

John Bass

Background

I've been a firefighter for 20 years, eight with RRFD, and twelve with AFD (TRK3C).

I have a BBA in Finance ('97) from UT Austin and continue to study institutional finance, focusing on areas such as valuation, asset allocation, risk management, and pension finance. I'm currently pursuing designation as a Chartered Financial Analyst and recently passed the first of three exams.

Past, Present, Future

In my four years on the Board, we've made important changes, including hiring a highly qualified Executive Director and staff, implementing a new actuary, adopting more appropriate plan assumptions, and addressing liability valuation inaccuracies. We've worked with our consultant to increase index investment, saving \$700K annually in fees, and to develop improved benchmarking, ensuring our investment managers are accountable to a rigorous standard. Our current work on plan reform will create lasting solutions for recurring challenges pensions experience. Most importantly, I'm proud to say the Board is operating as a cooperative team, allowing us to tackle the serious work before us.

I'll continue to view the plan and its challenges in a realistic and grounded manner, not through wishful thinking, improbable expectations, or shortsightedness. A clear-eyed approach gives the plan the best chance for maintaining a healthy funding path for years to come. Doing otherwise obscures our view, increases risk of underfunding, places burden on future members and trustees, and would be a failure of duty to the fund and its members.

My Ongoing Pledge

I will work with the Board and staff respectfully and collaboratively. My decisions will be carefully considered, free of unwarranted influence, and will always reflect the health and safety of the fund. I will do everything to maintain the trust you place in me. Whether you're a retiree, current, or future member, I work for all of you.