BUY RI BONDS

Great kids deserve great schools!

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL TREASURER
HOPE
2019 ANNUAL REPORT
The Rhode Island General Treasurer’s Office protects the state’s assets with sound investments, strengthens the state’s financial position, encourages economic growth, operates with transparency and accountability, and ensures that Rhode Islanders benefit from exceptional performance through all the programs the office manages.

Mission

“Together we can expand opportunity and build a future in which all Rhode Islanders are financially secure.”

- General Treasurer
  Seth Magaziner
Introduction
Message from the Treasurer | pg. 4

Treasury Programs
Retirement System by the Numbers | pg. 6
Investment Overview | pg. 7
Unclaimed Property | pg. 8
Crime Victims Compensation Program | pg. 10
529 Plans (CollegeBound / ABLE) | pg. 12
Financial Management | pg. 14
Business Office | pg. 16

Initiatives
Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank | pg. 16
Fixing Rhode Island’s School Buildings | pg. 18
Buy RI Bonds Campaign | pg. 19
Financial Empowerment | pg. 20
Student Loan Bill of Rights | pg. 21
Pension Transparency | pg. 22
Shareholder Engagement | pg. 23
National Association of State Treasurers | pg. 24

Team Treasury
Treasury Staff Highlights | pg. 25
Treasury Staff | pg. 26
As your General Treasurer, I am focused on growing our economy and working to ensure that every Rhode Islander has the opportunity to succeed.

Strengthening Rhode Island’s economy isn’t just about statistics. It’s about investing in the health, education and financial security of all Rhode Island families.

I am pleased to report that we have made great strides over the past year. Our BankLocal program has helped more than 300 Rhode Island small businesses get the loans they need to expand and hire, by moving millions of dollars of state cash to local community banks and credit unions.

The historic statewide school construction plan, developed by the task force I co-chaired, is beginning to show results. Every child deserves to go to schools that are warm, safe, dry and equipped for twenty-first century learning. From Smithfield to Jamestown, and Pawtucket to Barrington, this initiative is now funding construction and renovation of schools all across our state.

My team and I have been working to strengthen the retirement system so that our members and retirees can enjoy their retirement with dignity, and never endure another painful pension reform. We earned more than $1.3 billion of investment gains for the pension fund in 2019 and hit a record high for assets in the system.

Through it all, we remain committed to delivering strong results for the people of Rhode Island, from returning millions in unclaimed property to its rightful owners, assisting victims of violent crime in getting back on their feet, effectively managing the state’s investments, promoting financial education, and helping thousands of Rhode Islanders save for postsecondary education.

We have made great strides in recent years, but there is much more work to do. Together, we can build a future that is even stronger, and expand opportunity for even more people, so that every Rhode Island family has a chance at success.

Seth Magaziner
The Rhode Island Treasury is working to enhance its programs and initiatives, with improved service and support for people across Rhode Island.

---

**BankLOCAL**

Rhode Island’s Community Deposit Program

Treasurer Magaziner’s BankLocal initiative has helped over 300 small businesses get the loans they need to expand and hire, by moving more than $30 million of the State’s cash to Rhode Island community banks and credit unions.

**CollegeBound Saver**

Rhode Island’s CollegeBound and ABLE programs provide a simple, cost-effective way for Rhode Islanders to save for the cost of higher education and disability related expenses. Rhode Islanders saved more than $23 million in their CollegeBound and ABLE accounts in 2019.

**This is YOUR MONEY**

Rhode Island

Every day, Treasury’s Unclaimed Property team reunites Rhode Islanders with thousands of dollars of their own missing money. Last year, we returned $11 million back to 9,763 people, putting YOUR MONEY back where it belongs.

**ERSRI**

Employees’ Retirement System of Rhode Island

Treasurer Magaziner’s Back to Basics investment policy continues to provide growth and stability to the pension system, earning $1.3 billion for our members in 2019.

The Student Loan Bill of Rights was passed into law in 2019. This law sets new standards for loan servicers, ensuring that the 133,000 student loan borrowers in Rhode Island are treated fairly. It also gives the State tools to investigate borrower complaints and to hold servicers accountable.

The Crime Victims Compensation Program helped over 1,200 victims of violent crime escape dangerous situations and begin to heal.

