



State of Alaska
Elected Public Officers
Retirement System

Actuarial Valuation Report
As of June 30, 2008

May 2009



Submitted By:
Buck Consultants
1200 Seventeenth Street, Suite 1200
Denver, CO 80202

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May 20, 2009

State of Alaska
Department of Administration
Division of Retirement and Benefits
P.O. Box 110203
Juneau, AK 99811-0203

To the Commissioner of Administration:

Actuarial Certification

The annual actuarial valuation required for the State of Alaska Elected Public Officers Retirement System has been prepared as of June 30, 2008 by Buck Consultants. The purposes of the report include:

- (1) a presentation of the valuation results of the Plan as of June 30, 2008;
- (2) a review of experience under the Plan for the year ended June 30, 2008;
- (3) a determination of the appropriate contribution amount which will be applied for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009; and
- (4) the provision of reporting and disclosure information for financial statements, governmental agencies, and other interested parties.

In preparing this valuation, we have employed generally accepted actuarial methods and assumptions, in conjunction with employee data provided to us by the Division of Retirement and Benefits. The employee data has not been audited, but it has been reviewed and found to be consistent, both internally and with prior years' data. Actuarial methods, medical cost trend, and assumed blended medical premiums were also reviewed.

The contribution requirements are determined as a level dollar amount to reflect the cost to amortize the unfunded liability over a fixed 25-year period. A summary of the actuarial assumptions and methods is presented in Section 1.3 of this report. The assumptions, when applied in combination, fairly represent past and anticipated future experience of the System.

Future contribution requirements may differ from those determined in the valuation because of:

- (1) differences between actual experience and anticipated experience based on the assumptions;
- (2) changes in actuarial assumptions or methods;
- (3) changes in statutory provisions; or
- (4) differences between the contribution rates determined by the valuation and those adopted by the Board.

The undersigned are members of the American Academy of Actuaries and the Society of Actuaries, are fully qualified to provide actuarial services to the State of Alaska, and are available to answer questions regarding this report.

We believe that the assumptions and methods used for funding purposes and for the disclosures presented in this report satisfy the parameter requirements set forth in the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement Nos. 25 and 43.

We believe that this report conforms with the requirements of the Alaska statutes, and where applicable, other federal and accounting laws, regulations and rules, as well as generally accepted actuarial principles and practices.

Sincerely,

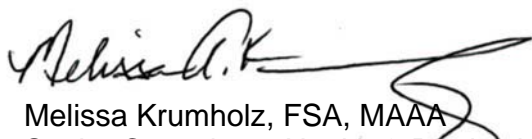


David H. Sliskinsky, ASA, EA, MAAA
Principal, Consulting Actuary



Michelle Reding DeLange, FSA, EA, MAAA
Director, Consulting Actuary

The undersigned actuary is responsible for all assumptions related to the average annual per capita health claims cost and the health care cost trend rates, and hereby affirms her qualification to render opinions in such matters, in accordance with the qualification standards of the American Academy of Actuaries.



Melissa Krumholz, FSA, MAAA
Senior Consultant, Health & Productivity

Report Highlights

This report has been prepared by Buck Consultants, an ACS Company, for the State of Alaska Elected Public Officers Retirement System to:

- (1) Present the results of a valuation of the State of Alaska Elected Public Officers Retirement System as of June 30, 2008;
- (2) Review experience under the plan since the last actuarial valuation;
- (3) Determine the contribution for the Elected Public Officers Retirement System;
- (4) Provide reporting and disclosure information for financial statements, governmental agencies, and other interested parties.

This report is divided into three sections. Section 1 describes the basis of the valuation. It summarizes the plan provisions, provides information relating to the plan members, and describes the funding methods and actuarial assumptions used in determining liabilities and costs.

Section 2 contains the results of the valuation. It includes the current annual costs and reporting and disclosure information.

Section 3 contains the information required by GASB 25 and 43.

