



News Release
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For immediate release

Media Contact
Kristen Basso, Communications Officer
kbasso@kpers.org, (785) 296-1759

KPERS Board Stops Future Russian Investments

At its March 25 meeting, the KPERS Board of Trustees voted to ensure that no new investments are made in Russian securities.

“As trustees, our first duty is to KPERS’ members. Our focus is always to act in their best interest and to protect the Trust Fund,” said James Zakoura, KPERS Board of Trustees Chairperson. “Since the Russian invasion, members have sent us a strong and clear message asking trustees to stop investing in Russia.”

In the face of the Russian violence waged against the people of Ukraine and the resulting market risks, the KPERS Board has taken action to ensure that no new investments are made in Russian securities.

Along with KPERS’ own effort, the pension plan will comply with any U.S. government sanctions or legislation passed by the Kansas Legislature. The Board continues to monitor the situation, and will take any additional action as needed to protect the interests of our members and their beneficiaries.

KPERS Investments

- \$35.9 million in Russian securities (preliminary as of February 25, 2022)
- Approximately 0.14% of the investment portfolio (preliminary as of February 25, 2022)
- Total Trust Fund market value approximately \$25.4 billion

The KPERS Board has nine trustees. Four are appointed by the governor, two are appointed by legislative leaders, two are elected by Retirement System members, and one is the elected state treasurer. All serve four-year terms.

KPERS provides retirement, disability and death benefits for Kansas’ state, school and local public employees. The Retirement System has more than 325,000 members and manages over \$25 billion in assets. The System also oversees KPERS 457, the state’s voluntary 457(b) deferred compensation savings plan, which has plan assets in excess of \$1 billion.

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