Members of Treasurer Magaziner’s Financial Empowerment Round-table are working to guarantee that all Rhode Islanders have access to financial education and safe, affordable financial services.
All Rhode Islanders deserve retirement security, and particularly those who have spent their lives serving the community. The Employees’ Retirement System of Rhode Island provides retirement, disability, and survivor benefits to state employees, public school teachers, judges, state police, participating municipal police and fire employees, and general employees of participating municipalities in Rhode Island.

The Retirement System consists of a Defined Benefit Plan that serves all members of the retirement system, a 401(a) defined contribution plan that serves current members of the retirement system, and optional 457(b) supplemental savings plans available to state employees.

---

**ERSRI By the Numbers**

**STATE EMPLOYEES:**
- ACTIVE MEMBERS: 11,318
- AVERAGE SALARY: $64,447
- AVERAGE ACTIVE MEMBER AGE: 49
- AVERAGE LENGTH OF SERVICE: 14 YEARS
- RETIREES & BENEFICIARIES: 11,224
- AVERAGE ANNUAL BENEFIT: $32,853
- AVERAGE RETIREE AGE: 74

**TEACHERS:**
- ACTIVE MEMBERS: 13,511
- AVERAGE SALARY: $79,232
- AVERAGE ACTIVE MEMBER AGE: 46
- AVERAGE LENGTH OF SERVICE: 15 YEARS
- RETIREES AND BENEFICIARIES: 11,196
- AVERAGE ANNUAL BENEFIT: $44,320
- AVERAGE RETIREE AGE: 73

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**
- ACTIVE MEMBERS: 1,596
- AVERAGE SALARY: $69,988
- AVERAGE ACTIVE MEMBER AGE: 41
- AVERAGE LENGTH OF SERVICE: 13 YEARS
- RETIREES & BENEFICIARIES: 863
- AVERAGE ANNUAL BENEFIT: $37,002
- AVERAGE RETIREE AGE: 62

**MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES:**
- ACTIVE MEMBERS: 5,971
- AVERAGE SALARY: $42,483
- AVERAGE ACTIVE MEMBER AGE: 52
- AVERAGE LENGTH OF SERVICE: 12 YEARS
- RETIREES & BENEFICIARIES: 4,827
- AVERAGE ANNUAL BENEFIT: $16,145
- AVERAGE RETIREE AGE: 74

---

**ERSRI By the Numbers**

---

2019 Pension Fund Cash-Flow

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starting Balance (7/01/2018)</td>
<td>$8,335,456,209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions Paid In</td>
<td>$626,032,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension and Benefits Paid</td>
<td>($970,043,233)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Gains</td>
<td>$531,856,941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Change</td>
<td>$187,845,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending Balance (06/30/2019)</td>
<td>$8,523,302,112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

12/31/2019 Assets Under Management

- Defined Benefit Plan: $8,775,450,211
- 401(a) Plan: $1,145,467,995
- 457 Plans: $414,514,044

---

End of Document
The Rhode Island pension fund returned 16.7% in 2019, earning $1.3 billion from investments, and ending the year with an all-time high value of $8.78 billion. The 16.7% return significantly outperformed the fund’s benchmark return of 15.0%. The pension fund has earned $2.3 billion since Treasurer Magaziner announced the implementation of the “Back to Basics” investment strategy in September 2016. Back to Basics is designed to provide long-term growth and stability.

Rhode Island’s “Transparent Treasury” is one of the first, and most comprehensive pension transparency policies in the nation. Rhode Island was the first state in the country to require that new investments be placed only with fund managers that publicly disclose performance, fees, expenses and liquidity. Treasurer Magaziner’s initiative became law in 2017, ensuring that the public will continue to have access to this important information.

Visit investments.treasury.ri.gov for more information.
Treasurer Magaziner is committed to reuniting Rhode Islanders with money that is rightfully theirs. Each year, the Treasurer’s office receives millions of dollars of Rhode Islanders’ missing money told hold in safekeeping until it is reunited with its rightful owner.

In 2019, the Rhode Island Treasury received $23 million of your missing money.

