

## TEXAS PENSIONS

### **Texas Employees Assigns \$190 Million to 4 Alts Managers**

August 5, 2019, By Christine Williamson

Texas Employees Retirement System, Austin, committed \$190 million to four alternative investment strategies, a transaction report showed.

From the \$28.3 billion defined benefit plan's \$3.1 billion private real estate portfolio, \$100 million was committed to new manager PAG for investment in PAG Real Estate Partners II, which will seek investment opportunities in Pan-Asian countries, the July report said.

#### [Pensions & Investments](#)

### **Texas County & District Commits \$125 Million to Opportunistic U.S. Real Estate Fund**

August 6, 2019, By Christine Williamson

Texas County & District Retirement System, Austin, selected a new fund run by existing real estate manager Related Companies, a transaction report showed.

The real estate investment team of the \$28.3 billion defined benefit plan committed \$125 million to Related Real Estate Fund III, which will seek to acquire opportunistic U.S. real estate properties in sectors including retail, residential, office, hospitality and city center developments.

#### [Pensions & Investments](#)

## TEXAS ECONOMIC INDICATORS

### **Texas Oil Boom in Decline?**

August 7, 2019, By Chuck Smith

It's been a roller-coaster ride regarding the stock market and energy commodities so far this week. And if you've been paying attention to the price of oil and natural gas, you may wonder just how well those industries are doing. In recent months analysts have reported that domestic oil production has been so good that the U.S. has been producing more barrels of oil than it's importing. For example, look at the Lone Star State -- The oil boom centered in the Permian Basin of West Texas has reconfigured international markets, reshaped geopolitics and turned the US into the biggest oil producer in the world but growth in US production was underwritten by speculation. Investors looking for better returns than they could get in a low interest rate environment put a lot of money into oil companies, so a lot of drilling took place pumping tons of oil from the ground, but analysts say this has yet to deliver the profits investors were expecting...

#### [Red River Radio](#)

# NATIONAL PENSION, INVESTMENTS & LEGAL

## **Commentary: A Roadmap for Preventing U.S. Public Pension Funds from Becoming a Taxpayer Burden**

August 5, 2019, By Clive Lipshitz and Ingo Walter

Public pension benefits and contributions are heavily protected by law. So, if pension systems are unable to pay promised benefits, the burden will fall on taxpayers. Paradoxically, taxpayers have almost no voice in public pension fund governance. There is a fundamental unfairness between generations if future taxpayers have to bear the burden of decisions made by their forebears.

Plenty of factors led us to where we are today. The impact of political decisions about the level of worker benefits was not fully appreciated by voters. Pensions were promised, but legislatures failed to provide the necessary funding. Demographics shifted. Investment returns failed to meet expectations — most dramatically during the global financial crisis, when public pension assets lost more than 34% of their value.

### [Pensions & Investments](#)

#### **America's Pension Funds Fell Short in 2019**

August 6, 2019, By Heather Gillers

Public pension plans fell short of their projected returns this year, adding to the burden on governments struggling to fund promised benefits to retired workers.

Public plans with more than \$1 billion in assets earned a median return of 6.79% for the year ended June 30, the lowest since 2016, according to Wilshire Trust Universe Comparison Service data released Tuesday. Public pension plans project a median long-term return of 7.25%, according to data collected by Wilshire Associates in 2018.

### [Wall Street Journal](#)

#### **Teachers, Firefighters from California to New Jersey Seek Chinese Tech Riches**

August 7, 2019, By Shelly Banjo, Lulu Yilun Chen, Janet Lorin, and Adrian Leung

The growing tension between China and the U.S. over trade and technological dominance is shining a spotlight on the billions of dollars that U.S. pension funds and college endowments have channeled into Chinese technology companies in search of investment returns.

China has become a rising power in technologies like artificial intelligence and facial recognition software, helping fuel a trade dispute with the U.S. that escalated again over the past week with tit-for-tat measures from Washington and Beijing. Yet a large chunk of the capital behind China's success can be traced back to U.S. funds that manage money for Texas teachers, San Francisco firefighters, Minnesota policemen and Louisiana judges.

### [Los Angeles Times](#)

*The information contained in the PRB Weekly Clips is for informational purposes only and does not represent the views, positions or opinions of the Texas Pension Review Board.*