

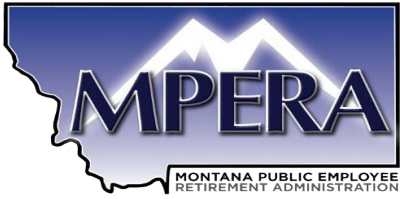


State Administration and Veterans' Affairs
July 30, 2025

William Holahan, Executive Director

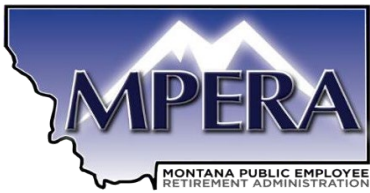
bill.holahan@mt.gov

406-444-9175



Agency Profile

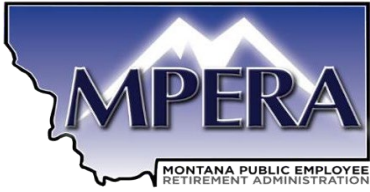
- The Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration serves active and retired public employees and public safety officers throughout the State of Montana. Its primary purpose is to administer their pension plan, which includes (but is not limited to) payment of retirement benefits, collection of member contributions and enrollment of new members.
- MPERA was established by state law in 1945. The system has grown from its initial enrollment of 1,677 members to nearly 53,192 active members, and now has trust fund assets in excess of \$10.5 billion. MPERA pays over \$620 million in retirement, disability, survivor, and minor child benefits to over 33,000 members and beneficiaries each year.



Governance

- **MPERA is governed by a seven-member Board appointed by the Governor:**
 - 2 members at large;
 - 1 member with investment management experience;
 - 1 retired public employee;
 - 1 active Defined Contribution member;
 - 2 active public employees.

(Mont. Code Ann. § 2-15-1009)
- **Board Meetings**
 - The MPERA Board meets bi-monthly (Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec)
- **The Board is responsible for the administration of the system and hires a staff of 51 to carry out these duties on a daily basis.**



Board Duties Under the Constitution

Article VIII Sec. 15 Montana Constitution

(1) Public retirement systems shall be funded on an actuarially sound basis.

Public retirement system assets, including income and actuarially required contributions, shall not be encumbered, diverted, reduced, or terminated and shall be held in trust to provide benefits to participants and their beneficiaries and to defray administrative expenses.

(2) The governing boards of public retirement systems shall administer the system, including actuarial determinations, as fiduciaries of system participants and their beneficiaries.





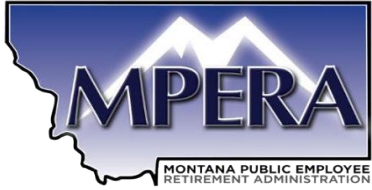
Benefit Plans and Statutes

8 Defined Benefit Plans (Public Employees' Retirement Act – 19-2-301, MCA *et seq.*)

- **Public Employees' Retirement System** (19-3-101, MCA *et seq.*)
- **Judges' Retirement System** (19-5-101, MCA *et seq.*)
- **Game Wardens' Retirement System** (19-8-101, MCA *et seq.*)
- **Sheriffs' Retirement System** (19-7-101, MCA *et seq.*)
- **Highway Patrol Officers' Retirement System** (19-6-101, MCA *et seq.*)
- **Municipal Police Officers' Retirement System** (19-9-101, MCA *et seq.*)
- **Firefighters' Unified Retirement System** (19-13-101, MCA *et seq.*)
- **Volunteer Firefighters' Compensation Act** (19-17-101, MCA *et seq.*)

2 Defined Contribution Plans

- **Public Employees' Retirement System DC Plan** (19-3-2101, MCA *et seq.*)
- **457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan** (19-50-101, MCA *et seq.*)



MPERA Participation FY2024

- State, local governments, and certain employees of the Montana University system, & school districts are covered by MPERA.
- 53,192 Active Employees Including DC and 457 Members
- 30,908 Retirees & Beneficiaries (all DB systems)
- 43,469 Inactive (all DB systems)
- 566 Employers (DB)
- 228 Volunteer Fire Departments



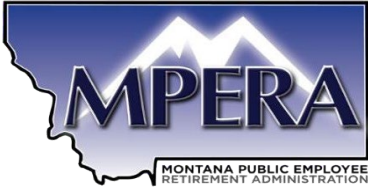
PERS Participation FY2024

➤ Full Time Active Members

– Average Salary	\$50,733
– Average Age	47
– Average Years of Service	8
– Average Hire Age	39

➤ Retired Members

– Average Annual Benefit	\$21,975
– Average Monthly Benefit	\$1,831.25
– Average Current Age	73
– Average Age at Retirement	61
– Average Service at Retirement	22

