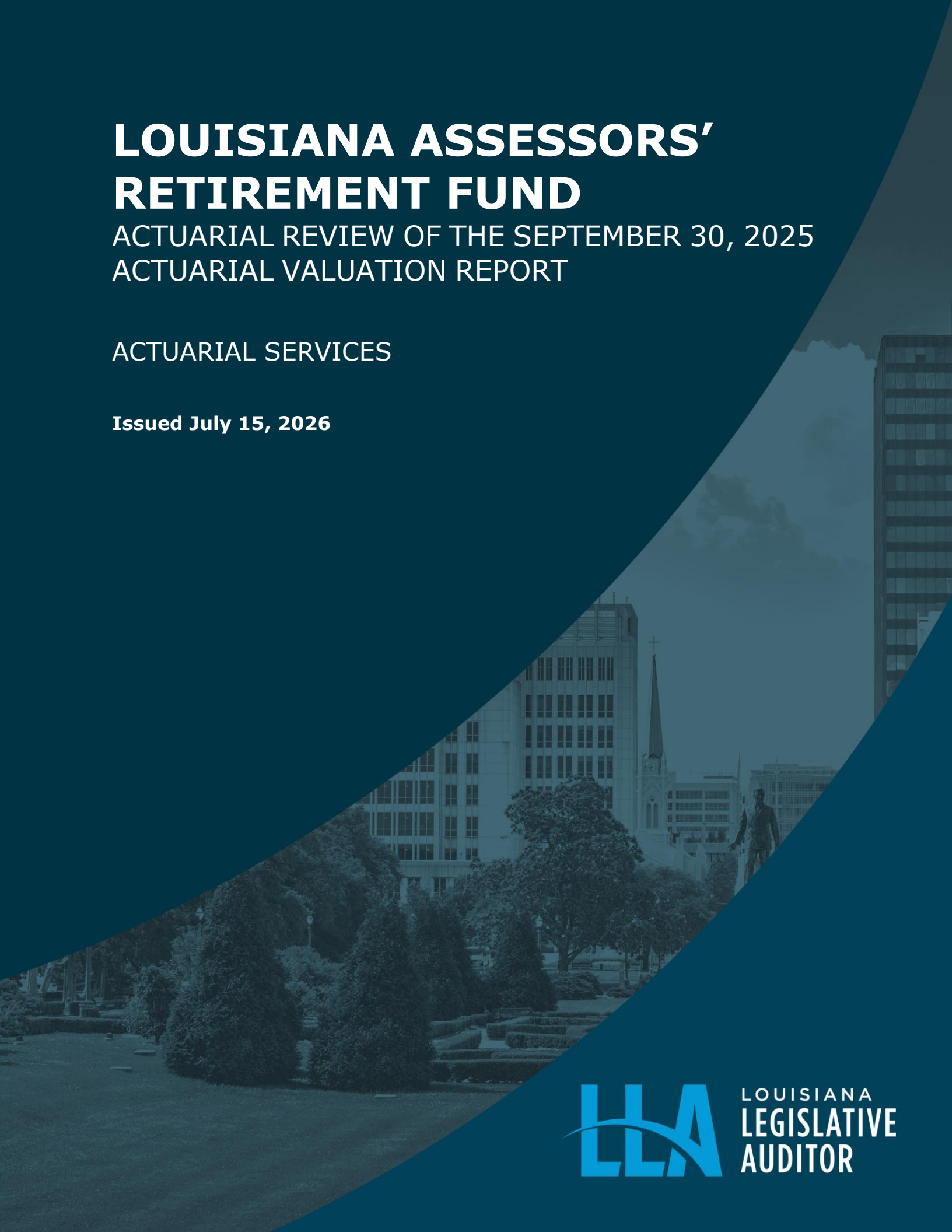
LOUISIANA ASSESSORS' RETIREMENT FUND

ACTUARIAL REVIEW OF THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT

ACTUARIAL SERVICES

Issued July 15, 2026



LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

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MICHAEL J. "MIKE" WAGUESPACK, CPA
LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

July 15, 2026

The Honorable Edward J. Price
Chairman, Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee
Louisiana State Senate
Post Office Box 94183
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Re: Actuarial Review of The LARF 2025 Actuarial Valuation

Dear Chairman Price and PRSAC Members:

In accordance with La. R.S. 11:127(C) and 24:513(C)(1), the Louisiana Legislative Auditor has conducted an Actuarial Review for the Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund (LARF or Fund).

