

# IBEW LOCAL NO. 117 PENSION FUND

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April 2021

**ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE**  
**International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local No. 117 Pension Fund**  
**Plan Year Beginning January 1, 2020**

## Introduction

This notice includes important information about the funding status of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local No. 117 Pension Fund (the “Plan”) and general information about the benefit payments guaranteed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (“PBGC”), a federal insurance agency. All traditional pension plans (called “defined benefit pension plans”) must provide this notice every year regardless of their funding status. This notice does not mean that the Plan is terminating. It is provided for informational purposes and you are not required to respond in any way. This notice is for the plan year beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020 (the “Plan Year”).

## How Well Funded Is Your Plan

Under federal law, the Plan must report how well it is funded by using a measure called the “funded percentage.” This percentage is obtained by dividing the Plan’s assets by its liabilities on the Valuation Date for the plan year. In general, the higher the percentage, the better funded the plan. Your Plan’s funded percentage for the plan year and each of the two preceding plan years is set forth in the chart below, along with a statement of the value of the Plan’s assets and liabilities for the same period.

	2020	2019	2018
Valuation Date	January 1	January 1	January 1
Funded Percentage	85.8%	86.9%	86.8%
Value of Assets	\$204,754,198	\$197,153,991	\$191,733,621
Value of Liabilities	\$238,670,301	\$226,998,745	\$220,839,297

## Year-End Fair Market Value of Assets

The asset values in the chart above are measured as of the Valuation Date for the plan year and are actuarial values. Because market values can fluctuate daily based on factors in the marketplace, such as changes in the stock market, pension law allows plans to use actuarial values that are designed to smooth out those fluctuations for funding purposes. The asset values below are market values and are measured as of the last day of the plan year, rather than as of the Valuation Date. Substituting the market value of assets for the actuarial value used in the above chart would show a clearer picture of a plan’s funded status as of the Valuation Date.

The fair market value of the Plan’s assets as of the last day of the Plan Year and each of the two preceding plan years is shown in the following table:

	December 31, 2020*	December 31, 2019	December 31, 2018
Fair Market Value of Assets	\$221,957,843	\$206,790,061	\$182,506,946

*\* 12/31/2020 audited results are not available at this time. The value listed above represents the Plan's best estimate of assets.*

### **Endangered, Critical or Critical and Declining Status**

Under federal pension law, a plan generally is in "endangered" status if its funded percentage is less than 80 percent. A plan is in "critical" status if the funded percentage is less than 65 percent (other factors may also apply). A plan is in "critical and declining" status if it is in critical status and is projected to become insolvent (run out of money to pay benefits) within 15 years (or within 20 years if a special rule applies). If a pension plan enters endangered status, the trustees of the plan are required to adopt a funding improvement plan. Similarly, if a pension plan enters critical status or critical and declining status, the trustees of the plan are required to adopt a rehabilitation plan. Funding improvement and rehabilitation plans establish steps and benchmarks for pension plans to improve their funding status over a specified period of time. The plan sponsor of a plan in critical and declining status may apply for approval to amend the plan to reduce current and future payment obligations to participants and beneficiaries.

The Plan was not in endangered, critical, or critical and declining status in the plan year.

### **Participant Information**

The total number of participants in the Plan as of the Plan's valuation date was 694. Of this number, 310 were active participants, 208 were retired or separated from service and receiving benefits and 176 were retired or separated from service and entitled to future benefits.

### **Funding and Investment Policies**

Every pension plan must have a procedure for establishing a funding policy to carry out plan objectives. A funding policy relates to the level of assets needed to pay for benefits promised under the plan currently and over the years. The Plan is funded by contributions made by employers pursuant to collective bargaining agreements with the union that represents the Plan's participants. From time to time, the Board of Trustees has adjusted the level of benefits accrued per dollar of contribution in order to assure that the funding policy is met.

Annual employer contributions to the Plan will equal or exceed the minimum funding requirement of the Internal Revenue Code, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA), and the Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 (WRERA), including all amendments to these acts. In addition, the annual employer contributions to the Plan will not exceed the tax deductible limits according to Section 404 of the Internal Revenue Code as amended.

Once money is contributed to the Plan, the money is invested by Plan officials called fiduciaries. Specific investments are made in accordance with the Plan's investment policy. Generally speaking, an investment policy is a written statement that provides the fiduciaries who are responsible for plan investments with guidelines or general instructions concerning various types or categories of investment management decisions. The investment policy of the Plan provides for the investment of Plan assets by professional investment managers in a variety of investment vehicles, including cash, bonds, stocks, mutual and collective funds, and real estate. Investments are diversified in order to protect against large losses. From time to time, the Board of Trustees will review and

<b>Asset Allocation</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1. Stocks	61.7%
2. Investment grade debt instruments	12.5%
3. High-yield debt instruments	7.8%
4. Real Estate	3.4%
5. Other	<u>14.7%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

revise the investment policies to reflect changes which they and the Fund's investment consultant believe are necessary or prudent. The long-term goal of the Plan is to 1) generate a net return in excess of the Plan's actuarial assumed rate of return, 2) maintain sufficient liquidity to fund benefit payments, and 3) preserve the principal value of the Plan assets.