The principal results are as follows:

Funding Status as of June 30	2006	2008
(a) Valuation Assets	\$ 0	\$ 0
(b) Actuarial Accrued Liability	\$ 18,921,264	\$ 26,929,610
(c) Accrued Benefit Funding Ratio, $(a) \div (b)$	0%	0%

Recommended Contribution	2006	2008
(a) Normal Cost	\$ 0	\$ 0
(b) Past Service Cost	<u>1,342,510</u>	<u>1,910,722</u>
(c) Total Annual Cost, $(a) + (b)$	\$ 1,342,510	\$ 1,910,722
(d) Expected Annual Benefit Payments and Claim Costs	\$ 1,513,591	\$ 2,035,063
(e) Total Annual Recommended Contribution [Greater of (c) and (d)]	\$ 1,513,591	\$ 2,035,063

Analysis of the Valuation

Actuarial Assumptions

This actuarial valuation report is for the Elected Public Officers Retirement System (EPORS) of the State of Alaska. Plan benefits are not prefunded, but are paid when due. In order to discount the value of future benefit payments, we have assumed an interest rate of 5.00% per year. This is reflective of the expected long-term rate of return of general fund assets, the source of benefit funding. So long as the plan is operated on a “pay-as-you-go” basis and no assets are accumulated in the Plan, this will be a relatively unimportant assumption. However, the interest assumption is necessary in order to develop present values and other liability calculations which are desired by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

Actuarial vs. Pay-As-You-Go-Funding

Since inception in 1976, benefits under EPORS have been paid for on a pay-as-you-go basis. This means that just enough money has been appropriated each year to pay the benefits as they come due. Under this method, no fund is built up and therefore, no investment earnings offset the State’s cost. In Section 2.3 of this report, we have projected the total benefit payments under EPORS for the next 35 years. Annual benefit payments are projected to decrease from their current levels, which are approximately \$2,000,000 per year.

This valuation uses the Entry Age Normal Actuarial Funding Method to disclose costs and liabilities. The actuarial funding method amortizes all unfunded liabilities over 25 years in level dollar payments. There is also no normal cost component because there are no longer any active members in EPORS. Since all of the costs and liabilities of EPORS are associated with inactive members and because there are no assets in an EPORS fund, the costs associated with EPORS are past service costs only.

The results are only valid if actual experience tracks closely with the actuarial assumptions. We have used our “best guess” in an attempt to predict long-term future rates of inflation, general fund investment performance and life expectancy for retired elected public officers. These estimates are subject to short-term volatility. Nevertheless, we believe that the assumptions, in the aggregate, are reasonable and that the results provide a starting place to determine costs under EPORS. If it is decided to prefund these benefits, the discount rate should be reviewed to be reflective of the expected rate of return given the fund’s asset allocation.

Analysis of the Valuation

Changes Since Prior Valuation

There were three changes in assumptions from the prior valuation in 2006. The first was regarding the future increases in healthcare cost trend rates and the change to the Society of Actuaries' Healthcare Cost Trend Model. The second change involved decreasing the assumed Medicare Part B only proportion of all Medicare retirees from 5% to 4%. The third change is in regard to the benefits provided to spouses. In the past, members with a code of "REG" were assumed to have no benefits paid to the spouse. We now understand that this code means the spouse receives 50% of the pension benefit for his or her lifetime and lifetime retiree medical benefits.

Development of Actuarial Gain/(Loss)

	Pension	Healthcare	Total
(1) Accrued Liability, June 30, 2006	\$ 16,264,560	\$ 2,656,704	\$ 18,291,264
(2) Expected Accrued Liability as of June 30, 2008	15,183,697	2,088,491	17,272,188
(a) Accrued Liability for new spouses not expected as of June 30, 2006	988,829	354,943	1,343,772
(b) Accrued Liability for actual COLA versus expected COLA	3,572,265	0	3,572,265
(c) Change from single life annuity to 50% Joint & Survivor as "REG" benefit	2,765,843	1,613,826	4,379,669
(d) Change of the healthcare cost trend rates	<u>0</u>	<u>132,106</u>	<u>132,106</u>
(3) Expected Accrued Liability as of June 30, 2008	\$ 22,510,634	\$ 4,189,366	\$ 26,700,000
(4) Actual Accrued Liability, June 30, 2008	22,194,484	4,735,126	26,929,610
(5) Liability Gain/(Loss), (3) - (4)	\$ 316,150	\$ (545,760)	\$ (229,610)

Section 1

Basis of the Valuation

In this section, the basis of the valuation is presented and described. This information – the provisions of the plan and the census of members – is the foundation of the valuation, since these are the present facts upon which benefit payments will depend.