Unclaimed property can include money left in old bank accounts and safe deposit boxes, uncashed paychecks, unused balances on gift certificates, unreturned utility deposits, uncollected insurance payments and forgotten stocks and dividends.

Since the launch of YOUR MONEY, more than $29 million in Rhode Island unclaimed property has been returned to over 58,000 people. Much of it has been returned automatically, without the need for paperwork.

YOUR MONEY matches the state’s unclaimed property database with verified address information so that money can be returned it its rightful owners automatically. Rhode Island is only the second state to adopt such a system. In many cases, individuals might not be aware they were missing unclaimed property until the check arrives in the mail.

Under YOUR MONEY, checks are only mailed out automatically when our office is confident they are going to the right place, so Rhode Islanders should still visit our website to see if we are holding unclaimed property that belongs to you. Last year, we upgraded our website to make it easier for Rhode Islanders to search for, and claim, their missing money.

Visit findrimoney.com to begin your search or call our Unclaimed Property team at (401) 462-7676 Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
Our Unclaimed Property team collaborates with non-profits and service agencies across the State.

We are proud to work with Operation Stand Down Rhode Island, a nonprofit resource for homeless and at-risk veterans with a mission to strengthen the community by providing much-needed services to our veterans.

We regularly attend Operation Stand Down’s resource fairs, working directly with veterans to find and claim their missing money.

“Treasurer Magaziner’s Unclaimed Property division helps the veterans we serve find and claim their missing money. I appreciate our long-standing collaboration with the team at Treasury.”

- Erik B. Wallin, Captain, USAF (Fmr.)
Executive Director
Operation Stand Down Rhode Island

Our Team attend dozens of events each year, visiting senior centers, farmers markets, the Pride Festival, National Night Out, and multi-cultural celebrations in every part of the State. At these community events, our team has the opportunity to meet our neighbors and spread the word about how to reclaim YOUR MONEY.

In November, Team Treasury collected and delivered more than 800 food items to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. During our visit, we also returned nearly $1,200 in unclaimed property to the Food Bank.
Crime Victims Compensation Program

“The toll of being a victim of violent crime is high enough without the victims having to endure financial costs to overcome the challenges they face. Our office is ready to help Rhode Islanders recover from violent crime and to help keep victims of domestic violence and their families safe.”

- Treasurer Seth Magaziner

If you or a loved one has been a victim of violent crime in Rhode Island, the Crime Victim Compensation Program, administered by the Rhode Island Treasury, might be able to help.

While no amount of money can erase the impact of a violent crime, the CVCP provides up to $25,000 in reimbursement to Rhode Islanders for expenses related to violent crime, including:

- Medical, dental, and counseling expenses
- Relocation expenses
- Funeral and related expenses
- Crime scene cleaning
- Loss of earnings
- And other expenses.

Over 1,200 Rhode Islanders, including nearly 200 children, who were victims of violent crimes during 2019 received more than $1 million in total financial assistance from the Crime Victim Compensation Program.

Among those who received assistance from the program in 2019 were forty-four victims of domestic violence who received emergency relocation funding to immediately escape unsafe, life-threatening living situations. During the year, the program also provided financial support for mental health counseling for thirty-six minors who witnessed acts of domestic violence or homicide.

More information about Rhode Island’s Crime Victim Compensation Program can be found at ricvcp.com or by calling (401) 462-7655 Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
Last year, the Crime Victim Compensation Program helped forty-four people immediately escape dangerous situations by paying for emergency hotel room stays.

Crime Victim Compensation Program staff meets regularly with advocates and sets up “mobile offices” to review and process new applications for assistance. We’ve been at Providence Department of Human Services Office, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Providence VA Hospital, with more dates planned for 2020.

Types of Claims Processed in 2019

- Domestic assaults
- Homicide
- Minor witness to domestic violence
- Sexual assault (adult victim)
- Sexual assault (minor victims)

Through collaboration of Day One and Family Services, the Treasury Crime Victim Compensation team works to help state and local law enforcement agencies have better understanding of victims’ needs, and the services available to victims of crime.

“The Treasurer’s Office has been essential in providing victims of sexual violence much needed support and funding. Most importantly, this program covers the common and immediate need of relocation expenses. Without this program, victims would be focused on the financial burden that resulted from the crime, rather than how to move forward and take the appropriate steps toward healing.”

