

IN THIS ISSUE

Vote in the 2025 COAERS Board of Trustees Election... 1

COAERS Launches Financial Wellness Resource... 1

Benefits 101: Applying for Retirement... 2

Benefits Enrollment is Open...2

Protecting Against Cyber Scams...2

Board News Breakdown... 3

Member Summit Spotlight... 3

Inside the Experience of the First COAERS Intern... 3

Events Calendar... 4

CONTACT COAERS

Our staff is available to assist members via telephone appointments, in-person appointments or Virtual Visits. Please contact us to schedule an appointment.

Monday - Friday
8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tel: (512) 458-2551

www.coaers.org/contact
member.services@coaers.org

COAERS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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VOTE IN THE BOARD ELECTION

YOUR COAERS ELECTION GUIDE



The voting period is now open for the 2025 Board of Trustees election for Place 8 and Place 9. From now until December 1st at 5 pm, active City of Austin employees can cast their votes.

This year, two members declared their candidacy for the two open Board positions. You can learn about both candidates in this election by reading their candidate statements on the COAERS website at www.coaers.org/board-elections. Candidate statements contain information about each candidate, their experiences and qualifications, and their reason for wanting to serve on the COAERS Board of Trustees.

How to Vote in the Election

Active members have the option to cast their vote through either a paper ballot, which was mailed to all active members, or by voting online.

Paper Ballots

On the paper ballot, mark your vote, place it in the pre-paid stamped envelope, and mail it via postal mail. Ballots must be received before the voting deadline.

Online Voting

Active members can also vote online. Online voting information (your personalized election code and PIN) is located on the paper ballot. Active members who have an email

on file with COAERS also received election information via email from COAERS election partner YesElections with a unique voter identification code and pin.

- Visit the voting website at vote.yeselections.com/COAERS
- Log in via your unique election code and PIN,
- Mark your selections, and click submit to vote

The deadline to vote is by 5 pm on December 1, 2025.

COAERS Launches New Financial Wellness Resource

Financial wellness goes beyond numbers on a page. It's about building a strong foundation that supports long-term goals, complements retirement benefits, and empowers informed decision-making to help members feel more confident about their financial future. To support that journey, COAERS has launched Moneywise, a new financial wellness newsletter and online hub designed to help members take control of their finances at every stage of life. Explore the financial tips, educational resources and more at www.coaers.org/financialwellness.

Retirement is a major life event, and COAERS is here to help make the process smooth and stress-free. Whether you're planning ahead or ready to take the next step, this guide walks you through how to prepare and apply for retirement

Step 1: Know When You're Eligible

You can retire and begin receiving monthly benefit payments when you meet one of these requirements:

Group B

- Age 62 or older with at least 30 years of Service Credit; or
- Age 65 or older with at least 5 years of Service Credit

For Group A members, you can view the eligibility requirements by visiting www.coaers.org/retirement-eligibility.

Step 2: Start Preparing Early

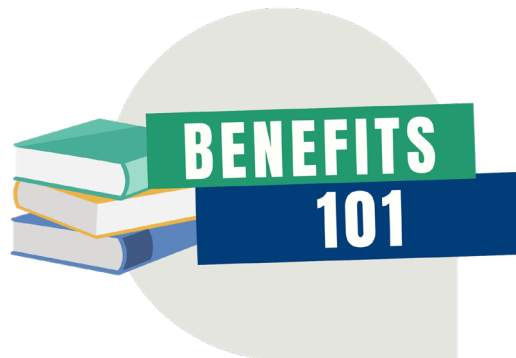
Retirement planning should begin well before your last day of work. Here are a few helpful steps:

- Attend a pre-retirement seminar about two years before you plan to retire. These monthly virtual sessions cover your benefit options, insurance details, and deferred compensation plans. You can register through your MemberDirect account.
- Talk to professionals if you need legal, financial, or tax advice.
- Practice living on your retirement income for a few months to get a feel for your future budget.
- Update COAERS about any proportionate service if you've worked for another eligible Texas retirement system. We rely on you to keep this information current.

Step 3: Contact COAERS

Before applying, schedule a phone, virtual, or in-person appointment with a Member Services Specialist. If you're married, your spouse should attend too, since they may need to sign your retirement documents.

To schedule an appointment, email member.services@coaers.org, call (512) 458-2551, or visit www.coaers.org/appointment.



Step 4: Submit Your Application

You can begin the retirement application process up to 90 days before your retirement date. All retirement dates fall on the last day of the month. For example, if you plan to retire in March, your retirement date would be March 31. You can apply online through your MemberDirect account. If you don't have an account, you can register at www.coaers.org.

Step 5: Complete Your Forms and Gather Your Documents

Your Member Services Specialist will provide a checklist of everything you need. This includes:

- Retirement application and annuity selection form
- Notice of Intent to Retire (must be submitted at least 30 days before your retirement date)
- W-4P tax withholding form
- Proof of identity, birth date, and tax identification for you and your survivor (if applicable)
- Banking information for direct deposit

All documents must be submitted before your retirement date. Missing or late paperwork may delay or cancel your retirement.

Step 6: Plan for Your First Payment

Your first monthly benefit payment will be deposited on the last business day of the month after your retirement date. For example, if you retire on March 31, your first payment will arrive on April 30. If that day falls on a weekend, it will be paid the Friday before.

Retirement is a new beginning, and COAERS is here to support you every step of the way. For more information, visit www.coaers.org/ready-to-retire.

