

Sussex County Employee Pension Plan

GASB 67/68 Report as of June 30, 2021 Measurement Date

Produced by Cheiron

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SECTION I – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide accounting and financial disclosure information under Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements 67 and 68 (GASB 67 and 68) for the Sussex County Employee Pension Plan (the Plan) and Sussex County (the County).

This information within this report includes:

- Calculation of the Net Pension Liability at the discount rate as well as discount rates 1% higher and lower than the discount rate,
- Changes in the Net Pension Liability,
- Schedule of Employer Contributions,
- Disclosure of Deferred Inflows and Outflows, and
- Calculation of the Annual Pension Expense for the County.

Highlights

The measurement date for the Plan is June 30, 2021. This measurement date is used for the Plan's GASB 67 reporting and the County's GASB 68 reporting as of June 30, 2021. Measurements as of the reporting date are based on the fair value of assets as of June 30, 2021 and the Total Pension Liability as of the valuation date, also June 30, 2021.

The table below provides a summary of the key results as of the current June 30, 2021 measurement date as well as the immediately preceding measurement date.

Table 1-1 Summary of Results											
Measurement Date											
6/30/2021 6/30/2020											
Net Pension Liability	\$	(23,020,007)	\$	1,384,706							
Deferred Outflows		(1,497,032)		(5,296,096)							
Deferred Inflows		16,145,283		1,174,384							
Net Impact on Statement of Net Position	\$	(8,371,756)	\$	(2,737,006)							
Pension Expense (\$ Amount)	\$	(637,234)	\$	4,974,289							
Pension Expense (% of Payroll)		-2.41%		19.17%							

Under GASB 68, the County recognized a Net Pension Liability of \$1,384,706 as of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. As of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, the County will report a Net Pension Liability of negative \$23,020,007, Deferred Outflows of Resources of \$1,497,032, and Deferred Inflows of Resources of \$16,145,283 related to the Plan. Consequently, the net impact on the County's Statement of Net Position would be negative \$8,371,756 at the end of the reporting year. In addition, any contributions between the measurement date and the reporting date would be reported as deferred outflows to offset the cash outflow reported.



SECTION I – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the measurement year ending June 30, 2021, the annual pension expense is negative \$637,234 or negative 2.41% of covered payroll. This amount is not equal to the employer's contributions to the Plan, but instead represents the change in the net impact on the County's Statement of Net Position plus employer contributions. A breakdown of the components of the net pension expense is shown in section VII of this report.



SECTION II – CERTIFICATION

The purpose of this report is to provide accounting and financial reporting information under GASB 67 for the Sussex County Employee Pension Plan (the Plan) and under GASB 68 for Sussex County (the County). This report is for the use of the Sussex County Employee Pension Plan, Sussex County, and their auditors in preparing financial reports in accordance with applicable law and accounting requirements. This report is not appropriate for other purposes, including the measurement of funding requirements for the Plan.

In preparing our report, we relied on information, some oral and some written, supplied by the Plan. This information includes, but is not limited to, the plan provisions, membership data, and financial information. We performed an informal examination of the obvious characteristics of the data for reasonableness and consistency in accordance with Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 23.

The membership data, actuarial assumptions and plan provisions are the same as were described in the July 1, 2021 Actuarial Valuation Report.

Future actuarial measurements may differ significantly from the current measurements due to such factors as the following: plan experience differing from that anticipated by the economic or demographic assumptions; changes in economic or demographic assumptions; and changes in plan provisions or applicable law.

Cheiron utilizes ProVal, an actuarial valuation software leased from Winklevoss Technologies (WinTech) to calculate liabilities and project benefit payments. We have relied on WinTech as the developer of ProVal. We have reviewed ProVal and have a basic understanding of it and have used ProVal in accordance with its original intended purpose. We have not identified any material inconsistencies in assumptions or output of ProVal that would affect this report.