- Peg Langhammer
  Executive Director
  Day One RI

Working closely with RI Crime Victim Services Steering Committee and RI Family Services, our Crime Victim Compensation team collaborated to train 55 new victim service professionals in Rhode Island.
CollegeBound is Rhode Island’s 529 college savings program. With flexible investment options and no minimum contribution, it’s an easy, affordable way for Rhode Islanders to save for the future. Savings grow free of state and federal taxes and stay tax-free when used for higher education expenses.

In 2019, Rhode Islanders opened 2,279 new accounts and contributed more than $22 million into CollegeBound accounts. These savings grow tax-free and can be used at colleges, universities and trade schools worldwide for tuition and other school-related expenses, including housing, books, and meal plans.

Last year SavingforCollege.com reaffirmed CollegeBound’s perfect 5 out of 5 rating as a high quality, affordable, college savings plan.

Visit collegeboundsaver.com, or call 877-517-4829, Monday − Friday, 8 a.m. − 8 p.m. ET to learn how to open an account and start saving.

Every child born to or adopted by Rhode Island families is eligible for a $100 CollegeBound baby grant which can be used for higher education. In 2019, over 5,500 newborns or adoptees in Rhode Island received CollegeBound baby grants totaling $565,000.

Account Holders in Rhode Island’s 529 plans have a total of $5.5 billion saved in 210,000 accounts that grow tax-free.
With ABLE, Rhode Islanders with disabilities and their families can save up to $100,000 for qualified disability expenses without losing their eligibility for most federal assistance programs, like SSI and Medicaid.

Last year, Rhode Islanders saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in their ABLE accounts. These savings are federally tax-deferred and tax-free, when used for qualified disability expenses. A new cash account option allows account holders to use a debit card and achieve a new level of financial independence.

“Living with, or raising a child with a disability can be costly. With Rhode Island’s ABLE, families of young Rhode Islanders living with disabilities will be able to save for future disability related expenses in an easy, tax-advantaged program without sacrificing critical disability benefits.”

- Treasurer Seth Magaziner

For more information on Rhode Island ABLE accounts please visit ri.savewithable.com or call (888) 609-8915 Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m
In April, Treasurer Magaziner, as Chair of the Advisory Council for Locally Administered Pension Plans, released a report which details key information on the status and trends of each of the 35 locally-administered pension plans in Rhode Island, many of which remain in critical status.

Following the release of the report, Treasurer Magaziner worked with Central Falls Mayor James Diossa, representatives of public safety employees and retirees, and the Rhode Island General Assembly to transfer management of the plan to the state Treasury and ensure a secure path for the Central Falls pension system for years to come.

The report can be downloaded at: treasury.ri.gov/2019_LAPP_Report

Responsible financial management is vital at all levels of government, from the state itself to the smallest towns and districts.

Treasurer Magaziner hosts free regular education sessions on financial management for mayors, finance directors, CFOs, and other employees of state and municipal governments. Attendees have the opportunity to learn best practices in public finance, and interact directly with experts from national rating agencies, financial advisory firms, institutional investors, and underwriters.

“These municipal training are really important and allow me to keep up with professional obligations. The sessions are spaced perfectly to allow for time to digest material and interact with other attendees. I look forward to attending future sessions.”

- Marc Tanguay, CPA
  Finance Director
  Town of Middletown
In his capacity as Chair of the Public Finance Management Board, Treasurer Magaziner released a new Rhode Island Debt Affordability Study in July of 2019, to provide comprehensive information on the debt, pension and post-employment liabilities of the state, municipalities and quasi-public agencies of Rhode Island.

It is the second such Study to be released since Treasurer Magaziner led reforms to the state’s debt management practices.

The Debt Affordability Study provides Rhode Island policymakers with valuable information regarding outstanding and projected debt, while providing an understanding of available resources and where money can best be put to use. The information in the Study helps inform infrastructure planning, capital budgeting, and project prioritization.

The Rhode Island debt affordability studies released by Treasurer Magaziner have been recognized by the Pew Charitable Trusts for being among the most comprehensive studies of this type to be released by any state. In 2019, Rhode Island was the first state in the country to incorporate OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) information into its affordability recommendations.