A summary of plan provisions is provided in Section 1.1 and member census information is shown in Section 1.2.

The valuation is based upon the premise that the plan will continue in existence, so that future events must also be considered. These future events are assumed to occur in accordance with the actuarial assumptions and concern such events as the number of members who will retire, die, terminate their services, their ages at such termination and their expected benefits.

The actuarial assumptions and the actuarial cost method, or funding method, are described in Section 1.3.

Section 1.1

Summary of the Alaska Elected Public Officers Retirement System Plan Provisions

(1) Employees Included

The governor, lieutenant governor, and members of the Alaska State Legislature, holding office between January 1, 1976 and October 14, 1976.

(2) Employee Contributions

- (a) Mandatory employee contribution: 7% of salary.
- (b) Interest Credited: 4.5% compounded semi-annually on June 30 and December 31.
- (c) Voluntary Refund at Termination: Return of contributions with interest.
- (d) Refund at Death: If no eligible survivors, return of contribution with interest to designated beneficiary or beneficiaries.

(3) Normal Retirement Benefit

- (a) Eligibility: Age 60 with 5 or more years of paid service.
- (b) Type: Life with automatic 50% joint and survivor benefit if married at least one year prior to date of death. If the accrued benefit formula percentage is less than 60% at the time of death, the survivor benefit may not be less than 30% of the current base salary of the judicial office.
- (c) Amount: Members may irrevocably choose between two types of benefit calculations at the time of retirement: variable Alaska Statute (AS) 39.37.050(a)(1) and fixed AS 39.37.050(a)(2). Under the variable method, benefits are calculated based on the active salary of the office from which the member retired. Benefits may raise or lower depending on the change in the active salary. The fixed method bases the calculation on the average monthly compensation as defined in AS 39.35.680. Benefits calculated under the fixed method do not change when the active salary changes. Benefit calculation is 5% for each year of elected public officer service plus 2% for any other PERS service performed to a maximum of 75% times either the salary of the office from which the member retired or the average monthly salary depending on which option is chosen.
- (d) Variable Benefit Increases/Decreases: Members who elect a variable benefit will have their benefit recalculated when the active salary of the position they retired from changes. If the salary lowers, retirement benefits will also be lowered.
- (e) Cost of Living Increases: Retired members who select the variable option are eligible for post retirement pension increases (Chapter 91, Section 1 SLA 2001) if they have been receiving benefits without an increase for at least 10 years. Benefits will be increased by 75% of the cost of living increase calculated from the date of the last benefit adjustment or the date when the member retired, whichever is later. The member may not receive another adjustment based on the salary and, if appropriate, allowances established under AS 24.10.110, authorized for the office from which the member retired until the resultant increase in benefits equals or exceeds the increase based on the post retirement pension adjustments. Increases in benefit payments under the post retirement pension adjustment are effective July 1 of each calendar year.

Section 1.1

Summary of the Alaska Elected Public Officers Retirement System Plan Provisions *(continued)*

