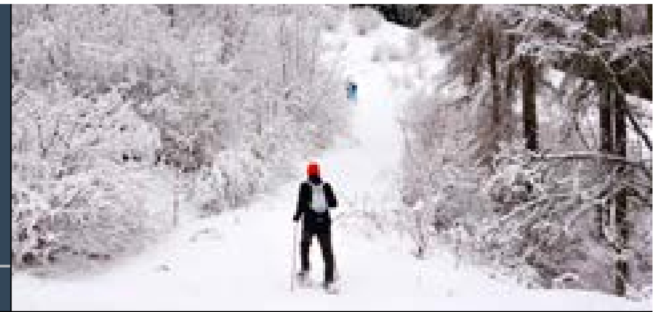
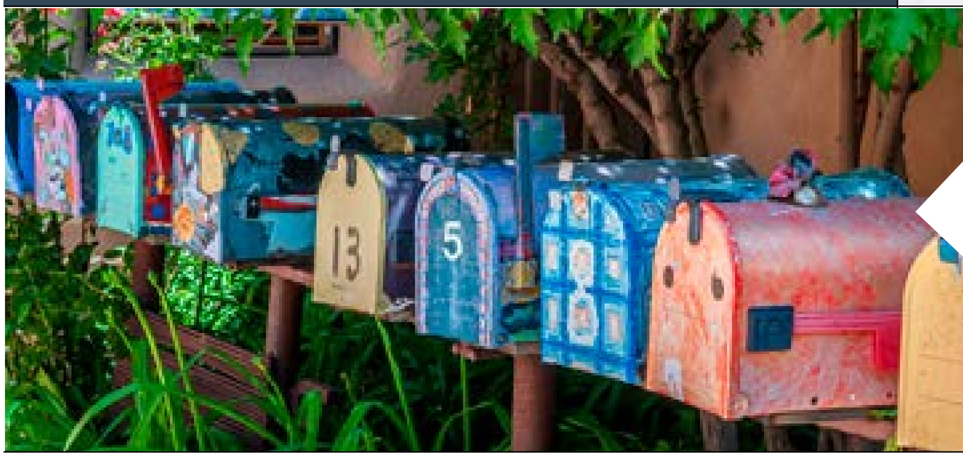
MERS
Municipal Employees' Retirement System

RETIREE NEWS

JANUARY 2025





Look in your mailbox

For your convenience, a printed version of this newsletter is also being mailed to you.

Your 1099-R will be mailed and available online

As a defined benefit retiree, you will receive a Form 1099-R issued by MERS. This form will be mailed by January 31, 2025, and will also be available online.

If you are receiving a benefit from multiple employers, you will receive a Form 1099-R for each. Also, if you reached age 59½ in 2024, you will receive one Form 1099-R for the benefits you received before that date and one for the benefits you received after that date, to comply with IRS' coding requirements. This form will be accessible online by January 31, 2025.

To retrieve your 1099-R online, log in to your myMERS account at mersofmich.com and select "**DB Monthly Pension**" from the "**Accounts**" section. Then from the options on the right side, select "**View 1099 Records**".

If you withdrew money from your MERS Defined Contribution Plan, MERS 457 Program or MERS IRA account during 2024, you will receive a second Form 1099-R issued by Alerus Retirement and Benefits for each account that you took a distribution from. Forms will be mailed by January 31, 2025, and can also be retrieved in your myMERS account. After selecting the appropriate plan from the "**Accounts**" section, find and select "**View My Statements**" under the options on the right side, and choose the document type "**Form 1099-R**" from the dropdown list. If you took distributions from multiple MERS plans, you will have to download each form separately.

How to Read Your 1099-R From MERS

☐ CORRECTED (if checked)

PAYER'S name, street address, city or town, state or province, country, ZIP or foreign postal code, and telephone no.	1 Gross distribution $	OMB No. 1545-0119 2024 Form 1099-R		Distributions From Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit-Sharing Plans, IRAs, Insurance Contracts, etc.
	2a Taxable amount $			
	2b Taxable amount not determined ☐	Total distribution ☐		Copy B Report this income on your federal tax return. If this form shows federal income tax withheld in box 4, attach this copy to your return.
PAYER'S TIN / RECIPIENT'S TIN	3 Capital gain (included in box 2a) $	4 Federal income tax withheld $		
RECIPIENT'S name	5 Employee contributions/ Designated Roth contributions or insurance premiums $	6 Net unrealized appreciation in employer's securities $		
Street address (including apt. no.)	7 Distribution code(s) / IRA/ SEP/ SIMPLE ☐	8 Other $ %		This information is being furnished to the IRS.
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code	9a Your percentage of total distribution %	9b Total employee contributions $		
10 Amount allocable to IRR within 5 years $ / 11 1st year of desig. Roth contrib. / 12 FATCA filing requirement ☐	14 State tax withheld $ $	15 State/Payer's state no.	16 State distribution $ $	
Account number (see instructions) / 13 Date of payment	17 Local tax withheld $ $	18 Name of locality	19 Local distribution $ $	

Form 1099-R www.irs.gov/Form1099R Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service

Box 1: Gross distribution – The total retirement benefit (both taxable and non-taxable) paid to you for the calendar year, before any deductions.

