

FPDR History Timeline

A Brief History of the Fire & Police Disability & Retirement Fund

1902	City of Portland voters establish the first pension system for Fire and Police members.
1913	Voters split the two Bureau's plans after the system failed financially.
1918	Voters establish a new Policeman's Relief and Pension Fund after the 1913 act failed financially.
1941	City Council passed a supplemental funding ordinance to the police portion of the Act due to the fact that the Act was only able to pay 30 percent of the amounts due pensioners.
1948	Current FPDR plan is approved by voters - Chapter 5 of the City Charter. Establishes the current funding mechanism of up to \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.
1950	Chapter 5 Charter Amendment to clarify some ambiguities and to increase the permissible size of the reserve fund from \$500,000 to \$750,000.
1954	Chapter 5 Charter Amendment increases pensions by \$25 per month.
1962	Chapter 5 Charter Amendment enhancing pension benefits and ties benefits to current pay.
1964	Chapter 5 Charter Amendment provides an increase to member contributions from 6% of base pay to 7% of base pay and increases survivor's benefits.
1971	Legislature adds "Equal to or better than statute".
1986	Mayor establishes a citizen task force to re-write Chapter 5 overhaul benefits.
1989	Chapter 5 Charter Amendment passed by voters improving retirement and survivor benefits and reducing disability benefits; also eliminated employee contributions to the plan.
1990	FPDR Tier 2 or "New Plan" takes effect July 1.
1990	Measure 5 is passed, limiting property taxes to \$10 per \$1,000 of assessed value for local governments.
1991	State began taxing FPDR retirement benefits; SB 656 provided partial offset.
1992	Oregon Supreme Court ruled that benefit tax was a breach of contract.
1993	Oregon Statutes add a provision of "Payment of Public pension to Alternate Payee after Marital Dissolution, Annulment, or Separation".
1994	Ballot Measure 8 is passed ending "Employer-pickup".
1995	HB 3349 passed by Legislature, provided remedy for taxation of benefits with 9.89 percent increase for benefits earned prior to September 1991.
1995	Board of Trustees of FPDR establishes committee to review Funding options.
1996	Ballot Measure 45, to reduce benefits, is defeated; Oregon Supreme Court ruled that all provisions of Measure 8 violate US Constitution's contracts clause; Oregon Supreme Court overrules the Marion County Circuit Court, upheld HB 3349 as remedy for taxing benefits.

1996	Measure 47 is passed further limiting property taxes to a rolled back assessed value level with a 3% cap on future year increases to assessed value.
1997	Legislature acts to put Measure 50 on the ballot to replace flaws with Measure 47. Measure 50 provides that the FPDR \$2.80 per \$1,000 limit will be measured based upon Real Market Value not the newly defined and limited assessed value. Measure 50 provides the ability for a Charter amendment to FPDR without losing its rate base levy of \$2.80 per \$1,000.
1997	Measure 50 passed by voters.
1998	City Council holds informal work session to review a City Charter amendment for the November 1998 ballot; the issue is withdrawn due to lack of Council support; Council directs that the issue be further studied and brought back to them.
1999	City Council passes Resolution 35768 creating an independent committee to recommend City Charter changes for funding FPDR system.
2000	Chapter 5 Charter Amendment passed by voters changing the makeup of the Board of Trustees to include three citizen members and prohibiting the Board of Trustees from making disability compensation to incarcerated members convicted of a crime.
2002	In order to comply with Article I, Section 20 of the Oregon Constitution, City Council passes Ordinance No. 176258 on February 13, 2002 which directs FPDR to extend gay and lesbian members' same-sex domestic partners the benefits currently provided to members' surviving spouses, on equal terms.
2006	Chapter 5 Charter Amendment passed by voters appointing a new five-member FPDR Board of Trustees; establishing a process for disability claims to be approved or denied by a qualified administrator; establishing an appeals process where appeals will be made to independent hearings officers with disability experience; placing all police officers and firefighters hired after January 1, 2007 into the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan (OPSRP); establishing the FPDR as a new City bureau; and requiring that independent audits be conducted to evaluate the efficiency and finances of the FPDR.
2007	Chapter 5 Charter Amendment passed by voters to remove the limitation on hospital and medical expense reimbursement after retirement for members of FPDR who retire from active duty. Also provides that reasonable hospital and medical expenses will be paid in retirement for a member if the expense is related to an accepted injury or illness. Amendment only applies to members who retired on or after January 1, 2007.
2009	In order to comply with Section 656.802(5)(a)-(h) of the Oregon Revised Statutes, City Council passes Ordinance No. 183128 on August 19, 2009 which directs FPDR to extend the firefighter cancer presumption to eligible firefighters effective January 1, 2010.