

Missouri Sheriffs' Retirement System

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The Missouri Sheriffs' Retirement System was established by the Legislature to provide retirement, disability and survivor benefits to Missouri Sheriffs' and their families. It is a source of funding that not only protects the members but helps attract good talent to help keep our communities safe.

Unfortunately, the Missouri Sheriffs' Retirement system lost 100% of the revenue supporting their funding resulting from the Fowler lawsuit in July of 2021. After losing almost \$9 million in the settlement and no ongoing revenue source, the board worked hard over the last two years to identify retirement funding for the active sheriffs, retired sheriffs and their survivors. As part of this effort, the organization worked with the legislature to get Amendment 6 on the ballot.

It is important to note that since the court decision, active sheriffs chose to contribute 5% of their salary toward their retirement. Unfortunately, that only addresses a little over 10% of the funding deficit.

Along with the active sheriffs and retired sheriffs, the retirement board felt it was important that the voters understand what Amendment 6 was and its importance to the retirement system. After seeking counsel, the board believed there was nothing in the regulations for the system or Missouri law that would prevent them from financially supporting the amendment to preserve a long-term funding source.

When faced with losing 100% of funding for members who were promised a retirement, the organization took the necessary steps to proactively support its membership.