The report can be downloaded at debt.treasury.ri.gov/debt-affordability/das2019

The Treasury Business Office is responsible for printing and distribution of all State of Rhode Island checks, as well as approving and posting cash receipts to the State’s general ledger on behalf of all State agencies.

Treasury’s Check Processing Unit processes and distributes more than 120,000 vendor checks each year.

The Unit also serves as liaison between State agencies and banks, providing residents and vendors with payment information, research, stop payments and replacement of checks.

Additionally, this department is responsible for the distribution of State payroll checks and reporting.

Our Reconciliation Unit approves, posts and reconciles all cash receipts for the State, providing early detection of fraud for agencies. Treasury records and reconciles over fifty thousand transactions totaling nearly $50 billion each year.
Treasurer Magaziner led the effort to create new green finance programs at the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, which supports and finances investments to improve the State’s infrastructure. These investments create jobs, promote economic development and enhance the environment.

Among the programs at the Infrastructure Bank that Treasurer Magaziner worked to initiate is the Efficient Buildings Fund (EBF), which provides low-cost financing to cities, towns and quasi-public agencies to fund environmental, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. From solar panels to LED streetlights, this program has helped municipalities across Rhode Island save money on energy costs while going greener.

Recent EBF loans include a $2.5 million loan to Town of Barrington to finance town-wide infrastructure upgrades to town roads, as well as for energy efficiency upgrades at the Peck Community Center, which houses the senior center and the public library. Upgrades include a new roof, windows, HVAC system, LED lighting and insulation.

A $935,000 loan to the Town of North Kingstown will be used to upgrade 2,400 streetlights to LED lights. The Town anticipates saving more than $2.6 million in electricity and other costs over the 10-year life of the loan.

In July 2019, the Infrastructure Bank announced that it worked with five municipalities to refinance existing water infrastructure debt, saving local cities and towns over $500,000.

Left: Westerly municipal water treatment

By the Numbers: By working to refinance bonds related to investment in clean water, the Infrastructure Bank saved Rhode Island cities and towns over $8 million in 2019.
The Infrastructure Bank's Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy program (C-PACE) provides low-cost financing to small businesses for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements. Business owners can borrow to install LED lighting, HVAC systems or insulation, and renewable energy systems, including solar and wind.

These projects help improve the State's infrastructure, create jobs, promote economic development and enhance the environment – while reducing energy costs for Rhode Island businesses and municipalities.

Sunshine Child Development Center in North Kingstown is an education and early childhood development center for children up to five years old. They also offer an out of school time program for children attending the North Kingstown school district.

With a C-PACE loan from the Infrastructure Bank, the Center financed the installation of solar panels which is expected to provide net savings of $232,000 over the 20-year life of the loan, while reducing carbon emissions by 1,036 tons over the same time period.

In 2019, the Infrastructure Bank provided $152 million in financing, creating 3,500 local jobs.
Fixing Rhode Island’s School Buildings

Every child deserves a school that is warm, safe, dry and equipped for 21st century learning.

In 2018 voters overwhelmingly approved the $250 million statewide school construction bond recommended by Treasurer Magaziner and the School Building Task Force. In 2019, school districts across the state began putting that money to work.

The Town of North Providence used matching funds raised from the statewide school construction bond to build two new elementary schools, which were in desperate of repair, so they can provide a state-of-the-art education.

North Providence Mayor Charles Lombardi takes Treasurer Magaziner on a tour of the new Olney Elementary & McGuire Elementary Schools to show how the statewide school construction initiative has benefited students and teachers in his community.

The Town of North Providence used matching funds raised from the statewide school construction bond to build two new elementary schools, which were in desperate of repair, so they can provide a state-of-the-art education.

State, local officials tour Lincoln High School

© 2020 Breeze Publications, Inc.
Buy RI Bonds Campaign

In December, the State of Rhode Island successfully issued $153 million in bonds support school construction, clean water and other infrastructure projects throughout the state.

The Treasurer’s office partnered with local artists to launch a campaign encouraging Rhode Islanders to buy Rhode Island bonds. In doing so, Rhode Islanders would have an opportunity to invest in projects that benefit their local communities, while keeping more of the state’s interest payments right here in Rhode Island.