This report and its contents have been prepared in accordance with generally recognized and accepted actuarial principles and practices and our understanding of the Code of Professional Conduct and applicable Actuarial Standards of Practice set out by the Actuarial Standards Board as well as applicable laws and regulations. Furthermore, as credentialed actuaries, we meet the Qualification Standards of the American Academy of Actuaries to render the opinion contained in this report. This report does not address any contractual or legal issues. We are not attorneys and our firm does not provide any legal services or advice.

This report was prepared for the purposes described herein and for the use by the Plan and County auditors in completing an audit related to the matters herein. Other users of this report are not intended users as defined in the Actuarial Standards of Practice, and Cheiron assumes no duty or liability to such other users.

Janet Cranna, FSA, EA, FCA, MAAA Principal Consulting Actuary

Brett Warren, FSA, EA, CERA, MAAA Consulting Actuary



SECTION III – DETERMINATION OF DISCOUNT RATE

The discount rate used to measure the Total Pension Liability (TPL) was 7.00%.

In developing the projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate, we have assumed that employer contributions to the Plan will continue to follow the written contribution policy. The total employer contribution rate is the sum of the normal cost rate plus an amortization of the Plan's unfunded actuarial liability (UAL) plus a provision for expenses. The normal cost rate is determined under the entry age actuarial cost method while the UAL rate is that necessary to pay down the UAL over a closed 20-year period that began July 1, 2015, using a level dollar amortization approach. We also assumed that member contributions will continue to be made at the rates specified in the Plan.

The projections used for the depletion test are based on our propriety model P-Scan developed by our firm that utilize the results shown in our actuarial valuation report as of July 1, 2021. The projections assume continuation of the Plan provisions and actuarial assumptions in effect as of the valuation date and do not reflect the impact of any changes in benefits or actuarial assumptions that may be adopted after the valuation date. While the assumptions individually are reasonable for the underlying valuation that supports the projections, specifically for projection purposes, they are also considered reasonable in the aggregate.

Based on these assumptions, the Plan's Fiduciary Net Position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments for current members following the procedures described in paragraphs 39-45 of GASB 67. Consequently, the single equivalent rate used to determine the Total Pension Liability as of June 30, 2021 is 7.00%, the long-term expected rate-of-return as defined by GASB 67 and 68 as of that date.



SECTION IV – TOTAL PENSION LIABILITY SENSITIVITY

The table below shows the Total Pension Liability (TPL) amounts at discount rates equal to the rate used for measuring the TPL at the June 30, 2021 measurement date as well as plus and minus one percent from that rate.

Table IV-1 Total Pension Liability											
Discount Rate		6.00%		7.00%		8.00%					
Valuation Total Pension Liability, 6	5/30/2021										
Actives	\$	71,683,857	\$	61,572,354	\$	53,303,360					
Deferred Vested		7,344,885		6,061,107		5,060,996					
Retirees		65,731,166		60,186,657		55,441,639					
Total	\$	144,759,908	\$	127,820,118	\$	113,805,995					

Net Pension Liability (NPL) sensitivity disclosures required under GASB 67 and 68 are developed based on this information in Table V-2 in section V of this report.



SECTION V – NOTE DISCLOSURES

The table below shows the changes in the Total Pension Liability /(TPL), the Plan Fiduciary Net Position (i.e., fair value of Plan assets) (FNP), and the Net Pension Liability (NPL) during the Measurement Year ending on June 30, 2021.

	Increase (Decrease)											
	T	Total Pension Liability (a)		an Fiduciary Net Position (b)		Net Pension Liability (a) - (b)						
Balances at 6/30/2020	\$	121,843,941	\$	120,459,235	\$	1,384,706						
Changes for the year:												
Service cost		2,824,325				2,824,325						
Interest		8,545,756				8,545,756						
Changes of benefits		0				0						
Differences between expected and actual experience		(132,847)				(132,847						
Changes of assumptions		0				0						
Contributions - employer				4,997,516		(4,997,516						
Contributions - member				251,807		(251,807						
Net investment income				30,573,598		(30,573,598						
Benefit payments		(5,261,057)		(5,261,057)		0						
Administrative expense				(180,974)		180,974						
Net changes		5,976,177		30,380,890		(24,404,713						
Balances at 6/30/2021	\$	127,820,118	\$	150,840,125	\$	(23,020,00)						

During the measurement year, the NPL decreased by approximately \$24.40 million in total. The service cost and interest cost increased the NPL by approximately \$11.37 million and member contributions, employer contributions and investment gains offset by administrative expenses decreased the NPL by approximately \$35.64 million. Additionally, there were actuarial experience gains during the year of approximately \$0.13 million.