Benefits Enrollment Period is Now Open

Open Enrollment is an opportunity for retired members to make changes to current health, dental, vision, or other benefits coverage for the upcoming year. Retiree open enrollment will close on November 10 at midnight.

How to Enroll or Make Changes

This year, retirees can make changes to your benefits via the City's Workday portal, the newly implemented system where retirees can access your retiree benefits information and make benefits.

If it is your first time logging in or for assistance with access to the portal, your username can be found in your 2026 Open Enrollment Packet or you may email the Benefits Division at Benefits.HRD@austintexas.gov to obtain your username credentials.

To make benefits changes by phone, call (888) 584-2919. Telephone enrollment is available Monday through Friday from 7 am to 8 pm.

For more information on retiree benefits, including a Medicare Advantage video and FAQs, visit www.austintexas.gov/retirees.

Protect Against Cyber Scams

Each year, millions of Americans fall victim to some type of financial fraud. Protect yourself by increasing your cybersecurity awareness and following these helpful tips:

- Slow down—scammers use urgency to trick you.
- Never share personal information or send money to unverified sources.
- Keep your devices secure with updated software.
- Always think before you click on any emails, links, or text messages.

Report Fraud

If you believe you or someone you know may have been a victim of elder fraud, file a complaint at the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

Board News Breakdown

These highlights are a summary of actions taken and topics discussed by the COAERS Board.

COAERS Board Updates

In August, the Board Committees met to receive updates about the Fund's performance, discuss the COAERS Private Markets Program, and receive information about the organization's Cybersecurity Program and ongoing work to enhance systems for disaster recovery.

Trustees also received a report on the current Request for Proposal for actuarial consulting services and the 2026 administrative budget priorities. At the Board's September meeting, Trustees discussed capital expenditures for 2025 and 2026 related to the 4700 Mueller building.

Investment Update

In July, COAERS announced the appointment of Albourne as its new Private Markets Investment Consultant, following a competitive and comprehensive Request for Proposal (RFP) process. This strategic engagement underscores the System's commitment to delivering long-term value and financial security to its members through prudent and sophisticated investment oversight.

Albourne will provide non-discretionary consulting services across the private markets spectrum, including strategic planning, pacing, portfolio construction, manager selection, and performance evaluation. In close collaboration with the COAERS Board and investment staff, Albourne will help guide the System's private markets investments to ensure they remain aligned with long-term goals and fiduciary responsibilities. In 2024, the COAERS Board approved new target allocations of 8% to private equity and 10% to private credit.

Making History: Inside the Experience of the First COAERS Intern

This May, COAERS announced the launch of its first-ever internship program, inviting eager students and recent graduates to learn about the impactful work of the retirement system. The internship offers a unique opportunity to work alongside experienced professionals in a collaborative environment, gaining real-world knowledge in public pensions, pension administration, investments, finance, member services, communications, and more.



After receiving hundreds of qualified applicants, COAERS selected Alejandra Peredes to join the team as its first intern. Marking a historic moment, Alejandra completed the 10-week internship program where she engaged in projects across various departments, learned how retirement benefits are managed and how investment strategies support long-term financial security for public employees, participated in mentorship opportunities, and contributed to initiatives that directly impact the retirement system's valued members.

Learn more about Alejandra and her internship experience at www.coaers.org.

Visit www.coaers.org/internship for information about the COAERS Internship Program.

COAERS Welcomed Members to the 2025 Member Summit

In July, COAERS held its annual Member Summit at the System's headquarters at 4700 Mueller Blvd. During an afternoon dedicated to retirement education and member engagement, COAERS welcomed members for a conference-style event.

The Member Summit is a cornerstone of COAERS' commitment to transparency, member service, retirement readiness, and financial literacy. Designed to bring meaningful value to both active and retired members, the event featured a series of structured presentations, interactive Q&A segments, and access to planning resources tailored to various career stages.

You can watch the event and review the session materials by visiting www.coaers.org. For more events, visit www.coaers.org/calendar.



CONNECT WITH US

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IMPORTANT 2025 DATES

NOVEMBER

11/6 Financial Wellness Seminar - Sandwich Generation
11/10 Open Enrollment Ends
11/11 Veterans Day - Holiday Office Closure
11/19 Retiree Resources Seminar - Aging Services in Austin
11/20 Virtual Pre-Retirement Seminar
11/27 & 11/28 Thanksgiving - Holiday Office Closure
11/28 Retiree Annuity Issue Date

DECEMBER

12/1 Active Member Place 8 and Place 9 Voting Deadline
12/1 Retirement Application Deadline
12/17 Virtual Pre-Retirement Seminar
12/18 Virtual Pre-Retirement Seminar Spanish
12/18 Board Meeting
12/24 & 12/25 Christmas - Holiday Office Closure
12/31 Retiree Annuity Issue Date

****30-DAY RETIREMENT APPLICATION DEADLINES****

To retire during your intended month, the retirement application must be submitted at least 30 calendar days prior to your retirement date. You can review the deadlines here: www.coaers.org/retirement-application-deadlines. Contact Member Services for any questions or assistance regarding retirement deadlines.

COAERS

CITY OF AUSTIN

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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The COAERS Connect newsletter is a publication of the City of Austin Employees Retirement System and is distributed as a courtesy to Active, Vested, and Retired Members and their beneficiaries. While COAERS has made every attempt to provide correct information, it does not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained or referenced herein.

CITY OF AUSTIN EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

FALL 2025
NEWSLETTER