Projects being funded include new high schools in East Providence and Lincoln, renovations to Smithfield Elementary School, the dredging the Providence River, and funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, as well as more than a dozen other voter-approved initiatives across the state.

In the wake of this local marketing campaign, Rhode Islanders bought $42.8M of bonds, keeping $58.7M of total principal and interest payments here in the state while funding these vital community projects.

Supporting Local Artists

“I was inspired by the New Deal era posters that showcased the grit and determination of working people. I’m proud to raise awareness of investments that benefit the state where I live. It is very meaningful.”

- Simon Allen
Bond campaign artist
Launched by Treasurer Magaziner, the Rhode Island Financial Empowerment Roundtable brings together Representatives from non-profits, government agencies, businesses and educational institutions to network and share ideas on how to encourage financial education and security among Rhode Islanders.

Members of Roundtable collaborated to host an annual Job Shadow Day, which provides students from across the State the opportunity to spend a day with financial professionals, to learn about careers in various parts of the finance industry. Last year, over 120 students visited one of seven workplaces, interacting with executives, government leaders, and learning from financial industry experts.

“Financial education is vital in setting young people up for success in life, and Rhode Island has fallen behind in offering financial education in our schools.”
- Treasurer Seth Magaziner

In 2019, Treasurer Seth Magaziner joined Senator Sandra Cano (Dist. 8, Pawtucket) and Representative Joseph McNamara (Dist. 19, Warwick, Cranston) in calling for personal finance education to be accessible to all Rhode Island high school students. Research shows that high quality personal finance education leads to better financial outcomes for students, yet only 33% of Rhode Island’s graduating seniors in 2017 had received Financial Literacy Education. Making personal finance education universal continues to be one of Treasurer Magaziner’s top priorities.

Dory Jonathan Aine (L), a student at Alvarez High School in Providence, testifies in support of guaranteeing financial literacy education for all Rhode Island Students. Mr. Aine is joined by Dr. Margaret Brooks, president of the RI Jump$tart Coalition and Dennis Lassiter, a student at Alvarez High School.

Treasurer Seth Magaziner recognized fifty-seven high school juniors from across the Ocean State with the 2019 Young Leader Award. The award is presented to high school juniors in the state of Rhode Island who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in math, economics, finance and business-related courses, and are active in their community.
Student Loan Bill of Rights

There is a growing student loan crisis across the country and in Rhode Island. More than 133,000 Rhode Islanders, including 16,000 senior citizens, have a combined $4.5 billion in student loan debt.

Even more concerning, there are borrowers who do everything right in attempting to pay off their loans but still fall victim to predatory and deceptive practices by the corporations that service their loans. Rhode Islanders with student loans frequently report being double-charged or incorrectly marked as delinquent in payment, with loan servicers taking months, or ever years, to correct mistakes. These mistakes by the loan servicers can have harmful consequences for borrowers, impacting credit scores and eligibility for loan forgiveness programs.

By the Numbers: 16,000 Senior Citizens in Rhode Island have student loan debt.

The Boston Globe

Rhode Island sets new standards for student loan servicing

By Jennifer McDermott
© 2020 Boston Globe

To protect Rhode Islanders from the abuses of the student loan servicing industry, Treasurer Magaziner worked with Attorney General Peter Neronha and the General Assembly in 2019 to pass the Rhode Island Student Loan Bill of Rights. The Student Loan Bill of Rights sets standards for student loan servicing, both prohibiting predatory behavior and requiring best practices for protecting consumers’ rights.

The new law requires that student loan servicers provide accurate information to borrowers about their progress toward repayment and eligibility for loan assistance programs, that servicers process payments at the right time and in the right amount, and that servicers report accurate information to credit bureaus. The law also empowers the Attorney General to assist borrowers with complaints and enforce violations of the law.

Rhode Islanders who believe their student loan servicers may be acting improperly can now contact the consumer protection unit at the Office of the Attorney General at studentloanrightsri.com
The retirees and employees of St. Joseph’s and Our Lady of Fatima hospitals had been, for decades, kept in the dark about the poor health of their pension plan and were facing significant cuts to their benefits. Because their pension plans were qualified as a ‘church-based’ plan, it was exempt from federal transparency regulations; allowing its managers to conceal the poor health of the plan from 2,700 people who spent their careers taking care of others.

