

WHY A 13TH CHECK FOR RETIRED STATE WORKERS IS NEEDED NOW



Retired State of Texas employees have not had a 13th check from ERS since the 1990s.

With rising prices and record inflation, it's become increasingly difficult for retirees to live on fixed incomes. The cost would be a fraction of the funds from the recent budget surplus left unspent by the 88th Texas Legislature – and a fraction of the expected surplus in the current 2024-2025 biennium. Lawmakers have a historic opportunity to support retired workers right away.

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

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

Our 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

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