



Considering your retirement readiness?

OPERS is here to help!

Whether you're eligible to retire or will be within the next five years, the decisions you make now will have a direct impact on your income, health care, and long-term financial security.

OPERS offers **Retirement Readiness** seminars for members within five years of retirement eligibility. These sessions are designed to help you move from uncertainty to confidence—giving you the knowledge, tools, and guidance to make informed decisions about your future.

What You'll Learn

- When you can retire—and what timing means for your income, including reduced versus unreduced benefits
- How to estimate your pension to support your family and lifestyle
- How understanding your personal salary replacement will strengthen your retirement

- What to expect with health care coverage and costs in retirement
- How to use the Readiness Checklist as a personalized action plan so you know exactly what steps to take—and when

Why Attend

Retirement success doesn't happen by chance—it comes from making informed decisions at the right time. Whether you're close to retiring or planning ahead, this session will help you build a clear, confident path forward.

Take the Next Step

Don't leave one of the most important decisions of your life to guesswork. Register today by signing in to your online account and start planning your retirement with confidence.

Protect your loved ones by keeping your beneficiary information up to date

Naming a beneficiary isn't something most people think about very often. But keeping your beneficiary information up to date is one of the most important things you can do to help protect your loved ones.

Whether you're just beginning your career or approaching retirement, it's worth taking a few minutes to review your beneficiary designation. A marriage, divorce, the birth or adoption of a child, or the death of a loved one are all good reasons to make sure your information is current.

Choosing your beneficiaries during your career

OPERS members may designate a specific beneficiary to receive certain benefits before and after retirement. During your career, you can name a person, persons, trust, estate or an institution as your beneficiary. If you designate a trust, estate, institution or multiple beneficiaries, your account will be refunded in a lump sum unless there are qualified children who are eligible to receive monthly benefits.

You can designate and/or update your beneficiaries at any time through your online account or by completing a Designation of Beneficiary form.

If you don't name a beneficiary, Ohio law determines who will receive any benefits that may be payable. Generally, benefits are paid according to a statutory order of succession, beginning with a surviving spouse, then children, followed by parents and, if none exists, your estate.

It's also important to know that certain life events can affect a beneficiary designation under Ohio law. Marriage, divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, or the birth or adoption of a child may invalidate a previous designation. If one of these events occurs, review your beneficiary information and make any necessary updates. If not, the beneficiary will be determined by automatic succession.

If you take a refund of your account, your beneficiary designation is automatically canceled.

Review your beneficiaries today

Keeping your beneficiary information current is one of the simplest ways to help ensure your wishes are carried out. If you haven't reviewed your designation recently, now is a good time to do so.



OPERS News

OPERS News is a quarterly newsletter providing news and information to members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. This publication allows us to communicate vital information concerning retirement benefits to our members.

This newsletter is written in plain language for use by members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. It is not intended as a substitute for federal or state law, nor will its interpretation prevail should a conflict arise between it and the Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Administrative Code or Internal Revenue Code. If you have questions about this material, please contact our office or seek legal advice from your attorney.

Contact information:

opers.org
1-800-222-7377
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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OPERS Board of Trustees

For more information on the OPERS Board of Trustees, visit www.opers.org.

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Non-teaching College/
University Employees

Julie Albers
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Build a Lasting State of Confidence with Ohio Deferred Compensation

A supplemental retirement plan can complement your OPERS pension benefit. Most financial planners suggest that your retirement income be 75-90 percent of your working income. On average, your OPERS pension replaces 63 percent of your working income, depending on your age and years of service at retirement. While this can provide a significant amount of retirement income, additional retirement savings will help you retire more comfortably and with more confidence.

Consider enrolling in Ohio DC to help you fill the gap between your OPERS benefit and your optimal retirement income. Ohio DC investment options allow for diversification and high quality at a low cost for every investor's skill and comfort level. Participants in Ohio DC benefit from the size of the Program, which allows them to offer institutional pricing for investments and lower administrative costs than other similar plans. Lower fees can make a huge difference in your overall retirement asset growth and retention.



Enroll today to begin investing for your future retirement!
Ohio Deferred Compensation,
ohio457.org, 1-877-644-6457,
Ohio457@Nationwide.com



Deferred Compensation

Let Ohio DC participant stories inspire your next move

Ohio DC is celebrating 50 years of helping Ohio public employees prepare for retirement. A new video, Ohio DC Participant Stories, highlights how real participants used the Plan to create more options for their future. You can take similar steps to build your own state of confidence:

- Reviewing your Ohio DC account helps turn uncertainty into informed choices about your future at [Ohio457.org](https://ohio457.org).
- Modest contribution increases can strengthen your financial flexibility and open up more choices in the future.
- After you review the participant stories, schedule time with an Ohio DC Account Executive for enrollment or education and support tailored to your situation.

Visit [Ohio457.org](https://ohio457.org) to watch the Ohio DC Participant Stories video series, review your account, and use the planning tools to help you work toward your own state of confidence in retirement.





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OPERSNEWS

News and information for active members of the
Ohio Public Employees Retirement System.



If you no longer wish to receive a paper copy of your newsletter and would like to receive the electronic version, log into your OPERS online account and update your correspondence preferences to electronic.

A background image for the election section featuring a dense collection of circular buttons. Each button is divided into three horizontal sections: the top section is blue with white stars, the middle section is white with the word "VOTE" in blue capital letters, and the bottom section is red with white stars. The buttons are overlapping and slightly out of focus, creating a sense of depth.

Candidates certified for this year's Board of Trustees election

The OPERS Board certified the slate of candidates for this year's trustee election at the August meeting. The resulting application process yielded no races that will result in member or retiree voting.

Four board positions were open for election this year. Three of those seats received one qualifying submitted petition each. They include current trustee Russell Smith for the college/university employee seat; Daniel Sferra for the municipal employee seat; and current trustee Steve Toth for one of the two retiree seats.

According to Ohio law, the Board is not required to hold an election if only one candidate has been nominated for an elected position by petition. Thus, those three candidates will take office as if elected, for four-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2027.

The other seat that was up for election this year, for state employees, received no qualified petitions. That means the seat will become vacant in January, and the trustees at that time will proceed with selecting a successor employee member from the state group, according to Ohio law.