# Analysis of Current KPERS Plan

Stuart Sedlacek November 2011

# Analysis of Current KPERS Plan

- Sustainability of Current Plan Part I
- Expected Compounded Rates of Return
- Sustainability of Current Plan Part II
- Defined Contribution vs Defined Benefit
- A Possible Way Forward

#### Funding Adequacy by Employee at 8.00% Compounded Annual Investment Return



→ Conclusion: At 8% compounded annual investment return, the KPERS Plan is adequately funded for employees working 25 years or more

#### **Expected Compounded Annual Investment Returns**

Two factors will reduce the KPERS Plan's expected compounded annual investment returns (ECAIR):

- Volatility of returns: expected volatility of returns reduces the ECAIR. How? Consider the simple example where annual returns have a mean of 8% and a standard deviation of 10%:
  - Year One return = 8% + 10% = 18% ; Year Two return = 8% 10% = -2%
  - Two year compound return = (1 + 18%) x (1 2%) = 1.1564
  - Average Compound Return = Square Root of  $(1.1564) = 1.07536 \rightarrow CAIR = 7.536\%$
  - Theoretical ECAIR of normally distributed returns (μ=8%, σ=10%) = 7.5319%
  - For the KPERS Plan ( $\mu$ =8.00%,  $\sigma$ =10.29%), ECAIR = 7.509%, a reduction of approximately 0.50% from the mean 8% return

#### **Expected Compounded Annual Investment Returns**

#### Historical Compounded Returns Support a 4.5% Real Compounded Annualized Investment Return

dex	Time Period		Nomii	nal Return	Rea	al Return	Portfolio	Wtd Real Compound Return	
posite In			Average	Compound	Average	Compound	Weight	L/T Average	1976-2010
	1960-2010 1976-2010		10.71%	9.43%	6.45%	5.14%			
Com			11.99%	10.65%	7.68%	6.39%			3.51%
S&P	75-Year	Minimum			6.90%	5.09%	55%		
cks –		Average			8.16%	6.47%		3.56%	
Sto		Maximum			9.70%	8.02%			
0	Time Period		Nominal		Real		Portfolio	tfolio Wtd Real Compound	
sgate			Yield	Compound Rtn	Yield	Compound Rtn	Weight	L/T Average	1976-2010
\ggr€	1960-2010		5.68%	5.67%	2.67%	2.66%	150/	1.20%	
∢ ,	1	.976-2010	6.05%	6.68%	3.14%	3.68%†	4378		1.66%
Total	Less: Management Fees							(.40%)	(.40%)
	Portfolio Return						4.36%	4.77%‡	

<sup>+</sup> Average Annual Price Return of 1.02%

**‡** Compares to actual KPERS return of 4.92%

➢ Based upon historical averages, the Real Expected Compounded Annual Investment Return likely to be close to 4.50% → or Nominal Return of 7.50% with 3% Inflation

#### Funding Adequacy by Employee at 7.50% Compounded Annual Investment Return



→ Conclusion: At 7.5% compounded annual investment return, the Plan is adequately funded for employees working 30 years or more

# Expected Compounded Annual Investment Returns (Continued)

Two factors will reduce the KPERS Plan's expected compounded annual investment returns (ECAIR):

2) Low Bond Market Yields: expected returns will be reduced due to current Bond Market Yields which are 2% to 2.5% (average 2.25%) below long-term historical averages

How? Consider the following two scenarios:

- a) If current interest rates become the "new norm", expected bond market yields (and returns) will be 2.25% below the historical average, reducing the KPERS Plan returns by 2.25% x .45 ≈ 1.01%
- b) If interest rates rise over time (say 5 to 10 years) to return to the historical average, the average yield of a bond portfolio will be below the historical average AND will be further reduced by the decline in principal value due to rising interest rates:
  - Impact on average 20-year KPERS Plan return: 0.60% to 0.75% lower
  - Impact on average 30-year KPERS Plan return: 0.40% to 0.50% lower
  - Impact on average 40-year KPERS Plan return: 0.35% to 0.40% lower

 $\rightarrow$  Conclusion: due to volatility and lower bond returns, the KPERS Plan's expected compounded annual return is likely to be 0.85% to 1.25% below the stated 8% return

#### Funding Adequacy by Employee at 7.00% Compounded Annual Investment Return



→ Conclusion: At 7% compounded annual investment return, the Plan is adequately funded for employees working 30 years or more; not fully funded for early retirees

#### Funding Adequacy by Employee at 6.75% Compounded Annual Investment Return



→ Conclusion: At 6.75% compounded annual investment return, the Plan is adequately funded for employees working 35 years or more; not fully funded for early retirees

