



Oregon PERS Retirees Inc.

POLITICAL INSIGHTS THAT MATTER



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About OPRI

The Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc. (OPRI) is the state's largest organization that exists solely to protect the rights and benefits of Oregon's retired public employees. We serve retirees like you by monitoring PERS disbursements, advocating for you at the Legislature and, when necessary, defending you in court. To learn more, please visit our website: www.opri.org

OPRI prepares for 2027 Legislative Session

The 2027 Oregon Legislative Session is still months away, but OPRI's legislative work is already underway.

In the months ahead, OPRI will follow the November general election, monitor developments affecting PERS retirees, and prepare legislative concepts for the 2027 session. The goal is to be ready to engage with a new Legislature from the start of the session in January.

September Legislative Days provided an early look at issues and policy discussions that are likely to continue into 2027. OPRI is using that information to refine its priorities and prepare legislative concepts for introduction when lawmakers return to Salem.

The 2026 election also will bring changes to the Oregon Legislature. Voters will determine which lawmakers will serve in 2027, and those legislators will make decisions on issues that could affect public employee retirement benefits.

Once the session begins, OPRI will track bills and proposed changes involving PERS and retirement benefits, keep members informed, and communicate directly with legislators about issues affecting PERS retirees. OPRI will evaluate proposals as they move

OPRI prepares to introduce bills for 2027

Two issues that have followed PERS retirees through recent legislative sessions are headed back to the Capitol in 2027: the cost of retiree health insurance and the impact of inflation on retirement benefits. OPRI is preparing to reintroduce legislation addressing both.

Raising the RHIA subsidy

SB 847-A (2025) would increase the PERS Health Insurance Program's (PHIP) Retirement Health Insurance Account (RHIA) subsidy from \$60 to \$100 per month. The \$60 subsidy has remained unchanged since the program was established in 1988.

The bill also would extend RHIA eligibility to OPSRP retirees, who are currently excluded from the program.

An actuarial analysis by Milliman found that the changes could increase the RHIA fund's accrued liability by approximately \$320 million to \$600 million, depending on participation. The proposal would also increase employer contributions to the fund.

Addressing the PERS COLA

OPRI also plans to revisit HB 2822 (2023), which would provide a one-time payment equivalent to an 8% COLA for low- and middle-income PERS retirees.

The bill did not advance in 2023. OPRI plans to bring the issue back to legislators as retirees continue to face the effects of inflation and rising costs on fixed incomes.



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through the legislative process and engage when legislation has implications for PERS members.

Building and maintaining relationships with policymakers is an important part of that work. OPRI works to ensure legislators have accurate information about PERS retirees and understand how proposed changes could affect them.

Legislative advocacy does not start when lawmakers convene. OPRI uses the months between sessions to identify emerging issues, develop legislative proposals, maintain relationships with policymakers and prepare for the decisions ahead.

The 2027 session may be months away, but OPRI is already doing the work to be ready when it begins.

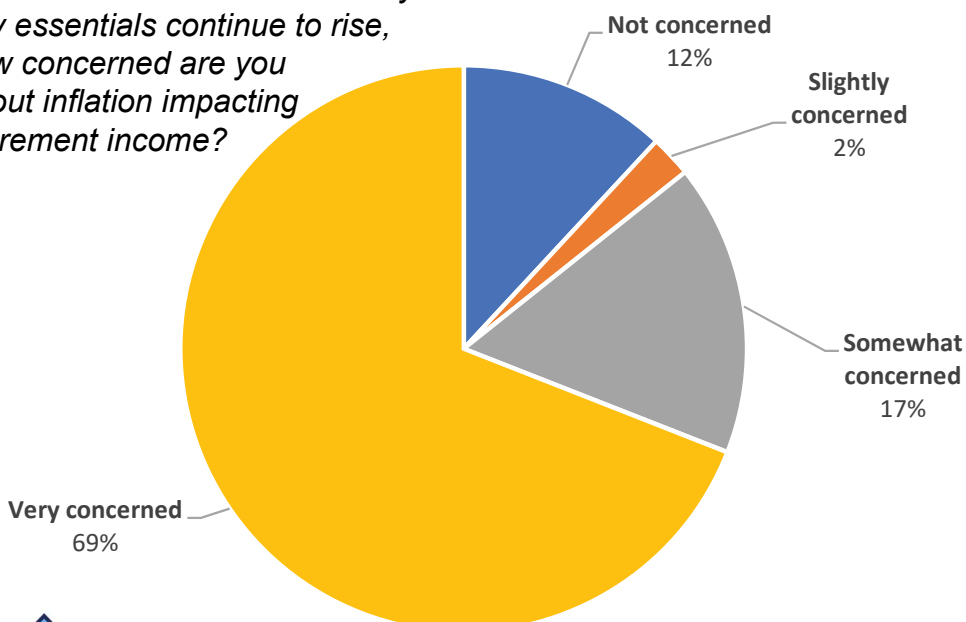
OPRI members ‘very concerned’ over impacts on inflation

Inflation continues to drive up the cost of groceries, utilities, healthcare, housing, and other everyday essentials, presenting a growing challenge for many retirees living on fixed incomes. In a recent Facebook poll, we asked members to tell us how concerned they are about the effects of inflation on their retirement income. Of those who responded, 69% indicated they were very concerned.

You can see the full poll results in the chart below.

We asked OPRI members:

As inflation and the cost of every day essentials continue to rise, how concerned are you about inflation impacting retirement income?



In case you missed it:

On August 3rd, 16 Democratic legislators have asked State Treasurer Elizabeth Steiner and the Oregon Investment Council to conduct a comprehensive audit of the Oregon Public Employees Retirement Fund (OPERF). In their letter, lawmakers said state law requires the review and noted that the last comprehensive audit was conducted 10 years ago.

The requested review would examine the balance of private and public equity investments, investment manager fees, and potential impacts of factors including artificial intelligence and climate change on the fund's investments.





PO Box 12945 | Salem, OR 97309



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