

# A 13TH CHECK FOR RETIRED STATE WORKERS WOULD IMMEDIATELY HELP 13,607 ERS RETIREES IN THE

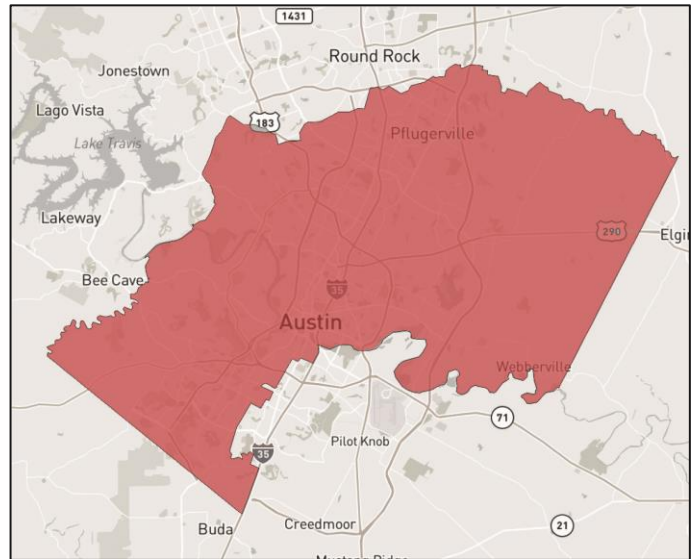
## 14TH SENATE DISTRICT

REPRESENTED BY

**SEN. SARAH ECKHARDT**

ERS retirees have not had a 13th check from ERS or a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) since 2001. With rising prices and record inflation, it's become increasingly difficult for retirees to live on fixed incomes.

This year, Texas' budget surplus gives lawmakers a historic opportunity to provide a needed 13th check right away. It would provide immediate relief to retired state workers — and show current state employees that the Legislature is committed to their future.



Current state workers contributing to ERS:

- **17,696**

Retired state workers receiving ERS annuities:

- **13,607**

Total current and future ERS recipients:

- **31,303**

### A 13TH CHECK FOR RETIRED STATE WORKERS WOULD COST THE STATE ABOUT \$250 MILLION AND PROVIDE MULTIPLE ADVANTAGES AS WE WORK TOWARDS A LONG-TERM COLA:

A 13th check could:

- Go to all retired State of Texas employees
- Be funded today and distributed to retirees within months without impacting ERS' actuarial soundness
- Be funded as an appropriation to ERS that is earmarked for retirees — just as has been done for retired teachers

**ERS Retired State Workers** dedicated their careers to public service. They protected public safety, served vulnerable children and the elderly, and built the public infrastructure that allowed our state to grow and prosper.

**122,000:**

Retirees and beneficiaries receive pensions through ERS

**Under \$18,000:**

Average annual annuity for a recipient who retired in 2001

**22 years:**

Since retirees received their last benefit increase