The following presents the results of our Actuarial Review of LARF's September 30, 2025 Actuarial Valuation, prepared by Curran Actuarial Consulting, Ltd. and dated March 16, 2026. In doing so, we have reviewed certain actuarial assumptions and methods employed by LARF and its actuary for appropriateness.

I would like to thank LARF's director, staff, and actuary for the cooperation and assistance provided for this review.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. "Mike" Waguespack, CPA
Legislative Auditor

MJW:kjh

cc: Kathy Bertrand, Executive Director & Retirement Benefits Coordinator
Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund

Mr. Gregory Curran, FCA, MAAA, ASA
Curran Actuarial Consulting, Ltd.

LARF 2025 Actuarial Review

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Executive Summary

The Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) performed an Actuarial Review of the Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund (LARF or Fund) September 30, 2025 Actuarial Valuation report (2025 Valuation Report) dated March 16, 2026, as prepared by Curran Actuarial Consulting, Ltd. This Actuarial Review is specifically a review of the information presented for determination of the Minimum Recommended Net Direct Employer Contribution Rate. This Actuarial Review does not comment on information used for financial reporting.

Actuarial Standards of Practice (ASOPs) are principles-based, rather than prescriptive, in nature, and therefore actuarial valuations involve significant use of an actuary's professional judgement when developing actuarial assumptions and methods. This can result in different actuaries utilizing different assumptions and methodologies when approaching similar, or even the same, benefit structures and legislative constraints.

In addition, the Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 11, outlines the primary components of the development of the annual required contribution. However, applying these standards can involve varying interpretations, as different retirement systems and their actuaries may differ in their approach to handling certain details.

This review is not an endorsement of any particular approach or methodology used but is instead an evaluation that the work appears to have been completed in accordance with applicable ASOPs, generally accepted actuarial practice, and relevant state statutes.

In general, we did not identify any significant deficiencies in the reporting nor with the basis on which the valuation has been performed. We believe LARF's Board and PRSAC can have a reasonable degree of confidence that, <u>with respect to the work reviewed,</u> the 2025 Actuarial Valuation has been completed in accordance with applicable ASOPs, generally accepted actuarial practice, and relevant state statutes.

The following summarizes the areas reviewed and our general conclusions for each area:

- **Review of census data:** This review involves validating the accuracy and completeness of the census data used to determine the liabilities and contributions.

  We did not identify any significant deficiencies in the reporting, nor did we identify any material discrepancies in the census data provided. The census data appears to be reasonable and appropriate for the intended use and it appears LARF's actuary has followed the requirements of ASOP 23 with respect to data quality.

- **Review of actuarial assumptions:** This review evaluates the appropriateness and reasonableness of key assumptions, as well as the methodology and results of the experience study that was used to develop the assumptions.

  A separate review of the actuarial assumptions used in the 2025 Valuation Report has been performed. Please refer to the LLA's Actuarial Review of LARF's 2025 Experience Study Report for our most recent review of LARF's actuarial assumptions.

  Review of liabilities: This review includes a full replication of the present value of future benefits (PVFB).

  We found the PVFB of active members to be reasonable and consistent with the Fund's benefits, as well as the census data, methods, and assumptions detailed in the 2025 Valuation report. Although our results did not match the Fund's actuary exactly, the differences are within an acceptable range and indicate a degree of conservatism from the Fund's actuary. Any difference for inactive participants was de minimis.

  Review of contribution calculation: This review consists of reproducing the calculations necessary to determine the employer contribution rate and ensuring they are consistent with our understanding of relevant statutes.

