



Washington State School Retirees' Association

Legislative Priorities – 2025

Restore an ongoing cost-of-living adjustment for TRS 1 & PERS 1 retirees.

- **Lost benefits:** 50,730 retired teachers, school employees, and public employees have been without an ongoing COLA since 2011, when the legislature eliminated their annual benefit increase. Since then, most pensions have lost at least 25% of their purchasing power.
- **Restore fairness:** Only TRS 1 & PERS 1 members don't receive automatic annual COLAs.
- **Seniors in need:** Washington is among the most expensive states for retirees. Without an ongoing COLA, retired public servants are being forced to consider moving out of state to afford housing, food, and health care.

Paths to an ongoing COLA

SB 5085	SB 5113 / HB 1292
<p style="text-align: center;">Restore an ongoing COLA by creating the Legacy Retirement System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Benefits restored: PERS 1 & TRS 1 members receive an annual inflation-based COLA of up to 3%. - Positive budget impact: Financed by reorganizing TRS 1, PERS 1, and LEOFF 1 into the Legacy Retirement System. The state would save \$600 million over the next four fiscal years. Total savings of \$1.6 billion for employers. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Restore an ongoing COLA with long-term investments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Benefits restored: PERS 1 & TRS 1 members receive an annual inflation-based COLA of up to 3%. - Funded by employer contributions over a 15-year period. - Approved by the Select Committee on Pension Policy.

Additional Priorities

- Maintain the \$183 monthly Medicare benefit for insurance plans offered through the Public Employees Benefits Board (budget line item).
- Fully fund all pension plans (oppose SSB 5357 / HB 1467).
- Cover mobile dental care through the Public Employees Benefits Board so retirees in long-term care settings can stay healthy (bill number forthcoming).
- Protect surviving family members from clawbacks by ending month-of-death pension prorating (SB 5114 / HB 1312).

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