

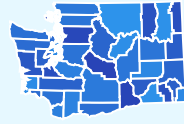


# Pass a Plan 1 COLA for Retirees Support HB 1459 & SB 5350/HB 1057



## 37%

Purchasing power lost by Plan 1 (PERS & TRS) pensions since repeal of the UCOLA in 2011.



## 73,731

Number of Plan 1 retirees,  
17,066 fewer than 10 years ago.



## 78 years old

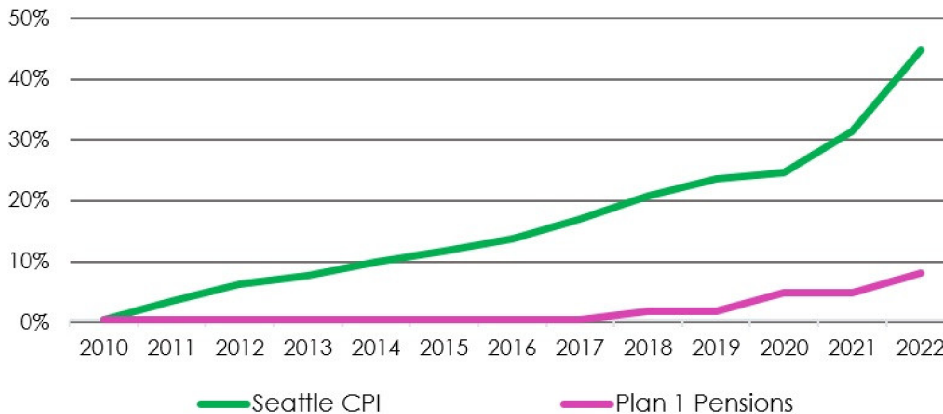
Average age of Plan 1 retirees



## \$1.32

Each \$1 of pension paid supports  
\$1.32 in total output to the state.

### Inflation vs Plan 1 Pensions



### Inflation Rates

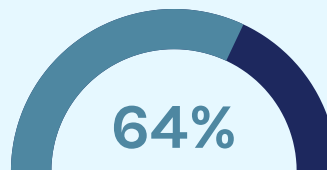
Seattle/Tacoma/Bellevue CPI

2023 - 8.3% (Jan)  
 2022 - 8.4%  
 2021 - 7.6%  
 2020 - 1.4%  
 2019 - 2.2%  
 2018 - 2.8%

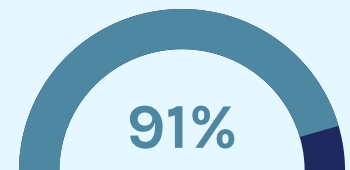
### Plan 1 COLAs

2022 - 3% (\$110/mo cap)  
 2020 - 3% (\$62.50/mo cap)  
 2018 - 1.5% (\$62.50/mo cap)

- Plan 1 is the ONLY pension plan to not have an automatic COLA for all members.
- Most Plan 1 retirees have only received three COLAs since 2010.
- With annual inflation, Plan 1 retirees are being priced out of their homes and are unable to afford food, medical treatment and other basic necessities.



of Plan 1 retirees have  
annual pensions worth  
less than  
**\$30,000**



of Plan 1 retirees have  
annual pensions worth  
less than  
**\$48,000**



#### Retired Public Employees Council

Laurie Weidner, Executive Director  
[laurie.weidner@rpecwa.org](mailto:laurie.weidner@rpecwa.org)  
 Emmett Mills, Government Affairs Coordinator  
[emmett.mills@rpecwa.org](mailto:emmett.mills@rpecwa.org)

#### Washington Education Association - Retired

Mary Linsey, President  
[wearetired@washingtonea.org](mailto:wearetired@washingtonea.org)  
 Jared Mason-Gere, Lobbyist  
[jmasongere@washingtonea.org](mailto:jmasongere@washingtonea.org)



**WEA**  
Retired



# Pass a Plan 1 COLA for Retirees Support HB 1459 & SB 5350/HB 1057



## A Member's Story - Zaida Zapata Quimby, Seattle

"My name is Zaida; I am an 83 year old widow. I worked for King County Metro from 1963 until my retirement in 1999. Unable to survive on my pension, in 2000 I went back to work as an usher at Benaroya Hall/Seattle Symphony. I tried to retire again in 2021 due to ongoing health issues but was forced to return to work in 2022 to pay my bills.

Since my husband passed in 1998, life has not been easy. My mortgage, life insurance, and long term care insurance cost \$2,664 per month, while I receive \$2,617 from my PERS 1 pension, leaving me \$47 in debt.

A Plan 1 COLA would significantly improve my quality of life. Please support HB 1459 and SB 5350/HB 1057 to provide me with relief from inflation so I can afford to retire for good."



## Solutions



**HB 1459 - Establish an annual, recurring COLA for Plan 1 (PERS/TRS) retirees.**



**SB 5350/HB 1057 - Provide Plan 1 retirees with a one-time COLA in 2023 to provide short-term relief from staggering inflation and a path to an annual, recurring COLA.**



## Rationale



Without relief, Plan 1 retirees will burden taxpayers if they are forced onto Medicaid, become food insecure, and/or lose their homes.



Plan 1 retirees served the public and paid into their pensions for decades with the understanding that they would receive a stable and secure retirement. They deserve to retire with dignity.



**Retired Public Employees Council**  
Laurie Weidner, Executive Director  
laurie.weidner@rpecwa.org  
Emmett Mills, Government Affairs Coordinator  
emmett.mills@rpecwa.org

**Washington Education Association - Retired**  
Mary Linsey, President  
wearetired@washingtonea.org  
Jared Mason-Gere, Lobbyist  
jmasongere@washingtonea.org



**WEA**  
Retired