SECTION V – NOTE DISCLOSURES

Changes in the discount rate affect the measurement of the TPL. Lower discount rates produce a higher TPL and higher discount rates produce a lower TPL. Because the discount rate does not affect the measurement of assets, the percentage change in the NPL can be very significant for a relatively small change in the discount rate. The table below shows the sensitivity of the NPL to the discount rate.

Table V-2 Sensitivity of Net Pension Liability to Changes in Discount Rate												
		1% Decrease 6.00%		Discount Rate 7.00%	1% Increase 8.00%							
Total Pension Liability Plan Fiduciary Net Position	\$	144,759,908 150,840,125	\$	127,820,118 \$ 150,840,125	113,805,995 150,840,125							
Net Pension Liability	\$	(6,080,217)	\$	(23,020,007) \$	(37,034,130)							
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability		104.2%		118.0%	132.5%							

A one percent decrease in the discount rate increases the TPL by approximately 13.3% and increases the NPL by approximately 73.6%. A one percent increase in the discount rate decreases the TPL by approximately 11.0% and decreases the NPL by approximately 60.9%.



SECTION VI – REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

The schedules of Required Supplementary Information generally start with information as of the implementation of GASB 67, and eventually will build up to ten years of information. Information shown for measurement dates prior to June 30, 2016 were based on the June 30, 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the prior actuary's report.

The schedule below shows the changes in NPL and related ratios required by GASB.

Schedul	e of C			VI-1 ion Liability and	Rel	ated Ratios								
FYE 2021 FYE 2020 FYE 2019 FYE 2018 FYE 2017														
<u>Total Pension Liability</u>														
Service cost	\$	2,824,325	\$	2,714,022	\$	2,271,361	\$	2,142,142	\$	1,885,125				
Interest (includes interest on service cost)		8,545,756		8,066,691		8,037,883		7,593,994		7,078,272				
Changes of benefit terms		0		0		0		0		1,259,679				
Differences between expected and actual experience		(132,847)		994,019		(529,784)		551,937		651,103				
Changes of assumptions		0		0		(1,231,792)		0		3,251,143				
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions		(5,261,057)		(4,828,741)		(4,414,193)		(4,179,270)		(3,853,298)				
Net change in total pension liability	\$	5,976,177	\$	6,945,991	\$	4,133,475	\$	6,108,803	\$	10,272,024				
Total pension liability - beginning		121,843,941		114,897,950		110,764,475		104,655,672		94,383,648				
Total pension liability - ending	\$	127,820,118	\$	121,843,941	\$	114,897,950	\$	110,764,475	\$	104,655,672				
Plan fiduciary net position														
Contributions - employer	\$	4,997,516	\$	9,779,296	\$	14,462,910	\$	9,274,076	\$	3,835,851				
Contributions - member		251,807		211,354		172,315		134,150		86,279				
Net investment income		30,573,598		3,784,895		6,771,191		6,888,854		8,829,624				
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions		(5,261,057)		(4,828,741)		(4,414,193)		(4,179,270)		(3,853,298)				
Administrative expense		(180,974)		(138,230)		(110,423)		(108,527)		(101,597)				
Net change in plan fiduciary net position	\$	30,380,890	\$	8,808,574	\$	16,881,800	\$	12,009,283	\$	8,796,859				
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning		120,459,235		111,650,661		94,768,861		82,759,578		73,962,719				
Plan fiduciary net position - ending	\$	150,840,125	\$	120,459,235	\$	111,650,661	\$	94,768,861	\$	82,759,578				
Net pension liability - ending	\$	(23,020,007)	\$	1,384,706	\$	3,247,289	\$	15,995,614	\$	21,896,094				
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability		118.01%		98.86%		97.17%		85.56%		79.08%				
Covered payroll	\$	26,440,763	\$	25,943,699	\$	25,270,591	\$	23,910,625	\$	22,642,273				
Net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll		-87.06%		5.34%		12.85%		66.90%		96.70%				