Box 2a: Taxable amount – The portion of your retirement benefit that is taxable. If you made personal after-tax contributions to your defined benefit plan, this amount should equal Box 1 minus Box 5.

Box 2b: Taxable amount not determined – This box is checked if we were unable to verify the taxable amount because you were already retired when your former employer joined MERS.

Box 4: Federal income tax withheld – Amount of federal income tax withheld from your benefit in 2024.

Box 5: Employee contributions/Designated Roth contributions or insurance premiums – If you made personal after-tax contributions to your defined benefit plan, this box shows the portion of those contributions you are allowed to claim for 2024. This is NOT Designated Roth contributions or insurance premiums.

Box 7: Distribution code(s) – The type of benefit you received. Code descriptions are found on the back of Form 1099-R.

Box 9b: Total employee contributions – If 2024 was the first calendar year that you received a retirement benefit payment, this box will show the total amount of personal after-tax contributions you made to your defined benefit plan.

Box 14: State tax withheld – The total of Michigan state tax withheld from your benefit in 2024. MERS only withholds state tax for the state of Michigan.

Account number: Unique number assigned by MERS to distinguish your account.

Updating your tax withholding

Changes to your tax withholding can be completed through your myMERS account. To make a change, log into your myMERS account, look under "**Accounts**" and select "**DB Monthly Pension**" then click on "**View Plan Summary**" on the right. You will be directed to your Account Detail – Summary, where the Tax Elections section is located and click "**Edit Federal Tax**" or "**Edit State Tax**". If you need to make tax withholding changes to benefits you are receiving from more than one employer, you can click "**Next Employer**" in the tan header to switch plans.

Does MERS need to know?

When major life events happen, it's a good idea to ask yourself if this is something that you should tell MERS about. Below is a list of common reasons you may want to contact MERS and the best way to tell us that your circumstances have changed.

You have moved. You can change your mailing and email addresses in your myMERS account. First, select any of your MERS retirement plans under the "Accounts" section. Then, under the options on the right side, select the "Edit My Profile" link. You may also call the MERS Service Center for assistance.

You have a new bank. Changes to your direct deposit information can be completed through your myMERS account. To make a change, look under "Accounts" and select "DB Monthly Pension" then click on "View Plan Summary." You will be directed to your Account Detail – Summary page, where you should locate the "Edit Payment Method" section on the left.

You have divorced. If you divorce, you must provide a certified copy of the judgment of divorce to MERS.

Your survivor beneficiary has died. If you elected a survivor benefit when you retired and your beneficiary predeceases you, their death may increase the benefit you receive to the full straight life amount. You must provide MERS a copy of the death certificate within six months to collect the increased amount effective as of the month after your beneficiary's death. After that date, your new payment amount will be effective the month after we receive the death certificate.

You may submit documents three ways:

- File upload through your myMERS account (select "**DB Monthly Pension**" then "**Upload Files**")
- Fax to **517.703.9706**
- Mail to **MERS of Michigan, 1134 Municipal Way, Lansing, MI 48917**

Protect Yourself and Your Future with an Estate Plan

An ideal estate plan will describe your wishes as clearly as possible in the event you're incapacitated or pass away. Depending on your circumstances, you may need several documents.

- A **will** is the most recognized tool for expressing your final wishes.
- An **advance care directive** or "living will" specifies the medical treatment you want in case you can't make choices for yourself.
- A **health care proxy** designates someone to make choices about your medical care when you are unable to do so.
- **Statements of intent** express preferences for the guardians and trustees who will carry out your wishes.

The effectiveness of your estate plan depends mainly on the people you select to take over for you. Make sure you think carefully about the roles you'll need to fill.

- The **executor** is responsible for carrying out the provisions of your will.
- A **trustee** manages a trust you created.
- A **guardian** assumes legal responsibility for your dependents.

Careful planning may be essential to conserve your assets and reduce taxes. Many people use trusts that allow the trustee to direct assets on behalf of a beneficiary.

- A **living trust** allows you to remain both the trustee and the beneficiary of the trust while you're alive.
- A **qualified personal residence trust** may allow you to remove a residence from your estate.
- A **generation-skipping trust** may be used to leave money to grandchildren without giving them immediate access to it.
- A **special needs trust** may be used to finance long-term needs for a dependent who is unable to fully manage their own affairs.

You should work with a qualified estate planning expert to advise you on the details involved and make sure your wishes are clearly and legally expressed.

MONTH
18

2025 Pension Payments

Payments go out on the 18th of the month or one business day before a weekend or holiday.

- January 17
- February 18
- March 18
- April 18
- May 16
- June 18
- July 18
- August 18
- September 18
- October 17
- November 18
- December 18

MERS®
Municipal Employees' Retirement System

1134 Municipal Way
Lansing, MI 48917

Contact us

MERS Service Center is available 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday to answer your questions.

Call us at **800.767.6377**.

Or visit **www.mersofmich.com** and click "Contact Us" to:

Live Chat with us

Schedule time to review your questions over the phone with the **1-on-1 Scheduler**

Download the myMERS App today!

You can access your MERS account quickly and securely through our new myMERS app. It's available to download in the App Store® and Google Play®. Simply search for myMERS in your device's app marketplace.

myMERS

Scan Me

PUB 9544a 2024-12-13