  We are able to reproduce the reported Minimum Recommended Net Direct Employer Contribution Rate for Fiscal Year 2027. It appears the contribution has been determined in accordance with a reasonable interpretation of applicable state statutes, and the methodology is consistent with the determination of the rate developed for prior years.

  Review of valuation report: This review consists of evaluating whether the valuation report is in compliance with the disclosure and reporting requirements of relevant actuarial standards.

  We did not identify any significant deficiencies in the reporting. The 2025 Valuation Report appears to be compliant with the disclosure requirements outlined in ASOP No. 41 and section 4 of all other relevant ASOPs.

Scope of Actuarial Review

The LLA performed an Actuarial Review of the LARF's' September 30, 2025 Actuarial Valuation report (2025 Valuation Report) dated March 16, 2026, as prepared by Curran Actuarial Consulting, Ltd. This Actuarial Review is being performed in accordance with La. R.S. 11:127(C) and 24:513(C)(1). This Actuarial Review, in conjunction with the Fund's full actuarial valuation, is intended to fulfill the requirements of La. R.S. 11:127(C) to the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee (PRSAC).

This review includes an evaluation of the following items:

- **Review of census data:** This review involves validating the accuracy and completeness of the census data used to determine the liabilities and contributions.

- **Review of actuarial assumptions:** This review evaluates the appropriateness and reasonableness of key assumptions, as well as the methodology and results of the experience study that was used to develop the assumptions.

- **Review of liabilities:** This review includes a full replication of the present value of future benefits (PVFB).

- **Review of contribution calculation:** This review consists of reproducing the calculations necessary to determine the employer contribution rate and ensuring they are consistent with our understanding of relevant statutes.

- **Review of valuation report:** This review consists of evaluating whether the valuation report is in compliance with the disclosure and reporting requirements of relevant actuarial standards.

This Actuarial Review does not comment on any information for financial reporting included in the 2025 Valuation Report. This review is not an endorsement of any particular approach or methodology used but is instead an evaluation that the work appears to have been completed in accordance with applicable ASOPs, generally accepted actuarial practice, and relevant state statutes.

Applicable sections of Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 11, and the following ASOPs were considered in this review.

(1) ASOP No. 4, Measuring Pension Obligations and Determining Pension Plan Costs or Contributions
(2) ASOP No. 12, Risk Classification (for All Practice Areas)
(3) ASOP No. 23, Data Quality
(4) ASOP No. 25, Credibility Procedures
(5) ASOP No. 27, Selection of Assumptions for Measuring Pension Obligations
(6) ASOP No. 41, Actuarial Communications
(7) ASOP No. 44, Selection and Use of Asset Valuation Methods for Pension Valuations
(8) ASOP No. 51, Assessment and Disclosure of Risk Associated with Measuring Pension Obligations and Determining Pension Plan Contributions
(9) ASOP No. 56, Modeling

Census Data

The liabilities reported in the 2025 Valuation Report are entirely dependent on the accuracy and completeness of the census data provided by LARF. This review involves validating the accuracy and completeness of the census data used to determine the liabilities and contributions.

Professional Guidance

Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 23 (ASOP 23), Data Quality, provides guidance on selecting, reviewing, and using data, as well as on making appropriate disclosures about data quality. An actuary is not required to audit census data provided by the retirement system. The actuary's responsibilities include:

- Making a reasonable effort to ensure the data is appropriate and sufficient.
- Reviewing the data for accuracy, reasonableness, and consistency.
- Identifying and addressing any data deficiencies.
- Documenting data sources, adjustments, and any limitations.
- Disclosing relevant information about data quality in any actuarial communications.

Data Review Process

Our data review focused on evaluating the actuarial data used by LARF's actuary. We reviewed the final census file(s) provided by LARF's actuary.

(1) Consistency checks: The data is examined for internal consistency and compared with previous datasets to identify any discrepancies or anomalies. This includes performing a status reconciliation and matching any detailed descriptive statistics (e.g. age/service tables, etc.) included in the valuation report.
(2) Cross-referencing with other sources: We may compare the data against the original source data provided by LARF, as well other sources of employment records available to the LLA, to validate its accuracy.

