

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?
 - o *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?
 - o *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?
 - o *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?
 - o *You need five (5) years to be vested*
- Were you a non-represented employee of Doyne Hospital or a member of the Nurses & Health Professionals union who resigned your employment from September 1, 1995 through December 31, 1995?
 - o *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:

- o ***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

Intranet:

www.county.milwaukee.gov/ContactUs

Where is ERS located?

Employees' Retirement System

Courthouse Room 210

901 N. 9th Street

Milwaukee, WI 53233

Disclaimer

This brochure highlights certain aspects of your ERS benefits. In an effort to keep the brochure's language as clear and non-technical as possible, the information provided is only a brief overview of your benefits.

For a more detailed description of our benefits, including limitations on the exclusions, please consult the County Ordinances and Pension Board Rules. (General Ordinances of County of Milwaukee/Ord. Section 201.24 and Appendix B).

You should also consult any Collective Bargaining Agreements ("CBA") applicable to your position.

The information contained in this brochure is current through 10/9/2009.

Subsequent changes to Ordinances, Rules or CBA or later determined interpretations or Ordinances or Rules may affect the information in this brochure.

In case of any ambiguity or contradiction between the information in this brochure and the Ordinances and Rules, the Ordinances and Rules will govern.

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