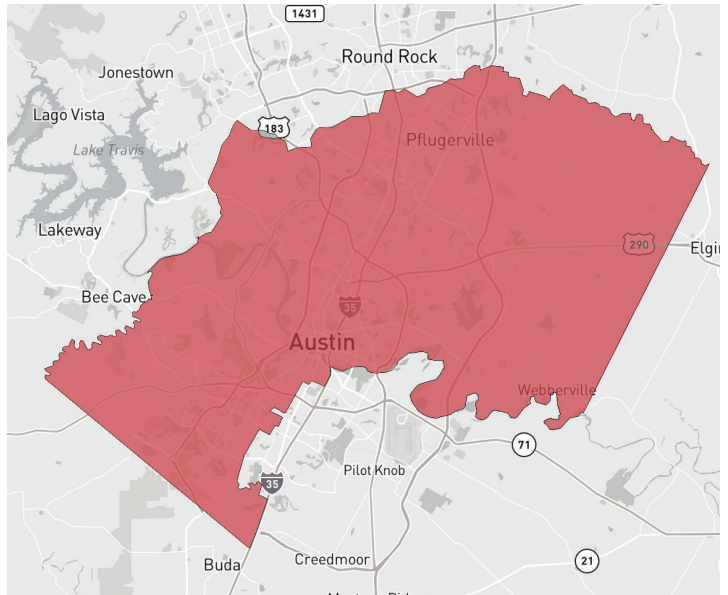


A 13TH CHECK FOR RETIRED STATE WORKERS WOULD IMMEDIATELY HELP 12,000 ERS RETIRES IN THE **14TH SENATE DISTRICT**

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