

Choice 401(k) Plan Deferral Election Form

Print this form, complete and return to your employer.

Name _____

Social Security Number _____

Choose One Option:

- Begin Choice 401(k) Plan deductions.
- Change deduction method or amount.
- Stop Choice 401(k) Plan deductions.

Effective Pay Date: _____

Choose one deduction method and indicate % or \$ amount:

- This percentage of my gross wages. _____%
 - This fixed amount each pay period. \$ _____
- Check with your employer to see whether a % or fixed \$ amount is preferred.

Participation Authorization and Acknowledgment

I authorize my employer to reduce my wages by the amount indicated above, for deposit into the PERSI Choice 401(k) Plan account established for my benefit. This authorization applies to future contributions only and is effective beginning the pay date indicated above. It will remain effective until I stop or change it by submitting a new Deferral Election Form. I understand that my contribution will be invested in the PERSI Total Return Fund unless I authorize a different investment allocation through Empower Retirement telephone customer service or the Choice 401(k) Plan website. I understand that distributions from the PERSI Choice 401(k) Plan are only allowed in the event of termination of employment, disability, retirement, death, or financial hardship, and that tax penalties may apply to distributions taken before age 59½. Financial hardship distributions are allowed only under certain IRS-approved circumstances.

Signature _____

Date _____



Give completed form to your employer.

Instructions

Use the form at left to start, change, or stop payroll deductions for tax-deferred contributions to the PERSI Choice 401(k) Plan.

Steps:

1. Read about the form below.
2. Complete the Authorization Information Section.
3. Read and Sign the Authorization and Acknowledgment.
4. Give the form to your employer's Human Resources or Payroll Department.

Percentages must be whole numbers from 1% to 100%. Because of additional mandatory deductions (FICA and PERSI) as well as voluntary payroll deductions, you may not actually be able to defer 100% of your gross wages.

Not all employers have payroll systems capable of deducting fixed amount contributions. Check with your employer before selecting the fixed amount deduction method.

As of January 1, 2015, the annual contribution limit for 401(k) plans is \$18,000 (\$24,000 if you are at least 50 years of age in 2015). If you contribute to both a 457 and 401(k) plan, you may contribute up to \$18,000 (\$24,000 if age 50) into each plan, for a total of \$36,000 (\$48,000 if age 50). If you contribute to both a 403(b) and a 401(k) plan, the combined annual contribution limit is \$18,000 (\$24,000 if age 50).

PERSI has contracted Empower Retirement to provide record keeping and trust administration services on behalf of the PERSI Choice 401(k) Plan. In this capacity, Empower establishes and maintains an account for each active (and eligible) member and provides customer service to Choice 401(k) Plan participants.

To change the investment allocation of your future contributions, or redistribute your existing funds to a different investment allocation, link to your Choice Plan account from your myPERSI account at www.persi.idaho.gov and select My Choice 401(k) Plan Account, or call Empower Client Services at 866-437-3774.

If you stop your contributions, you can restart them at any time by submitting a new Choice 401(k) Plan Deferral Election form to your employer.

PERSI Choice 401(k) Plan Election Deferral

The Choice 401(k) Plan is a defined contribution plan designed to supplement your PERSI Base Plan benefits. If you decide to participate, you decide how much to defer from your paycheck through pretax deductions and how you would like to receive the money when you retire.

What is PERSI?

The Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI) is a defined benefit retirement plan established to provide secure, long-term retirement benefits for employees who choose careers in public service. PERSI members include active public employees, active members of the Judges' Retirement Fund and retirees from nearly 760 employers across Idaho.

Eligibility for the Choice Plan

If you are an active member of the PERSI Base (Defined Benefit) Plan, you may participate in the Choice 401(k) Plan. In fact, an account has already been set up in your name; all you need to do is begin contributing!

When can I start contributing (deferring)?