Conclusion

We did not identify any significant deficiencies in the reporting, nor did we identify any material discrepancies in the census data provided. The census data appears to be reasonable and appropriate for the intended use and it appears LARF's actuary has followed the requirements of ASOP 23 with respect to data quality.

Actuarial Assumptions

Actuarial assumptions play a critical role in developing and evaluating the financial position and sustainability of the retirement system. This review evaluates the appropriateness and reasonableness of key assumptions, as well as the methodology and results of the experience study that was used to develop the assumptions.

A separate review of the actuarial assumptions used in the 2025 Valuation Report has been performed. Please refer to the LLA’s Actuarial Review of LARF's 2025 Experience Study Report for our most recent review of LARF's actuarial assumptions.

Liabilities

This review includes a full replication of the present value of future benefits (PVFB).

Professional Guidance

Generally accepted actuarial standards and practices offer a foundational framework and mathematical principles for determining actuarial results. However, applying these standards to complex calculations can involve varying interpretations, as individual actuaries and different software programs may differ in their approach to handling intricate details. Such differences might result in slight variations in outcomes making it difficult to match results exactly. However, they should not significantly impact the overall results.

Liability Review Process

The Aggregate Funding Method, which LARF employs for the determination of the employer contribution, does not produce a "traditional" AAL or normal cost (NC), thus our review focused on evaluating the reasonableness of the PVFB. The replication included the following items:

(1) Data: The final census data as provided by LARF's actuary.
(2) Assumptions: The economic and demographic assumptions as outlined in the 2025 Valuation Report and LARF's 2025 Experience Study Report.
(3) Methods: The methods as outlined in the 2025 Valuation Report and our understanding of relevant state statutes.

Conclusion

We found the PVFB of active members to be reasonable and consistent with the Fund's benefits, as well as the census data, methods, and assumptions detailed in the 2025 Valuation report. Although our results did not match the Fund's actuary exactly, the differences are within an acceptable range and indicate a degree of conservatism from the Fund's actuary. Any difference for inactive participants was de minimis.

Contribution Calculation

This review consists of reproducing the calculations necessary to determine the employer contribution rate and ensuring they are consistent with our understanding of relevant statutes.

Professional Guidance

Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 11, outlines the primary components of the development of the annual required contribution. However, applying these standards can involve varying interpretations, as different retirement systems and their actuaries may differ in their approach to handling certain details. Such differences might result in slight variations in their calculations. However, these differences should not significantly impact the overall results.

Contribution Calculation Review Process

Our review focused on reproducing the calculations necessary to determine the Minimum Recommended Net Direct Employer Contribution Rate, including all intermediate steps necessary, as presented in the 2025 Valuation Report. Our review consisted of:

(1) Review state statutes: The contribution calculations are evaluated against all applicable state statutes, with particular attention paid to the application of any new statutes.
(2) Consistency checks: In general, the mathematics involved in the development of the annual contribution is straight-forward. However, there are small differences in approach that could exist. Therefore, the calculations are reproduced for the current and prior valuations to evaluate internal consistency in methodology between years.

Conclusion

We are able to reproduce the reported Minimum Recommended Net Direct Employer Contribution Rate for Fiscal Year 2027. It appears the contribution has been determined in accordance with a reasonable interpretation of applicable state statutes, and the methodology is consistent with the determination of the rate developed for prior years.

Valuation Report

This review consists of evaluating whether the valuation report is in compliance with the disclosure and reporting requirements of relevant actuarial standards.

Professional Guidance

ASOP No. 41 Actuarial Communication provides general guidance with respect to all actuarial communications and identifies certain disclosures that must be included in a given actuarial communication. Also, each ASOP specifically includes a Communications and Disclosures section to provide guidance regarding what information specific to that ASOP should be communicated. Rightly so, how actuaries communicate the work they are providing is considered extremely important by the Actuarial Standards Board.