#### Variability of Returns as a Function of Investment Time Horizon



→ Average Annual Investment Returns become much more certain with long investment time horizons

#### Likelihood of Realizing 8% Compound Annual Investment Return



Note: with 6.75% Mean Return, there is a 22.1% probability of achieving 8% or higher return and even with an 8.00% Mean Return, there is a 50% probability of achieving 8% or lower return

#### Likelihood of Funding Pension Liability<sup>+</sup>



Final Accumulated Fund Balance (\$000) at Retirement per \$10,000 Beginning Salary

+ Results of 100,000 simulations of 30-year employee

‡ Assumes 7.5% expected annual non-compounded investment return

#### Attributes of Selected Retirement Plans

	Investment	Risk/Upside	Fixed/Known		Transferable At Death	
Plan Type	Accumulation Period	Distribution Period	Retirement Payment	Portable		
Defined Benefit	Plan Sponsor	Plan Sponsor	Yes	No	No	
Defined Contribution	Participant	Participant	No/Yes†	Yes	Yes	
Cash-Value Pension	Plan Sponsor or Participant*	Plan Sponsor or Participant*	No/Yes†	Varies‡	Varies‡	

- \* Typically, the Plan Sponsor will credit a fixed or market-based return (e.g., Moody A-Rated Corporate Bond Yield) but may be invested as rest of Defined Contribution Plan
- The cash balance at retirement may be annuitized as part of the Plan, if available, or may used to purchase an immediate annuity from a third-party provider
- **‡** Feature may or may not be available during employment but is available after retirement

#### Attributes of Defined Contribution Plans

An individually-owned Defined Contribution Plan has at least two significant advantages over a Defined Benefit Plan:

#### 1) From an investment perspective:

a) because each participant has his/her own portfolio, the employee can create a personalized investment strategy using their own time horizon which raises their expected returns. For example:

Voars to	Percen	tage in	Expected A	Annual Return	Annual Volatility				
Retirement	Stocks	Bonds	Stated	Compounded	For 1 Vear	Time-Adjusted			
	Stocks	bonus	Stated	compounded	TOTITE	To Retirement	To Average Payout*		
16 to 40	100%	0%	10.49%	9.00%	18.11%	3.42%	2.94%		
11 to 15	80%	20%	9.46%	8.45%	15.05%	3.89%	3.14%		
6 to 10	75%	25%	9.20%	8.26%	14.30%	5.06%	3.37%		
0 to 5	60%	40%	8.43%	7.75%	12.09%	7.65%	3.42%		

\* Assumes retirement payout of 20 years

#### Likelihood of Funding Pension Liability<sup>+</sup>



Final Accumulated Fund Balance (\$000) at Retirement per \$10,000 Beginning Salary

250

275

300

325

140.2

137.7

500

475

126.8

124.2

425

115.6

113.6

400

375

7.25%

7.50%

350

134.7

131.6

450

+ Results of 100,000 simulations of 30-year employee

125

150

175

200

225

40%

30% 20%

10% 0% 25

50

75

100

## Attributes of Defined Contribution Plans (Continued)

An individually-owned Defined Contribution Plan has at least two significant advantages over a Defined Benefit Plan:

- 1) From an investment perspective (continued):
  - b) because each participant has his/her own portfolio, the employee benefits from up-side investment performance and results
- 2) From a portability perspective: the employee has an asset which they do not forfeit in the case of change of employment and death:
  - a) The employee can take the fund balance with them if they change employers
  - b) The heirs of the employee inherit the fund balance when the individual dies

#### Likelihood of Funding Pension Liability<sup>+</sup>



+ Results of 100,000 simulations of 35-year employee

‡ Assumes 7.5% expected annual non-compounded investment return

# Conclusions of Analysis of Current KPERS Plan

- Plan is likely to underfunded retirement liabilities for a large cohort of employees, especially given current bond market yields and prospective returns
- Defined Contribution Plan design offers high likelihood of delivering higher accumulated fund balances by utilizing more aggressive - yet prudent - personalized investment strategies
- Defined Contribution Plan design could enable the State to be more competitive with other employers by offering retirement fund portability and inheritability

## A Possible Way Forward for KPERS

#### "Tie Off" Current Defined Benefit Plan

- 1) Do not create any new retirement liabilities under current plan/terms
- 2) Discontinue salary-based contributions to fund
- 3) Determine current unfunded liabilities (current assets less PV of current retirement benefits)

 $\rightarrow$  Issue debt at current low interest rates to fully fund Plan

#### Create Blended DB/DC Plan

For Defined Benefit Component:

