

BENEFITS

at a glance

For Judges Members
Hired July 1987 & After

Throughout your career, you make contributions to the Retirement System. We invest the money and pay you interest. Your employer also helps fund the System. When you retire, the Retirement System pays you a guaranteed monthly benefit for life. And while you're still working, you have life insurance and disability benefits.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Your Contributions

You contribute 6% of your salary from each paycheck. It's automatic and pretax. Your contributions earn 4% interest annually, unless you became a member before July 1993. If you leave employment you can withdraw your account balance, but you can't take a loan from your account while you are still working.

Vesting

You became "vested," when you were elected or appointed. This means you are guaranteed a retirement benefit, even if you leave employment.

Retirement Benefits

Your benefits are based on a formula with three parts: final average salary, multiplier and years of service.

- 1 For most members, **final average salary** is an average of the three highest of your last ten years of service.
- 2 The **multiplier** is set by statute at 3.5%.
- 3 You automatically earn **service credit** for the years you work in a covered position.

How Your Benefit Is Calculated

FAS × multiplier × years of service = annual benefit

Example: \$100,000 × 3.5% × 15 = \$52,500 annual benefit

The maximum benefit is 70% of your final average salary.

Will Your Pension Be Enough?

Your pension and Social Security may not be enough for a sound retirement. You need to save on your own, too. The easiest way to save is through a tax-sheltered employer plan like the State's 457(b) deferred compensation.

The State of Kansas offers KPER 457, a deferred compensation savings plan. Contributions are automatically deducted from your pay, and you can get started with as little as \$12 per pay period. Visit kpers457.org for more info.

However you choose to save, the important thing is to start. The sooner you begin, the more time your money has to grow. Socking away even a sliver of your salary could have a big impact on your retirement.

Most financial experts suggest replacing at least 80% of your income for retirement.



Increasing healthcare costs and living longer may mean you need to save even more.

TO-DO LIST

- ✓ Set up your online account access at kpers.org.
- ✓ Designate a beneficiary in your online account or with a paper form.
- ✓ Check out kpers.org for details about your Judges benefits.
- ✓ Make a plan for extra savings. Your pension may not be enough.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Disability Benefits

If the Kansas Supreme Court certifies your disability, benefits are based on the retirement formula ($FAS \times 3.5\% \times \text{years of service} = \text{annual benefit}$). The minimum benefit is 50% of your FAS and the maximum is 70%. You continue to receive service credit and basic life insurance coverage during approved disability periods. And you can continue any optional life insurance coverage.

Basic Life Insurance and Death Benefits

Basic life insurance is equal to 150% of your annual salary. The State of Kansas pays for the cost. The Retirement System also returns your contributions and interest. Your spouse may be eligible for a monthly benefit, instead of receiving your account balance if you designate him or her as your sole primary beneficiary.

Optional Life Insurance

The State of Kansas offers optional life insurance. Check with the Office of Judicial Administration about participation. You can get coverage for yourself, your spouse and children. Premiums are deducted from your pay. You can start or increase your coverage or your spouse's coverage anytime by answering a few health questions. New employees are eligible for guaranteed coverage within 31 days.

Guaranteed coverage (no health questions)

	Member	Spouse	Child
Guaranteed Coverage Max	\$250,000	\$25,000	\$20,000
Annual open enrollment	up to \$50,000 increase	up to \$25,000	\$10,000 or \$20,000
New hire	up to \$250,000	up to \$25,000	\$10,000 or \$20,000
*Family status change	up to \$50,000 increase	up to \$25,000	\$10,000 or \$20,000

*Within 31 days of marriage, divorce, birth, adoption or employment status change (member or spouse).

Anytime coverage (some health questions)

	Member	Spouse	Child
Choice of \$5,000 increments	\$5,000 min \$400,000 max	\$5,000 min \$100,000 max	only available w/new hire, open enrollment or family status change

When Can You Retire?

- Age 65 with 1 year
- Age 62 with 10 years
- Any age when your age and years of service added together equal 85 (85 points)
- Reduced benefits at age 55 with 10 years
- All judges must retire at age 75

You'll receive a guaranteed monthly benefit for the rest of your life. You can also choose from different payment options if you want to leave a monthly benefit for someone after your death or get some of your benefit in an up-front lump sum at retirement.

This is important – your benefits don't include an automatic cost-of-living increase. You'll need to save extra on your own to keep pace with inflation.

Questions?

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