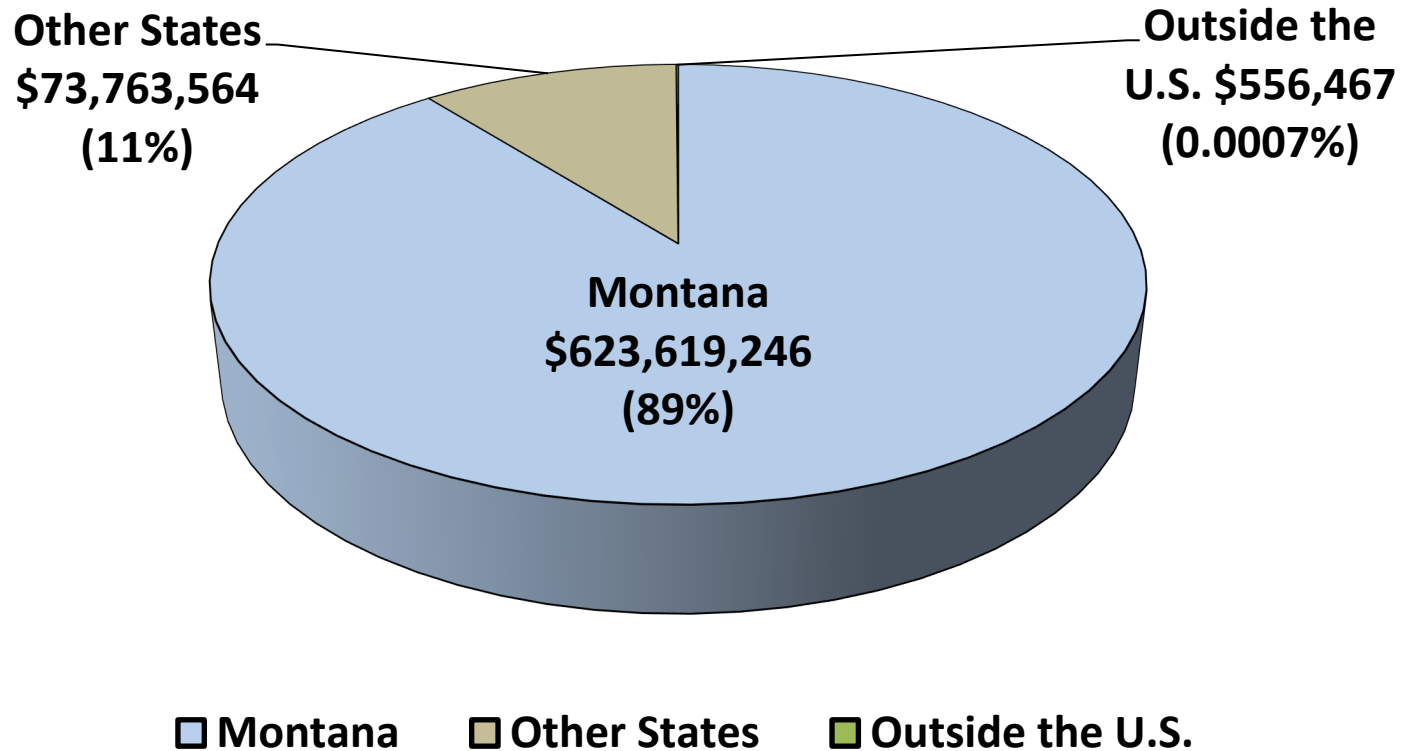


PERS Funding

- Contributions
 - Employee – 7.9%
 - Employer – 9.17%
 - State of Montana – 0.1% for local government and 0.27% for schools plus additional \$33.9M with 1% increase each year.
- Total Contributions FY 2024 = \$304.24M
- Total Benefit Payments FY 2024 = \$569M
- Funded Status as of July 1, 2024
 - 75.72% funded ratio
 - Amortization Period - 27 years
- HB 924 – Additional 0.1% contribution each year for 20 years beginning July 1, 2027