Further, while the ASOPs are guidance and not "rules", they do include "Terms of Construction"[1], specifically the words *must*, *should*, or *may*, to express which items within the guidance are, or are not, optional. "Failure to follow a course of action denoted by either the term 'must' or 'should' constitutes a deviation from the guidance of the ASOP."[1] This includes many items found in ASOP 41 and the disclosure section of relevant ASOPs.

Most items within an ASOP that are preceded by *must* or *should* include a corresponding *must* or *should* disclosure requirement. However, that is not always the case. In addition, when an actuary *should consider* something, or *may* (or may not) follow specific guidance within an ASOP, the consideration or decision process does not always include a *must* or *should* disclosure requirement. However, for clarity's sake, it is frequently best practice to include this information to ensure "another actuary qualified in the same practice area could make an objective appraisal of the reasonableness of the actuary's work as presented in the actuarial report"[2], particularly in the public plan space where transparency is of the utmost importance.

[1] Actuarial Standards Board, "Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 1: Introductory Actuarial Standard of Practice," ASB, March 2013, https://www.actuarialstandardsboard.org/asops/introductoryactuarialstandardpractice/
[2] Actuarial Standards Board, "Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 41: Actuarial Communications," ASB, December 2010, https://www.actuarialstandardsboard.org/asops/actuarial-communications/

Valuation Report Review Process

Our review evaluates whether the 2025 Valuation Report is compliant with the disclosure requirements outlined in ASOP No. 41 *Actuarial Communications* and section 4 of all other relevant ASOPs. In addition, we evaluate whether, in our opinion, the actuary has "state[d] the actuarial findings, and identif[ied] the methods, procedures, assumptions, and data used by the actuary with sufficient clarity that another actuary qualified in the same practice area could make an objective appraisal of the reasonableness of the actuary's work as presented in the actuarial report."[3]

Conclusion

We did not identify any significant deficiencies in the reporting. The 2025 Valuation Report appears to be compliant with the disclosure requirements outlined in ASOP No. 41 and section 4 of all other relevant ASOPs.

[3] ASOP No. 41

Appendix A - Actuarial Disclosures

Intended Use

This Actuarial Review was prepared in accordance with La. R.S. 11:127(C) and 24:513(C)(1). This Actuarial Review, in conjunction with the Fund's full actuarial valuation, is intended to fulfill the requirements of La. R.S. 11:127(C) to the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee (PRSAC). Other readers of this Actuarial Review are advised to seek professional guidance as to its content and interpretation, and not to rely upon this communication without such guidance. The Actuarial Review, and any referenced documents, should be read as a whole. Distribution of, or reliance on, only parts of this Actuarial Review could result in its misuse and may mislead others. The Louisiana Legislative Auditor is not responsible for unauthorized use of this Actuarial Review.

This Actuarial Review should not be construed as providing tax advice, legal advice, or investment advice. It should not be relied on for any purpose other than the purposes described herein. This Actuarial Review assumes the continuing ability of the Fund to collect the contributions necessary. A determination regarding whether or not the Fund is actually willing and able to do so in the future is outside our scope of expertise and was not performed.

Actuarial Data, Methods and Assumptions

This Actuarial Review was based upon information furnished by the Fund, the Fund's investment consultant, the Fund's actuary, and by numerous external inflation and investment forecasters. We checked for internal reasonability and year-to-year consistency but did not audit the data. We are not responsible for the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by outside parties.

For certain calculations that may be presented herein, we have utilized commercially available valuation software. We made a reasonable attempt to understand the intended purpose of, general operation of, major sensitivities and dependencies within, and key strengths and limitations of these models. In our professional judgment, the models have the capability to provide results that are consistent with the purposes of the analysis and have no material limitations or known weaknesses. Tests were performed to ensure that the model reasonably represents that which is intended to be modeled.

Conflict of Interest

There are no known conflicts that would compromise the ability to present an unbiased statement of actuarial opinion.

Risks Associated with Measuring Costs

This Actuarial Review is an actuarial communication, and is required to include certain disclosures in compliance with Actuarial Standards of Practice (ASOP) No. 51.