(4) Early Retirement Benefit

- (a) Eligibility: At least age 55 with 5 or more years of paid service or any age with 20 or more years of paid service.
- (b) Type: Life benefit with automatic 50% joint and survivor benefit if married at least one year prior to date of death. If the accrued benefit formula percentage is less than 60% at the time of death, the survivor benefit may not be less than 30% of the current base salary of the judicial office.
- (c) Amount: Normal retirement benefit based on service to early retirement date reduced 0.5% per month for each month which precedes normal retirement date. Members may irrevocably choose between two types of benefit calculations at the time of retirement: variable AS 39.37.050(a)(1) and fixed AS 39.37.050(a)(2). Under the variable method, benefits are calculated based on the active salary of the office from which the member retired. Benefits may raise or lower depending on the change in the active salary. The fixed method bases the calculation on the average monthly compensation as defined in AS 39.35.680. Benefits calculated under the fixed method do not change when the active salary changes. Benefit calculation is 5% for each year of elected public officer service plus 2% for any other PERS service times either the salary of the office from which the member retired or the average monthly salary depending on which option is chosen.
- (d) Variable Benefit Increases/Decreases: Members who elect a variable benefit will have their benefit recalculated when the active salary of the position they retired from changes. If the salary lowers, retirement benefits will also be lowered.
- (e) Cost of Living Increases: Retired members who select the variable option are eligible for post retirement pension increases (Chapter 91, Section 1 SLA 2001) if they have been receiving benefits without an increase for at least 10 years. Benefits will be increased by 75% of the cost of living increase calculated from the date of the last benefit adjustment or the date when the member retired, whichever is later. The member may not receive another adjustment based on the salary and, if appropriate, allowances established under AS 24.10.110, authorized for the office from which the member retired until the resultant increase in benefits equals or exceeds the increase based on the post retirement pension adjustments. Increases in benefit payments under the post retirement pension adjustment are effective July 1 of each calendar year.

(5) Deferred Vested Benefit

- (a) Eligibility: Vested with 5 or more years of paid service. Benefits may commence at Early or Normal retirement.
- (b) Type: Normal or Early retirement benefit.
- (c) Amount: Calculated in the same manner as a Normal or Early retirement benefit.
- (d) Variable Benefit Increases/Decreases: Same provisions as Normal or Early retirement.
- (e) Cost of Living Increases: Same provisions as Normal or Early retirement.

Section 1.1

Summary of the Alaska Elected Public Officers Retirement System Plan Provisions *(continued)*

(6) Retirement for Incapacity Benefit

- (a) Eligibility: Incapacitated from performing the duties of their position at any age with five or more years of paid service.
- (b) Type: Monthly benefit received until death.
- (c) Amount: Calculated in the same manner as a Normal retirement except benefits commence the first of the month following an approved recommendation of the review board.
- (d) Variable Benefit Increases/Decreases: Same provisions as Normal retirement.
- (e) Cost of Living Increases: Same provisions as Normal retirement.

(7) Death Benefit Before Retirement

Provided the deceased member accrued at least 2 years of credited service and had been married for at least 1 year the spouse is entitled to an automatic survivor benefit of 50% of the accrued benefit at the time of death. If the accrued benefit formula percentage is less than 60% at the time of death, the survivor benefit may not be less than 30% of the current base salary of the judicial office. If there is no surviving spouse but there are dependent children at the time of death, 50% of the above benefit may be divided in equal shares to the dependent children for the duration of their dependency. If there is no spouse or dependent children, the contribution account balance, plus interest, will be paid to the designated beneficiary or beneficiaries.

(8) Medical Benefits

Each retiree is provided with medical and prescription drug benefits with no premium payment required. These benefits are available for the lifetime of the retiree and for the lifetime of the spouse if a survivor benefit is payable. Benefits are also available to eligible dependents for the duration of their dependency.

Section 1.2 Member Census Information

	<u>As of June 30, 2006</u>	<u>As of June 30, 2008</u>
<u>Active Members</u>		
(1) Number	1	0
(2) Average Age	67.06	0.00
(3) Average Service Years ¹	3.42	0.00
(4) Average Annual Pay	\$93,576	\$0
<u>Vested Terminated Members</u>		
(1) Number	1	0
(2) Average Age	55.88	0.00
(3) Average Service	7.00	0.00
<u>Retirees and Beneficiaries</u>		
(1) Number	37	40 ²
(2) Average Age	72.44	73.33
(3) Average Monthly Benefits	\$2,802	\$3,506

¹ Only service since rehire from retirement is considered.

² Note that there was one beneficiary who is receiving benefits who was first reported for the June 30, 2008 valuation.

Section 1.3 Summary of Actuarial Assumptions, Methods and Procedures

Valuation of Liabilities

A. Actuarial Method

Entry Age Normal

Projected pension and postemployment healthcare benefits were determined using Entry Age Normal. The actuarial accrued liability for retired members and their beneficiaries currently receiving benefits was determined as the actuarial present value of the benefits expected to be paid. No future normal costs are payable for these members.

