



## Retirement plan reselection period nears for eligible members

STRS Ohio Defined Contribution Plan or Combined Plan participants who are currently in their fifth year of membership will have the option to reselect their retirement plan beginning in early 2022. Members who are eligible for this reselection period were enrolled as new members between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018.

Those eligible for reselection in 2022 will be notified early next calendar year. About four to six weeks later, they will receive a personalized reselection packet that includes their individual account balance, plan options and enrollment instructions. The retirement plan selected during this period

will be permanent. Members can choose between STRS Ohio's Defined Contribution Plan, Combined Plan or Defined Benefit Plan.

Eligible members who do not make a selection during this period will, by law, remain enrolled in their current plan. Members who decide to switch from the plan they are now enrolled in will convert their current account to their new retirement plan choice on July 1, 2022.

If you have questions regarding the reselection option or about your eligibility for this choice, please call STRS Ohio's Member Services Center toll-free at 888-227-7877.

## Building retirement security

Members are not eligible to increase the level of contributions to their defined contribution account. However, making additional contributions to a supplemental retirement account will help build retirement security. Ohio teachers are eligible to contribute to Ohio Deferred Compensation, a supplemental 457(b) retirement plan. Unlike individual retirement accounts (IRAs) or 403(b) plans, funds in an Ohio Deferred Compensation account are not subject to a 10% early withdrawal penalty if employment ends and a member withdraws funds before age 59-1/2. Teachers are unique in that you are eligible to contribute to Ohio Deferred Compensation and a 403(b) plan. A financial advisor can help you compare the benefits and fees of each of these options.

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## NRS/STRS Ohio website — a valuable tool for members

STRS Ohio has contracted with Nationwide Retirement Solutions (NRS) as administrative service provider for the defined contribution aspects of STRS Ohio's benefits. No matter what point you are at in your career in education, STRS Ohio and NRS are ready to provide you with the resources you need to reach your retirement goals. The NRS/STRS Ohio website ([www.nrsstrsoh.org](http://www.nrsstrsoh.org)) offers helpful tools and tips, including:

- **Secure access to your online account**
- **Financial tools and calculators**
- **An online retirement planning tool called My Interactive Retirement Planner<sup>SM</sup> that helps you assess your retirement readiness**

NRS has a successful history of providing quality service and is committed to achieving the highest quality standards in service for STRS Ohio members. If you need more personalized assistance, you can reach an NRS Retirement Specialist toll-free at 866-332-3342.

If you have any questions about the material printed in this publication, please contact STRS Ohio toll-free at 888-227-7877. This publication is intended merely as a general information reference for members of STRS Ohio. If you have any specific questions about the subjects covered by this publication, you should contact the retirement office. This publication is not intended as a substitute for applicable federal or state law, nor will its interpretation prevail should a conflict arise between its contents and applicable federal or state law. Before making decisions regarding your retirement, you should always consult with STRS Ohio as well as your personal tax, legal and financial advisors.

# Investor's CORNER

## Investment checkup

An annual portfolio review is a good way to help you assess your asset mix. Over time, the performance of your investment choices can vary, and the value of each choice may be different than your original allocation goals. You may decide that it's time to rebalance your assets to keep on course for your retirement.

The retirement specialists at Nationwide Retirement Solutions (NRS) can provide the information you need to help you determine the right asset mix to meet your retirement goals. NRS representatives are available Monday–Friday from 8 a.m.–11 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m.–6 p.m. You can reach them toll-free at 866-332-3342.