1) Modify benefit earned by year of employment to produce adequate funding at target likelihood of success

→ Benefit rate will decline for each year of employment as employee's age increases (years to retirement decreases), such as the following:

Age	25	30		35	40	45	50	55	60	64
Annual Retirement Benefit as % of Year's Salary	4.33%	3.49% 2.82%		2.27%	1.83%	1.48%	1.19%	0.96%	0.81%	
Bonofit Fostor for Forly Detiroment				5 Years Early			10 Yea	ars Early		
Benefit Factor for Early Retirement				74.5% of Full Benefit			57.0% of	Full Benefit		

2) Apply DB Component to a percentage of salary or to the first \$X,000 of salary

## A Possible Way Forward for KPERS (Continued)

#### Create Blended DB/DC Plan (Continued)

For Defined Contribution Component:

- 1) Create DC Plan Component
- 2) Make DC Plan option available for 100% of salary at time of Plan revision and for all future new hires
- 3) Provide education and targeted-mix funds for employees to address tendency to "sub-optimize" asset allocation of investments
- 4) Arrange for annuitization/immediate-annuity option for DC plan balance at retirement to create fixed income stream for retiring employees (to be provided by State or by third-party provider)

or

- Create 100% Defined Contribution Plan
  - With features 1), 3) and 4) above

#### Using Debt to Reduce Funding of Existing Shortfall

1,600 **---** \$5 Bn/60 Yrs No Debt - \$5 Bn/30 Yrs **\$8.4** Bn/30 Yrs --- \$8.4 Bn/60 Yrs 1,400 Annual Funding Amount (\$ in Millions) 1,200 1,000 

**KPERS Funding Required – Illustration\*** 

\* Based upon estimated liabilities and straight-line increasing funded percentage

#### Using Debt to Reduce Funding of Existing Shortfall

		Dollars in Billions								
Fun Opt	ding ions	Total Cont Less Debt	tributions Proceeds	Net Present Value of Total Contributions Less Debt Proceeds						
		Amount	Change from No Debt	Amount	Change from No Debt					
No Debt		37.4	NA	10.9	NA					
5 ion ìebt	30 Years	23.7	(13.7)	3.9	(7.0)					
\$ Bill Of D	60 Years	27.7	(9.7)	3.7	(7.2)					
t.4 ion Jebt	30 Years	14.1	(23.3)	(0.9)	(11.8)					
\$8 Bill Of D	60 Years	20.8	(16.6)	(1.3)	(12.2)					

Implications:

- > Use of debt decreases overall future funding needs both in total amount and in present value
- Borrowing for 60 years vs 30 years does not appear to provide significant benefit Although there are many different debt and investment strategies and annual funding patterns which should be studied

# Likelihood of Success Using Debt



- There is a very high likelihood that the proceeds from a 30-year debt issuance invested in the KPERS fund will earn a return in excess of the debt cost (3.9% estimated currently)
- But there are many permutations of debt-issuance and investment strategies to boost the KPERS fund returns, each will different levels of returns and risks

# Likelihood of Success Using Debt

Tern De	ns of ebt	Investment	Expected Ret	d Annual urn	Volati Annual	Prob of Rtn >	
Years to Mat	Int Rate	(Stks/Bnds)	Stated	Com- pound	1 Year	Over Term	Debt Rate
		KPERS Fund	7.50%	7.00%	10.29%	1.88%	95.1%
30	3.90%	30%/70%	6.91%	6.58%	8.43%	1.54%	95.9%
			0%/100%†	5.65%	NA	6.48%	NA
10	2 65%	30%/70%	6.91%	6.58%	8.43%	2.66%	92.9%
	2.05%	<b>0%/100%</b> ‡	4.75%	NA	4.55%	NA	≈100%

+ Bond Portfolio with 90% A-Rated 30-year Corporates and 10% Low-Grades
+ Bond Portfolio with 90% A-Rated 10-year Corporates and 10% Low-Grades

# Summary of KPERS Plan Analysis

- Stop "Digging"! The current plan has a significant likelihood of underfunding a large cohort of employees: Tie it off to discontinue the creation of new retirement liabilities and fund the current shortfall with debt
- Implement a new plan which has a targeted likelihood (hopefully greater than 50%) of producing adequate funding, by either:
  - Creating a blended DB/DC plan with revised guaranteed retirement benefits (lower than those of the current plan and adjusted for early retirees) for the DB component and a lowcost DC component, or
  - Implementing a 100% DC plan with low costs, employee education and annuitization options for retirees