Pension Rates for February 2022 Increase by 11% for ERS and 16% for PFRS

September 3, 2020

The New York State and Local Retirement System (NYSLRS) today announced employer contribution rates for the State Fiscal Year 2021-22 will increase from 14.6 percent to 16.2 percent of payroll for the Employees’ Retirement System (ERS) and from 24.4 percent to 28.3 percent of payroll for the Police and Fire Retirement System (PFRS). This means that rates for ERS and PFRS will increase 11 percent and 16 percent, respectively. Payments based on the new rates are due by Feb. 1, 2022, with employers receiving a discount if payment is made by Dec. 15, 2021.

It is Optional for Employers to Provide the Employee Payroll Tax Deferral

On August 28, 2020, The U.S. Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) released guidance on President Trump’s Executive Order of August 8, 2020, relating to deferral of certain payroll taxes. The guidance allows -- but does not require -- employers to defer withholding and paying the employee’s portion of the Social Security payroll tax from September 1 through December 31, 2020, if the employee’s wages are below a certain amount.

If an employer opts into the program, the deferral -- which is NOT a tax cut -- would ultimately have to be collected and remitted by the employer during the first four months of 2021. The employer is liable for the remittance of the deferred payroll taxes by April 30, 2021, even if they are unable to collect it from the employee (e.g., the employee leaves employment with the employer). Moreover, any deferred employee Social Security taxes not deposited by April 30, 2021, will be subject to interest and penalties.

The order does not affect the Medicare portion of the payroll tax (1.45%), nor does the order affect the employer portion of the payroll tax, so these will still have to be withheld and deposited on a timely basis. The deferral is available with respect to any employee whose wages or compensation during any bi-weekly pay period generally are less than $4,000, calculated on a pre-tax basis, or the equivalent amount with respect to other pay cycles.

NYCOM's Virtual Fall Training School - Register Today!
The response to NYCOM's Virtual Fall Training School, September 22-24, is going strong, with more than 200 city and village officials already registered. NYCOM has worked closely with our conference partners at the Office of the State Comptroller, the NYS Association of City and Village Clerks, and the NYS Society of Municipal Finance Officers to develop productive and creative ways to engage you in virtual learning on the many responsibilities you have as a municipal official.

Please review the tentative agenda [here](#), which has been updated with descriptions and speakers for the nearly 40 webinars and meetings. Below is a sampling of some of the sessions:

- Developing an Operational Plan for Emergencies
- Open Meetings Law
- Social Media: Content Production and Community Building
- Working from Home and Managing Employees from a Distance
- Albany/Washington Update
- Work-Life Balance and Managing Stress
- FOIL and the Recent Amendment Impacting Police Disciplinary Records
- Policies and Procedures: The Must-Haves and Should-Haves
- Managing Your Budget in a Time of Fiscal Stress
- E-bikes, E-scooters and Traffic Redesign
- Meeting and Minutes
- Protests and Political Signs: Local Government and the First Amendment
- FEMA Reimbursement
- Leave Time Policies in the Age of Travel Restrictions and Mandatory Quarantine Orders

Prior to the beginning of the Virtual Fall Training School, NYCOM will be sending all of the attendees a link to the conference app, which will allow you to interactively engage with speakers, exhibitors and your fellow municipal officials. It will also enable you to set your schedule, submit pictures for the photo contest, compete for prizes, and much more. If you haven't yet registered, please do so today.

[REGISTER HERE](#)