Treasurer Magaziner proposed a law that would require all pension plans to regularly disclose key financial information to all plan members. In 2019, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed – and Governor Raimondo signed into law – the legislation, which requires pension plans to disclose information regarding the health of the plan to all members every year so that a tragedy like the St. Joseph’s and Fatima pension cuts cannot happen again.

“My thanks go out to Treasurer Magaziner for preparing this bill for the General Assembly, in order to prevent this travesty from happening to any other pensioners. Yes, it is too late for us, but we know that he is behind us in this journey and is looking out for the little guy.”

- Marilyn Horan, RN.

Marilyn was born at St. Joseph’s Hospital and spent forty years in service to the public at the hospital.
Treasurer Magaziner is using the influence of the state’s pension fund to compel companies to adopt more responsible and sustainable corporate behavior. Research shows that companies that actively measure and manage material sustainability issues are better positioned to deliver long-term value to investors — including members of the pension system and all Rhode Island taxpayers.

The Rhode Island Treasury frequently engages company leadership directly on a range of issues, including limiting excessive executive compensation packages, protecting shareholder voting rights, mitigation of environmental impact, protecting employee and customer safety, and other matters that may impact long term shareholder value. Our goal is to strengthen our pension system for members and retirees for decades to come by promoting more sustainable practices at the companies we invest in.

As investors, the Rhode Island Treasury has the right to cast up or down votes on proposed executive pay packages at publicly traded companies. In 2019, Rhode Island voted against executive compensation proposals at dozens of companies, including Walt Disney Company, JP Morgan Chase, and General Motors, where proposed pay packages were overly expensive and not justified by company performance.

The Rhode Island Treasurer’s office is an active member of Investors for Opioid and Pharmaceutical Accountability (IOPA), a coalition of 54 institutional investors with over $4 trillion in assets. The IOPA engages with manufacturers, distributors and retail pharmacies on board oversight issues related to pharmaceutical and opioid business risks.

Following shareholder engagement led by Treasurer Magaziner, in 2019 Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), one of largest agricultural processors in the world, agreed to assess the feasibility of adopting quantitative, company-wide goals for reducing the company’s greenhouse gas emissions, including increasing its use of renewable energy.

This year, the Rhode Island Treasury also collaborated with other public pension funds to successfully press The Williams Companies to clearly define and publish greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and deploy additional technology to reduce fugitive methane emissions.

“While creating long term value for members of the retirement system, Treasurer Magaziner’s leadership on climate risk has led to corporate action that will help to protect Rhode Island’s economy and residents from increasingly severe weather events and rising sea levels.”

- Mindy Lubber
CEO & President
Ceres
In May 2019, Treasurer Seth Magaziner brought the National Association of State Treasurers to Providence, for the largest conference in the organization’s history. With nearly 750 attendees from across the country, the NAST conference provided more than $800,000 of direct economic impact to Rhode Island’s hospitality sector, and introduced hundreds of people to the Ocean State for the first time.

The NAST conference featured a robust agenda of educational sessions for attendees, on topics including investments and cash management, college affordability, infrastructure and debt management, unclaimed property and financial education.

The direct positive economic impact of hosting the NAST conference was $800,000, a figure which does not include additional tourism spending by attendees.

“We are grateful to Treasurer Magaziner and his team for recommending Rhode Island as the site of this meeting. We hope that more Rhode Islanders will follow his lead and bring lucrative meeting, convention and sporting event business to the Ocean State.”

- Kristen Adamo
President & CEO
Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau
Treasury Staff Highlights

As a member of the pension system's investment team, Jon Popielarski works to strengthen and expand the system’s private equity portfolio by identifying and performing due diligence research on funds and strategies.

As a member of the Business Office, Regina Pimental was instrumental in the design and implementation of a new reconciliation software. She has also volunteered to train employees of other state agencies on the use of the software. Because of her work, the software transition went smoothly, benefiting agencies across the State.

