

## STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES Revised November 7, 2023

## SHERIFFS' RETIREMENT FUND OF GEORGIA

#### **PURPOSE**

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The purpose of this Statement of Investment Objectives and Guidelines is to assist the Board of Commissioners of the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund of Georgia (hereafter referred to as the Board) in more effectively supervising and monitoring the investment of the Fund assets.

In the various sections of this Policy document, the Board defines the Fund's investment program by:

- Stating in a written document the Boards' expectations and objectives in the investment of the Fund assets;
- Providing guidelines for the investment portfolio that control the level of risk assumed and ensure that assets of the Fund are managed in accordance with stated objectives;
- Encouraging effective communication between the Board and the Fund's investment manager(s);
- Establishing criteria to monitor and evaluate the performance results achieved by the Fund's investment manager(s); and
- Providing that funds will be available to meet future liabilities and any cash flow requirements.

#### **STATEMENT**

This Policy Statement represents the Boards' current philosophy regarding the investments of the Fund's assets. The assets shall be invested in good faith and with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances, considering the purposes, terms, distribution requirements, and other circumstances of the institutional fund.

In managing and investing the assets, the following factors must be considered: general economic conditions, the possible effect of inflation or deflation, the role that each investment or course of action plays within the overall investment portfolio, and the expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments. Decisions must be made in the context of the portfolio as a whole and as part of the overall investment strategy with appropriate risk and return objectives.

In addition, although the Board shall use this document as a Policy Statement in making decisions concerning the Fund, it shall not necessarily be bound solely by its contents.

The primary asset classes of the securities within the securities investment portfolios will be:

## I. Operating Cash

To provide for the preservation of capital and liquidity and to ensure that all present operating expenses and obligations are met.

#### II. Fixed Income Portfolio

To obtain a favorable total return on invested assets through a "liquid" diversified portfolio of high quality income-producing assets which stress preservation of capital and income.

## III. Equity Portfolio

To obtain a favorable total rate of return on invested assets and to provide long-term growth through a diversified portfolio of a quality equity securities, mutual funds and ETF's which in aggregate provide a diversified representation of the equity markets.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

## **Primary Asset Classes**

#### I. Operating Cash

Reserves for contingencies and excess income should be fully invested at all times in short-term money market funds, institutional par-value funds, or other high quality cash instruments.

#### Performance Guidelines

Rolling annual rates of return on the Operating Cash portion of the portfolio should exceed the rolling annual rate of return of a representative taxable Money Fund Index by at least one-fourth of one percent.

#### **Investment Restrictions**

A maximum of 10% of the account may be invested in the securities of any one issuer. There is no limit, however, within the account with respect to both U. S. Treasury and Agency obligations. There is a limit of 10% with any single institution with respect to investments in money market funds and repurchase agreements. Such investments shall be consistent with the investment quality guidelines as stated in this document.

## Categories of Investment Securities

- 1. U.S. Treasury Bills
- 2. Short-term U.S. Government/Agency Obligations
- 3. High Grade Commercial Paper rated by Moody's (P-1) and Standard & Poor's (A-1)
- 4. Other Dollar Denominated Money Market Instruments
- 5. Repurchase Agreements of U. S. Government or Agency Securities (the Fund must take possession of the collateral)
- 6. Money Market funds rated by Standard & Poor's as acceptable investment.
- II. <u>Fixed Income Portfolio</u> (Target Allocation in accordance with Article 7 of Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.)

## **Policy**

The objective is to obtain a favorable total return utilizing various classes of investment grade fixed income securities. The portfolio of fixed income securities should be of low volatility and of a conservative nature.

## Performance Guidelines

The total return on the portfolio will be judged against the total return of the Barclays Capital Government/Corporate Bond Index (net of fees) over each rolling three-to-five-year period. In addition, it is expected that the Investment Manager(s) performance will be judged within a universe of representative investment managers with similar investment style and discipline. It is expected that the Investment Manager(s) will rank in the top 40th percentile of an appropriate database over each rolling three-to-five-year period.

## **Investment Restrictions**

- 1. All fixed income securities shall be rated investment grade as defined by a nationally recognized rating agency. However, no more than 10% of the bond portfolio may be invested in securities rated lower than <u>A</u> by a nationally recognized rating agency.
- 2. All fixed-income securities shall be dollar denominated.

- 3. All securities must meet regulations established by the Georgia Code Title 47, Article 7, Chapter 20.
- 4. The weighted average maturity of the Fixed Income Portfolio shall at all times be less than ten years.

#### Categories of Investment Securities

- 1. U.S. Treasury Securities, including TIPS
- 2. U.S. Government Agency Obligations
- 3. Mortgage and Asset-backed Securities
- 5. Corporate Debt Securities
- 6. Cash Equivalent Securities
- 7. Taxable Municipal Bonds, A-Rated or better (up to 10% of the bond portfolio)
- III. <u>Equity Portfolio</u> (Target Allocation in accordance with Article 7 of Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.)

#### **Policy**

Growth of capital and surplus is sought primarily through equity investment in a diversified common stock portfolio of high quality securities, as well as small cap, mid cap and international mutual funds, REIT's, or ETF's.