Under the Plan's investment policy, the Plan's assets were allocated among the following categories of investments, as of the end of the Plan Year. These allocations are percentages of total assets:

For information about the Plan's investment in any of the following types of investments as described in the chart above – common/collective trusts, pooled separate accounts, master trust investment accounts, or 103-12 investment entities – contact the Board of Trustees of the IBEW Local No. 117 Pension Fund, at 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275 or toll free at (877)-423-9117.

### **Right to Request a Copy of the Annual Report**

A pension plan is required to file with the US Department of Labor an annual report called the Form 5500 that contains financial and other information about the plan. Copies of the annual report are available from the US Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration's Public Disclosure Room at 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1513, Washington, DC 20210, or by calling 202.693.8673. For 2009 and subsequent plan years, you may obtain an electronic copy of the Plan's annual report by going to [www.efast.dol.gov](http://www.efast.dol.gov) and using the Form 5500 search function. Or you may obtain a copy of the Plan's annual report by making a written request to the Board of Trustees at the address provided below. Individual information, such as the amount of your accrued benefit under the Plan, is not contained in the annual report. If you are seeking information regarding your benefits under the Plan, contact the Board of Trustees at the address provided below under "Where To Get More Information".

### **Summary of Rules Governing Insolvent Plans**

Federal law has a number of special rules that apply to financially troubled multiemployer plans that become insolvent, either as ongoing plans or plans terminated by mass withdrawal. The plan administrator is required by law to include a summary of these rules in the annual funding notice. A plan is insolvent for a plan year if its available financial resources are not sufficient to pay benefits when due for that plan year. An insolvent plan must reduce benefit payments to the highest level that can be paid from the plan's available resources. If such resources are not enough to pay benefits at the level specified by law (see Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC, below), the plan must apply to the PBGC for financial assistance. The PBGC will loan the plan the amount necessary to pay benefits at the guaranteed level. Reduced benefits may be restored if the plan's financial condition improves.

A plan that becomes insolvent must provide prompt notice of its status to participants and beneficiaries, contributing employers, labor unions representing participants, and PBGC. In addition, participants and

beneficiaries also must receive information regarding whether, and how, their benefits will be reduced or affected, including loss of a lump sum option.

### **Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC**

The maximum benefit that the PBGC guarantees is set by law. Only vested benefits are guaranteed. Specifically, the PBGC guarantees a monthly benefit payment equal to 100 percent of the first \$11 of the plan's monthly benefit accrual rate, plus 75 percent of the next \$33 of the accrual rate, for each credited year of service. Thus, the PBGC's maximum guarantee is \$35.75 per month times a participant's credited years of service.

**Example 1:** If a participant with 10 credited years of service has an accrued monthly benefit of \$500, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the PBGC guarantee would be determined by dividing the monthly benefit by the years of service ( $\$500/10$ ), which equals \$50. The guaranteed amount for a \$50 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11 plus \$24.75 ( $.75 \times \$33$ ), or \$35.75. Thus, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit is \$357.50 ( $\$35.75 \times 10$ ).

**Example 2:** If the participant in Example 1 has an accrued monthly benefit of \$200, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the guarantee would be \$20 (or  $\$200/10$ ). The guaranteed amount for a \$20 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11 plus \$6.75 ( $.75 \times \$9$ ), or \$17.75. Thus, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit would be \$177.50 ( $\$17.75 \times 10$ ).

The PBGC guarantees pension benefits payable at normal retirement age and some early retirement benefits. In calculating a person's monthly payment, the PBGC will disregard any benefit increases that were made under the plan within 60 months before the earlier of the plan's termination or insolvency (or benefits that were in effect for less than 60 months at the time of termination or insolvency). Similarly, the PBGC does not guarantee pre-retirement death benefits to a spouse or beneficiary (e.g., a qualified pre-retirement survivor annuity) if the participant dies after the plan terminates, benefits above the normal retirement benefit, disability benefits not in pay status, or non-pension benefits, such as health insurance, life insurance, death benefits, vacation pay, or severance pay.

### **Where to Get More Information**

For more information about this notice, you may contact Board of Trustees of the IBEW Local No. 117 Pension Fund, at 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275 or toll free at (877) 423-9117. For identification purposes, the official Plan number is 001 and the Plan sponsor's employer identification number or "EIN" is 36-6474808. For more information about the PBGC, go to PBGC's website, [www.pbgc.gov](http://www.pbgc.gov).