Alice Papa works for the retirement system and is responsible for processing member refunds and a wide variety of member account changes, including beneficiary designations, tax withholding elections, and direct deposit changes. Alice consistently goes above and beyond for our members, and supports her Treasury teammates as a union steward.

Jackie Coughlin has been an integral member of the retirement team since she joined Treasury in March 1991. In 2018, Jackie was promoted to her current position of Senior Retirement Counselor where she assists members of the Retirement system with questions about their pension benefit and provides counseling to those approaching retirement age.
Treasury Staff (as of December 31, 2019)

Andy Manca | Chief Operating Officer
Alec Stais | Chief Investment Officer
Jeff Thurston | Cash Manager
Frank Quinn | Public Debt Manager
Lauren Martin | Fiscal Management Analyst
Thelma Augusto | Senior Cash Management Officer
Maria Paiva | Cash Management Officer
Tiffany Kaschel | Project Manager
Jonathan Popielarski | Senior Investment Officer
Jacob Konrad | Investment Analyst
Saul Ioffe | Investment Analyst
Justin Maistrow | Senior Investment Analyst
Brian Conklin | Chief Fiscal Manager
Ralph Simone | Principal Auditor
Regina Pimental | Principal Auditor
Tony Piccirillo | Principal Auditor
Maggie Sandness | Accounting & Research Service Specialist
Natalie Madonna | Accounting & Research Service Specialist
Cheryl Haddad | Receipts Coordinator
Robin Cooney | Business Service Specialist
Lisa O’Brien | Senior Administrative Aide
Brian Issa | Archives & Record Retention Specialist
Craig Rabitaille | Cash Management / Fiscal Officer
Chris Civitello | Director of 529 Savings
Kim Shockley | Director of Retirement Savings Plan
Dana Peterson-Fatuda | Executive Aide
Stacey Whitton | Director of Finance, Retirement System
Jexsy Armstrong | Controller, Retirement System
Vin Izzo | Investment Accounting Manager
Jarvis Batista | Senior Accountant
Erica Kwiatkowski | Accounting Manager
Eric Motta | Data Analyst
Frank Karpinski | Executive Director, Retirement System
Randy Rice | Deputy Director, Communication & Shareholder Engagement
Kimberly DeCosta | Director of Member Services
Jay Shaw | Customer Experience Manager
Tara Corcelli | Special Projects Manager
Peter Phillips | Principal Accountant
Jackie Coughlin | Senior Administrative Assistant
Cheryl Melise | Senior Administrative Assistant
MaryAnn Pernorio | Administrative Assistant
Paul Vatter | Administrative Assistant
John Midgely | Administrative Assistant
Claudia Cardona | Administrative Assistant
Chandree Kozlin | Administrative Assistant
Roxanne Donoyan | Administrative Aide
Sue Salvatore | Administrative Aide
Alice Papa | Administrative Aide
Suzanne Costa | Administrative Aide
Amy Crane | General Counsel
Gail Mambrino Martin | Deputy General Counsel
David Zuller | Administrator, Crime Victim Compensation Program
Carol Aguasvivas | Deputy Program Administrator, Crime Victim Compensation Program
Marion Solomon | Applications Coordinator
Shirley Roy | Administrative Aide
Amanda Lucas | Disability Pension Management
Gloria Bernstein | Senior Admin Aide
Nicole Rodriguez | Senior Admin Aide
Kara DiPaola | Legal Counsel
Jeff Meehan | Chief Financial Officer
Cynthia Galucci | Principal Admin Clerk
John Hadamard | Systems Administrator
Lammis Vargas | Unclaimed Property Administrator
Robert Gallucci | Senior Unclaimed Property Analyst
Leah DiLeon | Senior Unclaimed Property Analyst
Joseph Ferreira | Applications Coordinator
George Kaprielian | Applications Coordinator
Kevin Elliot | Applications Coordinator
Betty Potenza | Unclaimed Property Clerk
Patrick Donnelly | Unclaimed Property Clerk
Kate Brock | Chief of Staff
LeeAnn Byrne | Legislative Director and Senior Advisor
Evan England | Director of Communications
Charon Rose | Director of Outreach and Constituent Affairs
Chrissy Mullins | Executive Aide to the Treasurer
Patrick Griffin | Outreach Coordinator
TEAM TREASURY