

## Vested Pension Rights

### What is vesting?

Vesting is the concept used to determine whether you are entitled to a pension benefit

### You become vested in ERS by either:

- Working a certain number of years, or
- Reaching age 60 (age 57 for Deputy Sheriffs) while employed for the County, or
- If you begin employment after normal retirement age

### An employee with vested rights is entitled to pension benefits:

- You may continue to work until, and after, you are eligible to retire, or
- You may terminate employment and be eligible for pension benefits when you reach age 60 (age 57 for Deputy Sheriffs)

### Vesting based on years of service

(For employees other than Deputy Sheriffs)

- Were you enrolled in ERS as a new employee prior to January 1, 1971?
  - *You are vested*
- Were you enrolled in ERS as a new employee from January 1, 1971 through December 31, 1981, and did you terminate employment prior to January 1, 2001?
  - *You need six (6) years to be vested*
- Were you enrolled in ERS as a new employee from January 1, 1982 through December 31, 2000, and did you terminate employment prior to January 1, 2001?
  - *You need ten (10) years to be vested*
- Were you enrolled in ERS as a new employee on or after January 1, 1971, and were you an active employee on or after January 1, 2001?
  - *You need five (5) years to be vested*
- Were you a non-represented employee of Doyme Hospital or a member of the Nurses & Health Professionals union who resigned your employment from September 1, 1995 through December 31, 1995?
  - *You need seven (7) years to be vested*

### Additional information

**All prior service with the City of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin Retirement Systems is credited toward the Milwaukee County ERS vesting requirements**

NOTE: If you have met the years of service vesting criteria and you terminate employment with Milwaukee County prior to reaching eligibility to retire:

- ***You must contact ERS when you reach age 60 (age 57 for Deputy Sheriffs) to apply for your deferred vested retirement***

Additional information may be found in Milwaukee County Ordinances, Chapter 201. Section 4.5, Section 5.5, Section 4.1, Section 5.1, and your union contract

## How can I contact ERS?

### **In Milwaukee**

**Telephone: 414-278-4207**

### **Outside Milwaukee**

**Toll free: 877-652-6377  
(877 ML CO ERS)**

Website:

Internet

[www.county.milwaukee.gov/retirement](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/retirement)

Or Intranet

[www.county.milwaukee.gov/ContactUs](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/ContactUs)

Where is ERS located?

Employment Retirement System

Courthouse Room 210

901 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street

Milwaukee, WI 53233

### **Disclaimer**

**This pamphlet is only a guide. The pension Ordinance and Pension Board Rules govern your rights.**

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