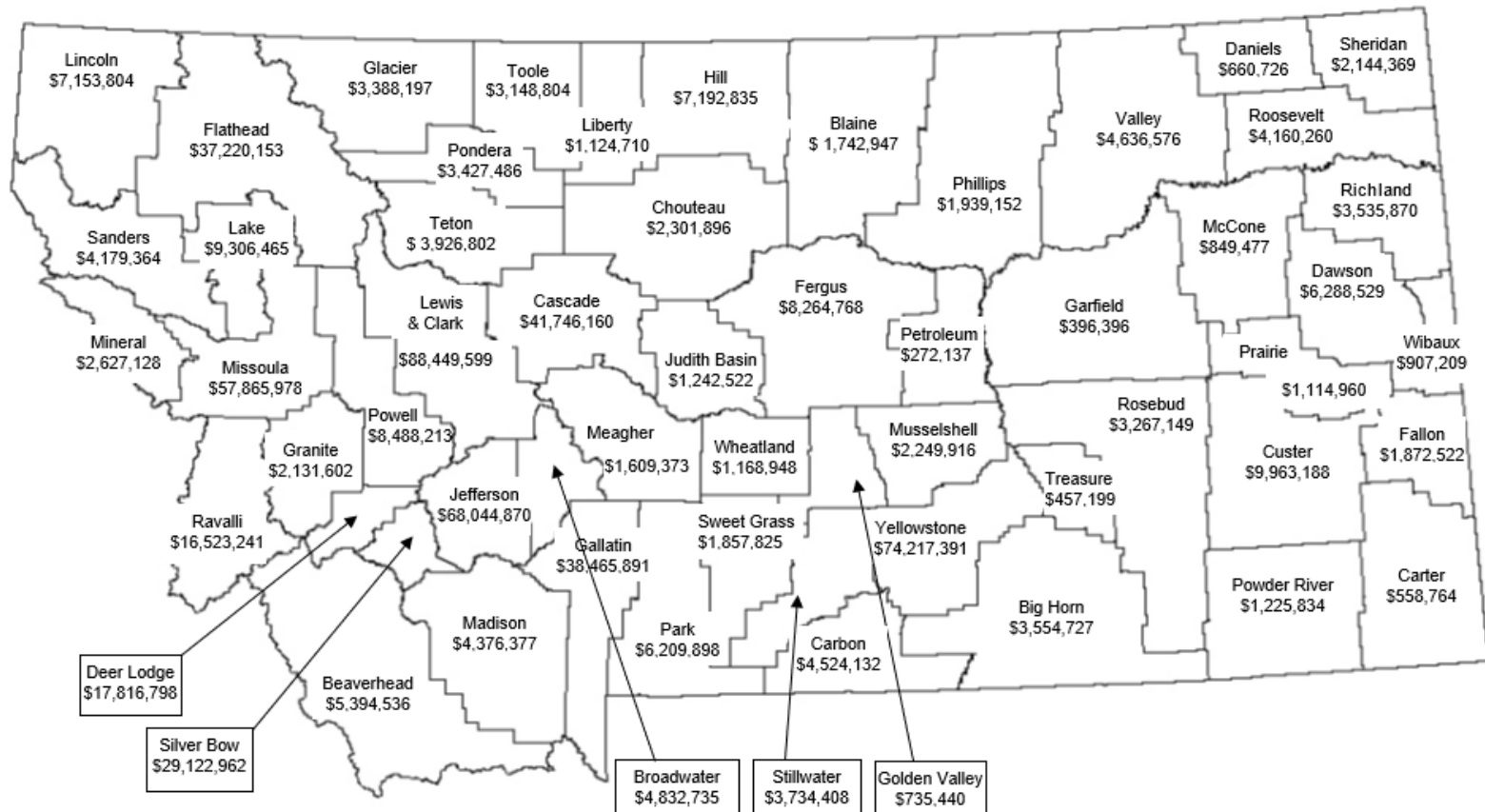


FY 2024 – Distribution of Benefits Paid



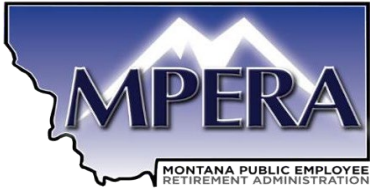
FY 2024 – Benefits Paid by County

Montana Public Employees Retirement Administration Retirement Benefits Paid Out – Fiscal Year 2024



Total Benefits Paid in Montana: \$623,619,246
Total Recipients in Montana: 33,545

Other States \$73,763,564
International \$556,467



FY 2025 Highlights

➤ **Market Rate of Return**

- Preliminary results indicate that MPERA investments earned a 9.46% market rate of return for FY 2025, which is 2.16% higher than the assumed rate of 7.30%.

➤ **Actuarial Valuation**

- The results of our July 1, 2025 actuarial valuations will be presented to the MPERB on October 9, 2025.

➤ **Actuarial Experience Study**

- During the interim, the MPERB will have an actuarial experience study conducted by its actuary and presented to the MPERB in May of 2026.



MPERA Resources

➤ Website: mpera.mt.gov

- Board Policies and Board Meeting Materials
- Actuarial Valuations, Experience Studies, and Audits
- MPERA Forms, Fact Sheets, and Reference Materials
- Contact Information – Staff Directory
- Active Member and Benefit Recipient Handbooks
- Retirement Planning Information
- Member Training Presentations
- Employer Training Presentations

Questions

