of Republicans don't like Bevin's proposal.

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