



SWIB STATE OF WISCONSIN  
INVESTMENT BOARD

EST. 1951

# About Us

SWIB is responsible for managing the assets of the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS), the State Investment Fund (SIF), and other state trust funds. As of December 31, 2020, SWIB managed about \$144 billion in assets.

SWIB was created in 1951, and since then, forward-thinking legislators and governors have given SWIB the tools to become the premier investment organization it is today.





From its inception, SWIB has been a forward-thinking investment organization and has grown into an industry leader among institutional investors with a focus on using innovation to meet the challenges of constantly changing financial markets.

# Timeline

## 1951

Senate Bill 560, which created SWIB as we know it today, is signed into law. SWIB is one of the first public pension plans to invest in the stock market.

## 1967

Assets under SWIB's management reach \$1 billion.

## 1975

State-administered public employee retirement programs are merged into one system, the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS).

## 1978

SWIB is recognized as an innovative "model" program by *Pensions & Investments* magazine, one of the dozens of awards and recognitions SWIB will earn over the years.



# 1984

Assets under SWIB's management reach \$10 billion.

# 1999

SWIB launches the Wisconsin Venture Capital Portfolio investing in early stage funds and companies.

# 2007

Wisconsin's legislature permits SWIB to manage the assets of the WRS using the full array of tools available to "prudent investors" instead of limiting SWIB to a legal list of assets.

# 2013

Assets under SWIB's management reach \$100 billion.

# 2011

Wisconsin's legislature gives SWIB's independent Board of Trustees the authority to establish SWIB's operating budget and staffing level. This law change has given SWIB the flexibility to adapt to swiftly changing market conditions and to increase its internal management of assets in a cost-effective manner.



**2017**

Institutional Investor names SWIB Team of the Year, recognizing SWIB as "a home to top talent in American public fund investing."

**2018**

SWIB is named Change Maker of the Year by Institutional Investor, highlighting it as a forward-looking model for other public pension systems.

**2019**

SWIB develops fund-level investment strategies designed to respond quickly and nimbly to shorter-term market trends.

**2019**

SWIB increases its allocation to private equity to grow its co-investment portfolios.

**2020**

SWIB's Non-Wisconsin Private Debt Portfolio is expanded from the Midwest to include investment opportunities across the U.S.

**2021**

For the second time in five years, SWIB is honored as Team of the Year, recognizing staff for their success in 2020 amidst a challenging pandemic environment.





# 2021

SWIB celebrates its 70th anniversary and remains committed to serving the more than 650,000 members of the WRS.

- The WRS is one of the nation's only fully funded public employee retirement systems.
- The WRS consistently ranks among the 10 largest public pension funds in the U.S.
- SWIB's investment management has added more than \$1.9 billion above benchmark returns over the last five years and saved \$1.3 billion of costs compared to its peers in the last 10 years.

# Innovating for the Future

SWIB has a long history of being an industry leader among institutional investors and evolving to meet the challenges of the financial markets. As SWIB contemplates innovative ways to support its ability to deliver on its mission in the future, new initiatives include:

- Launching internal alternative fixed income strategies targeting less efficient segments of the market.
- Partnering with three North American public pension plans to create an innovative nonprofit investment group focused on peer-to-peer securities financing opportunities.
- Building out infrastructure and technology to support new strategies and reduce reliance on third party service providers.
- Maximizing revenue while also reducing costs associated with financing activities, including through onboarding the first prime broker relationships.



For more information on SWIB's  
history you can visit:

[www.swib.state.wi.us/about-us](http://www.swib.state.wi.us/about-us)



