

FRANKLIN REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

101 MUNSON STREET, SUITE 108
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01301-9675

To: Unit treasurer and/or payroll human resources department

Re: Newly elected or re-elected officials – retirement membership

Greetings:

Please consider this form useful when informing elected officials of the option or not to join this retirement system. You can sign it and file it in their employment file whether or not they sign acknowledging receipt that you provided it to them. We do not need a copy. We will email you a reminder in the spring of each year and we will keep a copy of that email as proof that we provided guidance regarding this topic.

All newly elected officials that have not yet opted to be a member, or add elected positions to their membership with the Franklin Regional Retirement System have the option to do so within 90 days of assuming office, regardless of the number of hours associated with the position but restricted to positions earning greater than \$5,000 annually. Clearly the advantage to elected officials is the lack of a minimum hours requirement to earn full-time service credit. However, the \$5,000 limitation essentially means that nearly all elected officials are not eligible given that the annual salary for most elected positions is far less than \$5,000. The notable exceptions would be town clerks, treasurers, and collectors because those positions are generally paid in excess of \$5,000 annually.

The 90-day period is available each time an official is re-elected, however, they only need to enroll once. The “once a member always a member” rule means that once an individual becomes and continues as a member of this retirement system, then any currently held appointed positions, and any new appointed positions, and new elected positions, and currently held elected positions as of the date of re-election, will be added to their record and deductions and salary, and also allowable service credit will be recorded and retained.

Members **do not** have the right to purchase past non-membership **elected** public service. This is an important distinction because normally, prior service can be purchased, but because membership is optional for elected positions and there is the 90-day deadline, purchase of prior periods of elected service is not allowed.

Citizens of the town that are appointed to fill an elected position in the interim are treated as appointed and subject to the 20 weekly hours threshold, as are non-citizens. Once elected they have the option of membership.

Please visit this page for a basic description of the benefits of membership:

<https://frrsma.com/basic-membership-and-retirement-criteria/>

Dale Kowacki
Executive Director

Franklin Regional Retirement System

Record of notification of delivery of membership information for elected officials.

This information was provided to the below noted person.

Elected person's name: _____

Title of elected position: _____

Date elected: _____ Length of term: _____

Signature of person indicating receipt of this information:

Employer's name (town, school, agency): _____

Name of person delivering this information: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Your signature: _____