



# NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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State Auditor

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## Communication with Those Charged with Governance at the Conclusion of the Audit

February 9, 2018

To: Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Board

We have audited the financial statements of Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems (NPERS) - School Employees, Judges, and State Patrol Retirement Plans for the year ended June 30, 2017. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our entrance meeting held on August 23, 2017. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

### Significant Audit Findings

#### *Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems - School Employees, Judges, and State Patrol Retirement Plans are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. We noted no transactions entered into by the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems - School Employees, Judges, and State Patrol Retirement Plans during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosure affecting the financial statements was:

The discount rate used for the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems - School Employees, Judges, and State Patrol Retirement Plans' actuarial valuation was set at 7.5 percent. The sensitivity of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate is explained in Note 3 to the financial statements.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

#### *Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit*

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

### *Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements*

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Uncorrected misstatements have been discussed with NPERS staff and are included on the Management Representation Letter. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

### *Disagreements with Management*

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

### *Management Representations*

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter.

### *Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants*

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems - School Employees, Judges, and State Patrol Retirement Plans' financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

### *Other Audit Findings or Issues*

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems - School Employees, Judges, and State Patrol Retirement Plans' auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

### Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the Schedule of Changes in the School Districts' Net Pension Liability; Schedule of Changes in the Judges' Net Pension Liability; Schedule of Changes in the State Patrol's Net Pension Liability; Schedules of Employer and Non-Employer Contributions; Schedule of Investment Returns; and Notes to the Required Supplementary Information, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the Schedule of Administrative Expenses and the Schedule of Investment-Related Expenses, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Management has omitted its Management Discussion and Analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Government Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial

statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems - School Employees, Judges, and State Patrol Retirement Plans and management of the Nebraska Employees Retirement Systems and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, this communication is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Zachary Wells". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Zachary Wells, CPA

Audit Manager