SECTION VI – REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Table Schedule of Changes in Net I	1 (Cont.) ion Liability and	Rel	ated Ratios	
	FYE 2016		FYE 2015	FYE 2014
<u>Total Pension Liability</u>				
Service cost	\$ 1,817,625	\$	1,876,088	\$ 1,773,965
Interest (includes interest on service cost)	6,698,077		6,211,311	5,768,860
Changes of benefit terms	0		0	0
Differences between expected and actual experience	1,134,350		805,130	(2,185,380)
Changes of assumptions	0		0	0
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	 (3,473,063)		(3,196,734)	 (2,971,418)
Net change in total pension liability	\$ 6,176,989	\$	5,695,795	\$ 2,386,027
Total pension liability - beginning	 88,206,659		82,510,864	 80,124,837
Total pension liability - ending	\$ 94,383,648	\$	88,206,659	\$ 82,510,864
Plan fiduciary net position				
Contributions - employer	\$ 3,597,265	\$	3,588,403	\$ 3,587,012
Contributions - member	48,721		16,197	1,239
Net investment income	(345,584)		3,028,832	10,344,007
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(3,473,063)		(3,196,734)	(2,972,657)
Administrative expense	 (107,035)		(80,891)	 (138,063)
Net change in plan fiduciary net position	\$ (279,696)	\$	3,355,807	\$ 10,821,538
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning	 74,242,415		70,886,608	 60,065,070
Plan fiduciary net position - ending	\$ 73,962,719	\$	74,242,415	\$ 70,886,608
Net pension liability - ending	\$ 20,420,929	\$	13,964,244	\$ 11,624,256
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	78.36%		84.17%	85.91%
Covered payroll	\$ 21,671,478	\$	21,081,346	\$ 20,427,138
Net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	94.23%		66.24%	56.91%



SECTION VI – REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

If an Actuarially Determined Contribution (ADC) is calculated, the following schedule is required. An ADC is a contribution amount determined in accordance with Actuarial Standards of Practice.

Table VI-2 Schedule of Employer Contributions													
		FYE 2021		FYE 2020		FYE 2019	FYE 2018		FYE 2017	F	FYE 2016	FYE 2015	FYE 2014
Actuarially Determined Contribution Contributions in Relation to the	\$	2,720,386	\$	2,960,567	\$	3,794,161	\$ 4,111,811	\$	3,391,726	\$	3,057,193	\$ 2,757,068	\$ 2,868,624
Actuarially Determined Contribution		4,997,516		9,779,296	_	14,462,910	9,274,076		3,835,851		3,597,265	3,588,403	3,587,012
Contribution Deficiency/(Excess)	\$	(2,277,130)	\$	(6,818,729)	\$	(10,668,749)	<u>\$ (5,162,265)</u>	\$	(444,125)	\$	(540,072)	<u>\$ (831,335)</u>	<u>\$ (718,388)</u>
Covered Payroll	\$	26,440,763	\$	25,943,699	\$	25,270,591	\$ 23,910,625	\$	22,642,273	\$ 2	21,671,478	\$ 21,081,346	\$ 20,427,138
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll		18.90%		37.69%		57.23%	38.79%		16.94%		16.60%	17.02%	17.56%

The notes below summarize the key methods and assumptions used to determine the ADC for FYE 2021.

Notes to Schedule

Valuation Date:July 1, 2020Timing:Actuarially determined contributions are calculated based on the actuarial valuation at the beginning of
the fiscal year.