#### Performance Guidelines

This portion of the portfolio will be judged against the S&P 500 Stock Index (net of fees) or any other index which compares equity portfolios of similar investment style and discipline over each rolling three and five year period. In addition, it is expected that the Investment Manager(s) performance will be judged within a universe of representative investment managers with similar investment style and discipline. It is expected that the Investment Manager(s) will rank in the top 40th percentile of an appropriate database over each rolling three-to-five-year period.

#### **Investment Restrictions**

- 1. For diversification purposes, the separate account equity portfolios should have in excess of 25 positions. As practical, mutual funds and ETF's should also have commensurate diversification levels as promulgated by prospectus or investment guidelines and will be continually monitored to ensure adequate diversification is maintained.
- 2. The separate account equity portfolios shall have no more than 5% invested in any one issue, based on cost. Commingled investment vehicles, such as mutual funds and ETF's, are exempt from this restriction.

- 3. There shall be no investments in non-marketable or illiquid securities.
- 4. All securities must meet regulations established by the Georgia code Title 47, Article 1, Chapter 1 and Title 47, Article 7, Chapter 20.
- 5. Leverage and shorting techniques, futures, private placements, commodities, or any direct participation plans cannot be used.

#### Categories of Investment Securities

- 1. Domestic Common Stocks
- 2. Convertible Preferred and Convertible Debt Securities
- 3. Foreign common stocks (traded on U.S. Exchanges or those of International open or closed-end (ETF's) mutual funds
- 4. Small-cap and Mid-cap Mutual Funds or ETF's
- 5. Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT's)

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

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## I. <u>Investment Managers</u>

- 1. Provide written documentation of portfolio activity, portfolio valuations, performance data and other information to the Board and Consultant within 30 days of the end of each quarter. Each Manager's quarterly report should include a summary of all securities transactions.
- 2. Monitor compliance at all times with these Guidelines and take full financial responsibility for any deviations from this policy.
- 3. Report immediately (within one week) by e-mail or overnight mail to the Board any <u>substantive</u> changes in the investment strategy, portfolio structure or portfolio manager as well as changes in the ownership, affiliations, organizational structure, financial condition, professional staffing and clientele of the Investment Manager organization.
- 4. Send an ADV (SEC registration statement) on an annual basis to the Consultant. If any changes are made to key personnel, ownership or any other critical areas of the Investment Manager's firm, a copy of the amended ADV should be sent to the Commissioners and Consultant.
- 5. Make quarterly performance reports and requests for changes in the investment guidelines in writing to both the Commissioners and the Consultant within thirty days of the end of each reporting quarter.

- 6. Exercise discretionary authority over the assets entrusted to him subject to these Guidelines.
- 7. Vote all proxy(s) in the best interest of the Fund.
- 8. Acknowledge in writing the receipt of these Guidelines and the acceptance of its terms. If any Investment Manager believes at any time that any changes, additions or deletions to the Guideline are advisable, it will be the responsibility of the Investment Manager to recommend, in writing, such changes to the Commissioners and Consultant.

#### II. Board

- 1. Review the Policy Statement of Investment Objectives and Guidelines at least annually and revise or confirm as appropriate.
- 2. Assist in the selection of Investment Managers, Consultants and other vendors.
- 3. Develop investment objectives and performance measurement standards, which are consistent with the financial needs and objectives of the Fund.
- 4. Review and evaluate investment results quarterly in the context of predetermined performance standards and implement corrective action as needed.
- 5. Meet periodically with each Investment Manager for due diligence.

#### III. Consultant

- 1. Assist in the development and implementation of investment policies, objectives, guidelines and asset allocation.
- 2. Prepare and present performance evaluation reports in accordance with the Investment Management and Consultants Association promulgated standards and attend Trustee meetings to present evaluation reports. The Consultant's performance reporting will be quarterly or any interim time period as designated by the Commissioners.
- 3. Include in each manager's quarterly report investment performance numbers for the quarter, calendar year, three and five year, and inception-to-date.
- 4. Review any contracts and fees for both current and proposed Investment Managers.

- 5. Communicate investment objectives and guidelines to the Investment Managers, monitor their adherence to such policies and report violations to the Board.
- 6. Notify the Board of any changes in personnel or ownership of the consulting firm.
- 7. Assist the Board with special tasks.
- 8. From information obtained from custodial and Investment Manager reports, advise the Board of substantive changes in the market value of the Fund's total asset base and/or holdings with an Investment Manager as a result of dramatic changes in market conditions.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

In accordance with Senate Bill 451, passed in the 2008 Session of the Georgia General Assembly and in accordance with policies established by the Board of Commissioners of this Fund, investment in "scrutinized companies" should be avoided. A list of scrutinized companies for divestment purposes will be prepared annually by the state director of the Georgia Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services. At the time the list is made public, the Secretary/Treasurer of this Fund will provide for reference.

The address of the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund of Georgia is as follows:

Terry Norris, Secretary/Treasurer Sheriffs' Retirement Fund of Georgia 1000 Sheriffs Way Madison, GA 30650

The address of the Consultant to the Sheriffs' Retirement Fund of Georgia is the following:

Ray Vuicich, Jr.
Scott C. Olsen
UBS Financial Services, Inc.
Two Alliance Center
3560 Lenox Rd. Suite 2800
Atlanta, GA 30326

# Exhibit A

# Asset Allocation Policy Ranges

Fixed Income (Bonds)	25% - 40%
U.S. Equities	50% - 75%
International Equities	10% - 20%
Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)	0% - 5%
Dow Jones Global Moderate	0% - 15%
Cash	0% - 10%