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# Pension Updates



## Update No. 7

**Our team of member advocates is growing and so is our power! Continue to organize members in your building and throughout your local union. We need to keep building our power in order to make change in 2023.**

**[Forward this Education Minnesota Pension Updates signup today!](#)**

### Let's get clear on the basics

We've been sharing lots of level-setting information, including our successful get-out-the-vote efforts and current call to action to contact TRA board members. But we want to make sure there's clarity on some important pieces of information before we continue:

#### **1. The state of Minnesota has chronically underfunded educator pensions.**

- What's needed is an increase in funding by the state of Minnesota into educator pensions. This investment should not come on the backs of teachers, rather as an investment into our education system from the state for the state. Strong pension benefits that honor the work of teachers is one way to recruit and retain the best educators for our students.

#### **2. We need to make teaching more attractive by enhancing Tier 2 benefits to recognize and reward teachers' hard work on behalf of students.**

- There is a clear need for improving Tier 2 benefits. Those benefits have been set up to disproportionately push teaching until age 66. Some teachers may choose to work into their late 60s, but that should be a choice, not due to an unbalanced plan design. A pension plan should allow for a fair and high-quality benefit that doesn't over-penalize someone for retiring before 66.

#### **3. The state Legislature needs to act.**

- While the TRA board makes recommendations and influences decisions, it's important to note that state legislators are the decision makers on

pensions. [Find your legislator here!](#)

### Important events/dates

- PERA board meetings – [Dates](#) (upcoming is Dec. 8)
- TRA board meetings – [Dates](#) (upcoming are Dec. 12 and Jan. 18)
- SPTRFA board meetings – [Dates](#) (upcoming are Nov. 16 and Dec. 14)
- [Education Minnesota ESI Member Benefits](#) provides informational seminars on pension benefits for members. Check out the flyer for [“When can I afford to retire?” seminar dates](#).

### Resources

[TRA document on pension basics](#)

[Education Minnesota pensions web page](#)

[Election results](#)

### TRA board member contact info

- Joel Stencel (appointed) – Minnesota School Board Association [jstencel@minnesotatra.org](mailto:jstencel@minnesotatra.org)
- Laurena Schlottach-Ratcliff (appointed) – Minnesota Management & Budget [laurena.schlottach-ratcliff@state.mn.us](mailto:laurena.schlottach-ratcliff@state.mn.us)
- Denise Anderson (appointed) – Minnesota Department of Education [denise.anderson@state.mn.us](mailto:denise.anderson@state.mn.us)
- Marti Zins (elected) – Retiree and TRA president [mzins@minnesotatra.org](mailto:mzins@minnesotatra.org)
- Jay Stoffel (staff) – TRA executive director [jstoffel@minnesotatra.org](mailto:jstoffel@minnesotatra.org)
- Luke Olson (elected) – TRA vice president [lolson@minnesotatra.org](mailto:lolson@minnesotatra.org)
- Julie Reno (elected) [jreno@minnesotatra.org](mailto:jreno@minnesotatra.org)
- Kevin Lindstrom (elected) [klindstrom@minnesotatra.org](mailto:klindstrom@minnesotatra.org)
- Wendy Drugge Wuensch (elected) [wdruggewuensch@minnesotatra.org](mailto:wdruggewuensch@minnesotatra.org)

As we share information throughout this campaign, we will add to the resources on the website and share links for you to use.

If you have any questions, please email [Adam Janiak](#).