Key Methods and Assumptions Used to Determine Contribution Rates

Actuarial Cost Method:	Entry Age Normal Cost Method
Asset Valuation Method:	5-year smoothed market
Amortization Method:	Closed 20-year level dollar amortization of unfunded liability as of July 1, 2015
Discount Rate:	7.00%
Inflation:	2.50%
Salary Increases:	From 3.5% to 5.0% based on service
Mortality:	RP-2014 Total Mortality Table projected generationally using Scale MP-2018

A complete description of the methods and assumptions used to determine contribution rates for the year ending June 30, 2021 can be found in the July 1, 2020 actuarial valuation report.



SECTION VII – EMPLOYER REPORTING AMOUNTS

The schedules in this section will be used by Sussex County for its reporting date of June 30, 2021.

The impact of experience gains or losses and assumption changes on the TPL are recognized in expense over the average expected remaining service life of all active and inactive members of the Plan. As of the beginning of the measurement period, this recognition period was six years. In addition, the impact of investment gains or losses is recognized over a period of five years.

The table below summarizes the balances of deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources related to the Plan as of the June 30, 2021 measurement date along with the net recognition over the next five years and the total recognition thereafter, if any, of these amounts.

Table V Schedule of Deferred Inflows :		Outflows of Res	sources	5	
	0	Deferred outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources		
Differences between expected and actual experience Changes in assumptions	\$	955,174 541,858	\$	375,599 615,895	
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments Total	\$	0 1,497,032	\$	15,153,789 16,145,283	
Amounts reported as deferred outflows and defer in pension expense as follows:	red in	nflows of resource	es will l	be recognized	
Measurement year ended June 30:					
2022		(3,045,971)			
2023		(3,555,067)			
2024		(3,738,981)			
2025		(4,286,090)			
2026 Thereafter	\$	(22,142) 0			

The annual pension expense recognized by the County can be calculated two different ways. First, it is the change in the amounts reported on the County's Statement of Net Position that relate to the Plan and are not attributable to employer contributions. That is, it is the change in NPL minus the change in deferred outflows plus the change in deferred inflows plus County's contributions during the year.



SECTION VII – EMPLOYER REPORTING AMOUNTS

Alternatively, annual pension expense can be calculated by its individual components. While GASB does not require or suggest the organization of the individual components shown in the table below, we believe it helps to understand the level and volatility of pension expense.

The table below shows the development of pension expense for the County through both of these methodologies.

Table V Calculation of Pe		Expense									
Measurement Year Ending											
		2021		2020							
Change in Net Pension Liability	\$	(24,404,713)	\$	(1,862,583)							
Change in Deferred Outflows		3,799,064		(2,462,482)							
Change in Deferred Inflows		14,970,899		(479,942)							
Employer Contributions		4,997,516	_	9,779,296							
Pension Expense	\$	(637,234)	\$	4,974,289							
Pension Expense as % of Payroll		-2.41%		19.17%							
Operating Expenses											
Service cost	\$	2,824,325	\$	2,714,022							
Employee contributions		(251,807)		(211,354)							
Administrative expenses		180,974		138,230							
Total	\$	2,753,492	\$	2,640,898							
Financing Expenses											
Interest cost	\$	8,545,756	\$	8,066,691							
Expected return on assets		(8,425,516)		(7,988,401)							
Total	\$	120,240	\$	78,290							
Changes											
Benefit changes	\$	0	\$	0							
Recognition of assumption changes		336,558		336,558							
Recognition of liability gains and losses		447,471		600,681							
Recognition of investment gains and losses		(4,294,995)		1,317,862							
Total	\$	(3,510,966)	\$	2,255,101							
Pension Expense	\$	(637,234)	\$	4,974,289							

First, there are components referred to as operating expenses. These are items directly attributable to the operation of the Plan during the measurement year. Service Cost less employee contributions represents the increase in employer-provided benefits attributable to the year, and administrative expenses are the cost of operating the Plan for the year.

Second, there are the financing expenses: the interest on the Total Pension Liability less the expected return on assets.



SECTION VII – EMPLOYER REPORTING AMOUNTS

The final category is changes. This category will drive most of the volatility in pension expense from year to year. It includes any changes in benefits made during the year and the recognized amounts due to assumption changes, gains or losses on the TPL, and investment gains or losses.