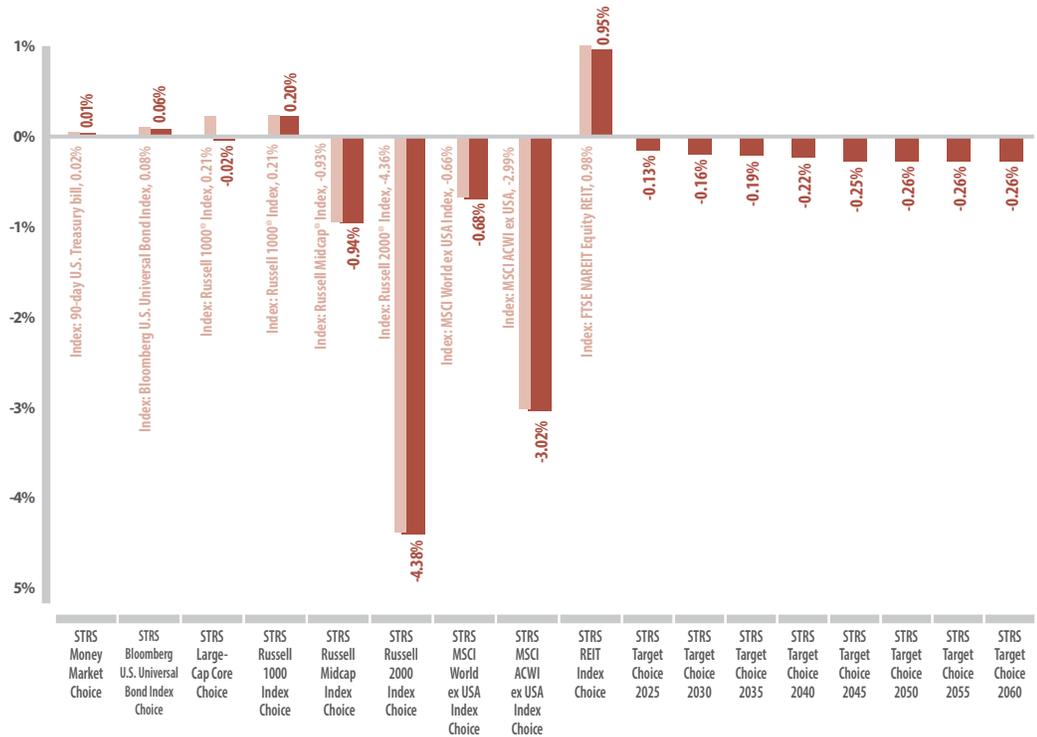
## Investment choice profile

This quarter's SmartTALK profiles the STRS REIT Index Choice.

The STRS REIT Index Choice invests in the securities of public real estate companies, primarily Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). The focus is on leading large- to medium-capitalization real estate stocks. These securities, however, tend to be small-capitalization stocks in relation to the broad U.S. stock market. Investments in the Industrial, Apartments, Data Centers, Health Care, Office and Self Storage sectors make up about two-thirds of the Index. Top holdings include Prologis Inc., Equinix Inc., Digital Realty Trust, Public Storage and Simon Property Group. Intermediate and long-term performance figures for this and all allocation choices are provided on the *Investment Performance Report*.

### STRS Ohio Quarterly Investment Performance for Defined Contribution and Combined Plans

July 1, 2021–Sept. 30, 2021



All STRS Ohio performance figures noted above are net of fees.

## ask SMARTALK

### Can I take a full lump-sum payment at retirement?

Be sure to schedule an individual counseling session with STRS Ohio at least three years before you plan to retire and again six to 12 months from retirement to discuss your retirement payment options in detail. Members enrolled in the Defined Contribution Plan can take payment through a rollover, a lump-sum withdrawal or a lifetime annuity. Keep in mind that STRS Ohio offers highly competitive annuity rates and several different plans of payment to protect survivors.

Members enrolled in the Combined Plan have the same options as noted above for the defined contribution portion of their account. For the defined benefit portion of the account, a lifetime annuity is available. Withdrawing the defined benefit account at retirement would forfeit eligibility for STRS Ohio's Health Care Program.\*

\*The STRS Ohio Health Care Program is not guaranteed. STRS Ohio may change or discontinue all or part of the program for all or a class of eligible benefit recipients and covered dependents at any time. Currently, Combined Plan members must have at least 15 years of service credit (or 20 years of service credit for retirement on or after Aug. 1, 2023) to qualify for access to the STRS Ohio Health Care Program (medical/prescription, dental and vision).