The unfunded accrued benefit liability, including accumulated actuarial gains and losses, is amortized over 25 years on a level dollar basis. The annual required contribution will not be less than the expected benefit payments and claim costs for the upcoming year.

Section 1.3 Summary of Actuarial Assumptions, Methods and Procedures *(continued)*

B. Actuarial Assumptions

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Interest | 5.00% per year, compounded annually, net of investment expenses. |
| 2. Inflation | 3.50% per year. |
| 3. Salary Scale | None. |
| 4. Mortality | |
| a. Post-retirement | 1994 Group Annuity Mortality Basic Table for males and females, 1994 Base Year without margin. |
| b. Pre-retirement | None. |
| 5. Turnover | None. |
| 6. Retirement | None. |
| 7. Disability | None. |
| 8. Dependent Children | None. |
| 9. Spouse Assumptions | Members are assumed to be married at retirement. Husbands are assumed to be 3 years older than their wives. |
| 10. Health Benefits | The assumptions used to determine the cost of medical benefits are exactly the same as those shown in Section 2.3(D) of the June 30, 2008 valuation report for the Teachers' Retirement System. |
| 11. Variable Benefit Increases | 4% per year, compounded annually. |

C. Valuation Asset Method

Actuarial Value of Assets equals Market Value of Assets.

Section 2 Valuation Results

Section 2 sets forth the results of the actuarial valuation.

Section 2.1 Breakdown of Actuarial Present Values as of June 30, 2008.

Section 2.2 Calculation of Total Annual Contribution for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2009.

Section 2.3 Estimated Cash Flows.

Section 2.1
Breakdown of Actuarial Present Values
as of June 30, 2008

	<u>Normal Cost</u>	<u>Actuarial Accrued Liability</u>
Active Participants		
Retirement Benefits	\$ 0	\$ 0
Health Benefits	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal	\$ 0	\$ 0
Retirees and Survivors		
Retirement Benefits		\$ 22,194,484
Health Benefits		<u>4,735,126</u>
Subtotal		\$ 26,929,610
Vested Terminations		
Retirement Benefits		\$ 0
Health Benefits		<u>0</u>
Subtotal		\$ 0
Total		\$ 26,929,610

Section 2.2
Calculation of Total Annual Contribution
for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2009

(1) Total Normal Cost	\$	0
(2) Total Salaries	\$	0
(3) Expected Employee Contribution	\$	<u>0</u>
(4) Employer Normal Cost [(1) – (3)]	\$	0
(5) Actuarial Accrued Liability	\$	26,929,610
(6) Assets		<u>0</u>
(7) Total Unfunded Liability [(5) – (6)]	\$	26,929,610
(8) Amortization Factor (25 years at 5%)		14.798642
(9) Past Service Payment [(7) / (8)]	\$	1,819,735
(10) Annual Actuarial Contribution at Beginning of Year [(4) + (9)]	\$	1,819,735
(11) Interest at 5%		<u>90,987</u>
(12) Annual Actuarial Contribution at End of Year [(10) + (11)]	\$	1,910,722
(13) Expected Benefit Payments and Claim Costs for the Upcoming Year	\$	2,035,063
(14) Annual Recommended Contribution [Greater of (12) and (13)]	\$	2,035,063

Section 2.3 Estimated Cash Flows

Year Starting July 1	Annual Contributions	Estimated Annual Payments
2008	\$ 0	\$ 2,035,063
2009	0	2,032,693
2010	0	2,032,960
2011	0	2,030,432
2012	0	2,009,079
2013	0	1,994,838
2014	0	1,955,343
2015	0	1,897,833
2016	0	1,863,921
2017	0	1,825,841
2018	0	1,772,353
2019	0	1,727,373
2020	0	1,680,640
2021	0	1,632,717
2022	0	1,583,824
2023	0	1,534,330
2024	0	1,483,828
2025	0	1,431,942
2026	0	1,378,748
2027	0	1,323,772
2028	0	1,266,499
2029	0	1,206,633
2030	0	1,143,911
2031	0	1,078,152
2032	0	1,009,234
2033	0	937,540
2034	0	863,436
2035	0	787,611
2036	0	711,158
2037	0	635,108
2038	0	560,418
2039	0	488,332
2040	0	419,903
2041	0	356,095
2042	0	297,644
2043	0	245,056

Section 3

GASB 25 and 43 Information

Section 3 sets forth the information required by GASB 25 and 43.