Finally, the table below shows the amortization schedule for the deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources for the County.

Table VII-3 Calculation of Deferred Items Schedule								
Experience Year			Total Amount	Remaining Years	Recognized in Pension Expense			Deferred Resources
Recognition of Ex	xperience (Gain	s) ar	nd Losses					
2021	6	\$	(132,847)	5	\$	(22,141)	\$	(110,706)
2020	6		994,019	4		165,670		662,679
2019	6		(529,784)	3		(88,297)		(264,893)
2018	6		551,937	2		91,990		183,977
2017	6		651,103	1		108,517		108,518
2016	6		1,134,350	0		189,060		0
2015	6.02		805,130	0		2,672		0
Total		\$	3,473,908		\$	447,471	\$	579,575
Recognition of As	sumption Char	ıges						
2019	6	\$	(1,231,792)	3	\$	(205,299)	\$	(615,895
2017	6	*	3,251,143	1	*	541,857	*	541,858
Total		\$	2,019,351		\$	336,558	\$	(74,037
Recognition of In	vestment (Gain	s) ar	nd Losses					
2021	5	\$	(22,148,082)	4	\$	(4,429,616)	\$	(17,718,466
2020	5		4,203,506	3		840,701		2,522,104
2019	5		459,648	2		91,930		183,858
2018	5		(706,417)	1		(141,283)		(141,285
2017	5		(3,283,627)	0		(656,727)		0
Total		\$	(21,474,972)		\$	(4,294,995)	\$	(15,153,789)



APPENDIX A – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Actuarially Determined Contribution

A target or recommended contribution for the reporting period, determined in conformity with Actuarial Standards of Practice based on the most recent measurement available when the contribution for the reporting period was adopted.

2. Actuarial Valuation Date

The date as of which an actuarial valuation is performed. This date may be up to 24 months prior to the measurement date and up to 30 months prior to the employer's reporting date.

3. Deferred Inflow of Resources

An acquisition of net assets by a government employer that is applicable to a future reporting period. In the context of GASB 68, these are experience gains on the Total Pension Liability, assumption changes reducing the Total Pension Liability, or investment gains that are recognized in future reporting periods.

4. Deferred Outflow of Resources

A consumption of net assets by a government employer that is applicable to a future reporting period. In the context of GASB 68, these are experience losses on the Total Pension Liability, assumption changes increasing the Total Pension Liability, or investment losses that are recognized in future reporting periods.

5. Entry Age Actuarial Cost Method

The actuarial cost method required for GASB 67 and 68 calculations. Under this method, the actuarial present value of the projected benefits of each individual included in an actuarial valuation is allocated on a level basis over the earnings of the individual between entry age and assumed exit ages. The portion of this actuarial present value allocated to a valuation year is called the Service Cost. The portion of this actuarial present value not provided for at a valuation date by the actuarial present value of future service costs is called the Total Pension Liability.

6. Measurement Date

The date as of which the Total Pension Liability and Plan Fiduciary Net Position are measured. The Total Pension Liability may be projected from the Actuarial Valuation Date to the Measurement Date. The Measurement Date must be the same as the Reporting Date for the Plan.



APPENDIX A – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

7. Net Pension Liability

The liability of employers and nonemployer contributing entities for employees for benefits provided through a defined benefit pension plan. It is calculated as the Total Pension Liability less the Plan Fiduciary Net Position.

8. Plan Fiduciary Net Position

The fair or market value of assets.

9. Reporting Date

The last day of the plan or employer's fiscal year.

10. Service Cost

The portion of the actuarial present value of projected benefit payments that is attributed to the current period of employee service in conformity with the requirements of GASB 67 and 68. The Service Cost is the normal cost calculated under the entry age actuarial cost method.

11. Total Pension Liability

The portion of the actuarial present value of projected benefit payments that is attributed to past periods of employee service in conformity with the requirements of GASB 67 and 68. The Total Pension Liability is the actuarial liability calculated under the entry age actuarial cost method. This measurement generally is not appropriate for estimating the cost to settle the Plan's liabilities.

