



# Retired Public Employees Council of Washington

Working to protect and enhance the pension and health care benefits of Washington retired state, county and local government employees.

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## 2021 RPEC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



### PROTECT THE MEDICARE BENEFIT FOR RETIREES

- The benefit for Medicare-eligible retirees who have health insurance through PEBB, originated in the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, which requires the state to provide a benefit for those who qualify and receives federal funds to offset part of the cost of the program.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to ensure high-risk seniors have affordable health coverage.
- Eliminating the Medicare Benefit would result in a 40-50% increase in premium cost to retirees depending on plan. That would mean a monthly premium of \$ 519.30 for UMP.

**KEEP THE CURRENT PEBB MEDICARE BENEFIT AT \$183 PER MONTH**



### BALANCE THE UPSIDE DOWN TAX CODE

- The average retiree pays seven times more of their income in taxes than the wealthiest in our state. Giant corporations and the wealthy few have rigged our tax code so that they pay the least, while we pay the most.
- COVID-19 has caused a collapse of economic activity. This means a collapse in state revenue from sales and business taxes. Therefore, the people of Washington face a simple choice: We can cut spending - which will hurt people and slow economic activity as the flow of money in Washington communities dries up even further - OR, we can raise taxes on those at the top - which will preserve needed programs, help people who need it, keep workers employed, and ensure that money continues to circulate in Washington communities.

**PASS PROGRESSIVE NEW REVENUE**



### STRENGTHEN OUR PENSION SYSTEM

- Fully fund the employer contributions to the pension systems and continue the plan to pay down unfunded liability in Plan 1.
- Address the on-going loss of purchasing power for plan 1 members with substantial and predictable Cost-of-Living increases.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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