Section 3.1 Summary of Accrued and Unfunded Accrued Liabilities.

Section 3.2 Schedule of Employer Contributions.

Section 3.3 Actuarial Assumptions, Methods and Additional Information under GASB.

Section 3.1 Summary of Accrued and Unfunded Accrued Liabilities

Valuation Date	Aggregate Accrued Liability	Valuation Assets	Assets as a Percent of Accrued Liability	Unfunded Accrued Liabilities (UAL)	Annual Active Member Payroll	UAL as a Percent of Annual Active Member Payroll
June 30, 2005 ¹	\$ 20,028,323	\$ 0	N/A	\$ 20,028,323	\$ 160,181	12,503.57%

The exhibit below shows the pension disclosure under GASB No. 25

Valuation Date	Aggregate Accrued Liability	Valuation Assets	Assets as a Percent of Accrued Liability	Unfunded Accrued Liabilities (UAL)	Annual Active Member Payroll	UAL as a Percent of Annual Active Member Payroll
June 30, 2006	\$ 16,264,560	\$ 0	N/A	\$ 16,264,560	\$ 93,576	17,381.12%
June 30, 2008	\$ 22,194,484	\$ 0	N/A	\$ 22,194,484	\$ 0	N/A

The exhibit below shows the postemployment healthcare disclosure without regard to the Medicare Part D subsidy under GASB No. 43.

Valuation Date	Aggregate Accrued Liability	Valuation Assets	Assets as a Percent of Accrued Liability	Unfunded Accrued Liabilities (UAL)	Annual Active Member Payroll	UAL as a Percent of Annual Active Member Payroll
June 30, 2006	\$ 2,982,910	\$ 0	N/A	\$ 2,982,910	\$ 93,576	3,187.69%
June 30, 2008	\$ 5,168,446	\$ 0	N/A	\$ 5,168,446	\$ 0	N/A

¹ This is the first valuation completed since GASB 25 was adopted.

Section 3.2 Schedule of Employer Contributions

Year Ended June 30	Total Annual Required Contribution	Total Percentage Contributed
2008	\$ 1,747,475	100%
2007	1,670,005	100%
2006	1,630,202	100%
2005	N/A	N/A

The annual required contribution is the greater of the annual recommended contribution and the statutorily required contribution described in AS 39.37.110.

Section 3.3 Actuarial Assumptions, Methods and Additional Information Under GASB

Valuation Date	June 30, 2008
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Amortization Method	Level dollar basis
Equivalent Single Amortization Period	25 years
Asset Valuation Method	Market Value
Actuarial Assumptions:	
Investment rate of return*	5.00%
Projected salary increases	4% per year, compounded annually.
*Includes inflation at	3.5%

GASB 43 requires that the discount rate used in the valuation be the estimated long-term yield on investments that are expected to finance postemployment benefits. Depending on the method by which a plan is financed, the relevant investments could be plan assets, employer assets or a combination of plan and employer assets. The investment return should reflect the nature and the mix of both current and expected investments and the basis used to determine the actuarial value of assets.

The State of Alaska Elected Public Officers Retirement System's retiree healthcare benefits are fully funded using the pay-as-you-go method. For this system, the pay-as-you-go cost exceeds the annual required contribution (ARC). GASB states that for plans that contribute more than the ARC, the discount rate used in the valuation should reflect the long-term investment yield on plan assets. The State of Alaska has utilized a discount rate of 5.00% as of June 30, 2008 to be used for fiscal 2009 disclosure.

Using the GASB 43 discount rate above and disregarding future Medicare Part D payments, the fiscal 2009 employer ARC for accounting purposes is \$390,126 for healthcare benefits and \$2,048,872 for healthcare and pension benefits combined.