A full actuarial determination of the Fund's costs, actuarially determined contributions, and accrued liability require the use of assumptions regarding future economic and demographic events. The assumptions used to determine the Fund's contribution requirement and accrued liability are summarized in the 2025 Valuation Report being reviewed.

The actual emerging future experience, such as a retirement system's future investment returns, may differ from the assumptions. To the extent that emerging future experience differs from the assumptions, the resulting shortfalls (or gains) must be recognized in future years by future taxpayers. Future actuarial measurements may also differ significantly from the current measurements due to other factors: changes in economic or demographic assumptions; increases or decreases expected as part of the natural operation of the methodology used for these measurements (such as the end of an amortization period; or additional cost or contribution requirements based on the Fund's funded status); and changes in plan provisions or applicable law.

Examples of risk that may reasonably be anticipated to significantly affect the plan's future financial condition include:

(1) Investment risk – actual investment returns may differ from the expected returns (assumptions);
(2) Contribution risk – actual contributions may differ from expected future contributions. For example, actual contributions may not be made in accordance with the plan's funding policy or material changes may occur in the anticipated number of covered employees, covered payroll, or other relevant contribution base;
(3) Salary and Payroll risk – actual salaries and total payroll may differ from expected, resulting in actual future accrued liability and contributions differing from expected;
(4) Longevity and life expectancy risk – members may live longer or shorter than expected and receive pensions for a period of time other than assumed;
(5) Other demographic risks – members may terminate, retire or become disabled at times or with benefits at rates that differ from what was assumed, resulting in actual future accrued liability and contributions differing from expected.

The scope of this Actuarial Review does not include an analysis of the potential range of such future measurements or a quantitative measurement of the future risks of not achieving the assumptions. In certain circumstances, detailed or quantitative assessments of one or more of these risks as well as various plan maturity measures and historical actuarial measurements may be requested from the actuary. Additional risk assessments are generally outside the scope of this Actuarial Review. Additional assessments may include stress tests, scenario tests, sensitivity tests, stochastic modeling, and a comparison of the present value of accrued benefits at low-risk discount rates with the actuarial accrued liability.

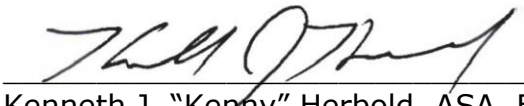
However, the general cost-effects of emerging experience deviating from assumptions can be known. For example, the investment return since the most recent actuarial valuation may be less (or more) than the assumed rate, or a cost-of-living adjustment may be more (or less) than the assumed rate, or life expectancy may be improving (or worsening) compared to what is assumed. In each of these situations, the cost of the plan can be expected to increase (or decrease).

The use of reasonable assumptions and the timely receipt of the actuarially determined contributions are critical to support the financial health of the plan. However, employer contributions made at the actuarially determined rate do not necessarily guarantee benefit security.

Certification

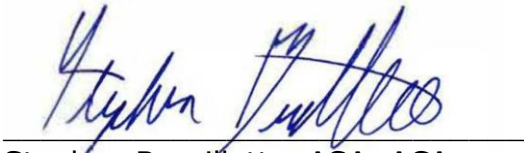
All calculations have been made in conformity with generally accepted actuarial principles and practices, and with the Actuarial Standards of Practice issued by the Actuarial Standards Board and with applicable statutes.

Kenneth J. Herbold is an Associate of the Society of Actuaries (ASA), a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries (MAAA), and an Enrolled Actuary (EA) under the Employees Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Stephen Brouillette is an Associate of the Society of Actuaries (ASA). Mr. Herbold and Mr. Brouillette meet the US Qualification Standards necessary to render the actuarial opinion contained herein.



Kenneth J. "Kenny" Herbold, ASA, EA, MAAA
Director of Actuarial Services
Louisiana Legislative Auditor

July 15, 2026
Date



Stephen Brouillette, ASA, ACA
Associate Actuary
Louisiana Legislative Auditor

July 15, 2026
Date