

PHIL PEPPER – CANDIDATE FOR RETIREE REPRESENTATIVE TO PERS BOARD

BACKGROUND AND POSITION STATEMENT

Employment:

State Economist for State of Mississippi
Assistant Commissioner for Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
Chairman of State Revenue Estimating Committee (\$5 Billion General Fund Budget)
Fiscal, Income and Employment Analyses

Education:

Ph.D. Economics

Military:

US Army
Vietnam Veteran – Bronze Star

Position:

With over 30 years of Mississippi public service, I am a strong proponent of the State fulfilling its legal and good faith obligations to PERS retirees and current employees. Efforts to reduce benefits have occurred in the past and, in all likelihood, will occur in the future. As an example, if there is no increase in the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA aka 13th check) for three years, as has been proposed in the past, the average PERS retiree would currently lose \$2,000 each year for the rest of their life and reduce the total amount going to PERS retirees by \$200 million per year. This is unacceptable.

My training and experience provide me with the technical tools needed to effectively represent you on the PERS Board. My energy and commitment strengthen this effectiveness. If elected, I promise to work as hard as I can to ensure our retirement system is managed in an efficient, fiscally conservative and safe manner and that PERS members receive the benefits they have earned.

While active public employees, we make mandatory contributions from our salaries into the retirement system with the expectation that the State will honor its retirement debt to each of us. If elected, I will do everything in my power to see that this debt is paid in full.