As a PERSI member, a Choice 401(k) Plan account is automatically set up for you once you become eligible to participate and your employer notifies PERSI. Once your Choice 401(k) Plan account is active, you can begin making contributions. To get started, simply complete and remove the form on the side panel of this brochure.



How much can I contribute?

To participate in the Choice 401(k) Plan, you must contribute at least \$130 annually (\$2.50 per week). For 2015, you may contribute up to \$18,000 to the Choice 401(k) Plan, which is the limit determined by the IRS. If you are at least age 50 during 2015, you may also contribute an additional \$6,000 as a “catch up” contribution, for a total contribution of \$24,000. These maximum contribution amounts are set by the IRS and are subject to change in future years.

Rollovers into the Choice Plan

If you have money in a 401(a), 401(k), 403(b), 457 (governmental), or pre-tax IRA, you can roll over those funds to your Choice 401(k) Plan account. Contributions made to any plan on an after tax basis cannot be rolled into the Choice 401(k) Plan.

Choose how to invest your Choice 401(k) Plan contributions

When you make voluntary contributions to your Choice 401(k) Plan account, you also direct how those funds are invested. You can choose from several investment fund options within the Choice 401(k) Plan to create a diversified portfolio of fund options including a mix of equity, fixed income, balanced funds, as well as the PERSI Total Return Fund (TRF). If you decide not to choose investment options or would like to have your funds invested in the TRF, you do not have to do anything. Your funds will automatically be invested in the TRF for you.

The Total Return Fund

The Total Return Fund is one of the Choice 401(k) Plan investment options. This fund is invested the same way as the Base Plan’s trust assets,

To start, change, or stop payroll deductions, see the *Deferral Election Form and Instructions* on the reverse.

making it a diversified fund. The Total Return Fund is the default option for the Choice 401(k) Plan, meaning any contributions made to your account will be invested in the Total Return Fund unless you specifically elect other fund options.

Vesting in my Choice 401(k) Plan account

You are 100% vested in (meaning you fully own) the money in your Choice 401(k) Plan account, including both contributions and interest earned.

GET ALL OF YOUR INFORMATION HERE...

... at the PERSI website at www.persi.idaho.gov. Click on the **myPERSI** link in the top right hand corner of the page. Log on to **myPERSI** using your email address and password you created when you registered. If you are new to **myPERSI**, click on the **Register Now** link to go through the registration process. You will be sent an email with your new password within approximately 30 minutes. Once you log on, you can access your PERSI Base Plan and Choice Plan account information.

OR CONTACT US – WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

Empower Retirement (Record Keeper): 1-866-437-3774

The automated toll-free system is always available for basic account information. Choice 401(k) Plan customer service representatives are available from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mountain time, Monday through Friday.

PERSI: 1-800-451-8228

or 334-3365 (from Treasure Valley area)

The PERSI Member Services Center is available to take your calls from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mountain time, Monday through Friday.

Effects of Inflation

When you’re figuring out how much you’ll need for your future, don’t forget about inflation. Remember the following:

- Typically, inflation goes up over time.
- Something that cost \$10 in 1985 might cost \$23.44 in 2015.
- Imagine what that one thing that cost \$23.44 in 2015 may cost in retirement.

Does your goal adjust for inflation?



FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY. This illustration assumes an inflation rate of 3%.

Increase your deferral today!

Core securities, when offered, are offered through GWFS Equities, Inc. and/or other broker dealers.

GWFS Equities, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company.

Empower Retirement refers to the products and services offered in the retirement markets by Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company (GWL&A), Corporate Headquarters: Greenwood Village, CO; Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company of New York, Home Office: White Plains, NY; and their subsidiaries and affiliates. The trademarks, logos, service marks, and design elements used are owned by their respective owners and are used by permission.

©2015 Advised Assets Group, LLC. All rights reserved. The trademarks, logos, service marks, and design elements used are owned by Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company and are used by permission.

©2015 Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company. All rights reserved. CB1222EDF (05/2015) PTXXXXXX

