



For Immediate Release  
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### **OPERS Board of Trustees approves COLA changes**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Board of Trustees of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System today passed a proposal that would change future cost-of-living adjustments that are provided annually to all OPERS retirees.

The Board acted after listening to feedback from OPERS retirees and stakeholders. OPERS recently surveyed retirees about options to adjust the COLA, and more than 76,000 responses were returned, and the final proposal incorporates some of the feedback.

The proposal requires passage by the Ohio Legislature to become effective. If enacted, the proposal would reduce the system's unfunded liabilities by approximately \$4 billion and make the following changes to the OPERS COLA:

1. *Tying the COLA to the CPI:* Beginning in 2019, all future COLAs will be based on the U.S. Consumer Price Index, capped at 2.25 percent.
2. *Delaying implementation for some retirees:* The new COLA will be delayed two years for OPERS members who retired from 2010 through 2012.
3. *Delaying initial COLAs for future retirees:* The first COLA will be delayed for future retirees until their second pension anniversary.
4. *Restoring purchasing power:* OPERS will provide a one-time pension adjustment to restore 85 percent purchasing power for those retirees whose purchasing power is less than 85 percent.
5. *Including funding triggers:* Should OPERS' required time to pay off unfunded liabilities top 30 years, the COLA will be frozen for the next calendar year. In the event inflation exceeds 3 percent for an extended period of time, the Board could increase the COLA to 3 percent if OPERS funding is strong.

With assets of \$90.6 billion, OPERS is the largest public pension fund in Ohio and the 12th-largest public pension fund in the United States. In operation since 1935, OPERS provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits to public employees throughout the state and serves more than 1 million members.

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