

Creating a pension organizing plan in your local

1. Talk to your leadership about your interest in organizing for pension advocacy in your local.
2. Find other members who are interested in working towards pension improvements and build a team.
3. Understand the issues and be able to answer these questions:
 - **What's the issue?** - Example: Chronic underfunding and an unbalanced plan design has led to fewer choices for retirement and a weakened benefit for TRA Tier 2 teachers.
 - **Why is this issue important to you?** - Example: We need a profession where there is respectable pay and benefits, including a strong pension that we can count on upon retirement.
 - **Why should it be important to all educators?** - Example: Recruit and Retention, Investing in the profession and education, long-term solution for our teacher shortage
 - **Who created the problem/who can fix the issue?** - Example: The legislature has underfunded the pension systems and needs to make an investment in educators and education in Minnesota.
4. Share important information:
 - [Education Minnesota Pension Advocacy Plan and past updates](#)
 - Talk to members individually and get members to sign up: [Pension Update Signup](#)
 - Host a building meeting - [Resources](#)
5. Taking action to support the Pension Advocacy Plan
 - Individual action ideas
 - Watch the Education Minnesota Pension Advocacy Plan presentation
 - Asynchronous – [MEA Online](#) 2022-23 Ed Mn Pension Advocacy Plan
 - Synchronous – See local events
 - [Action Alert – Contact your legislators about the pension bill!](#)
 - [Action Alert - Contact your legislators about fully funding schools](#)
 - [Legislator lookup](#)
 - [LCPR members](#)
 - Join the statewide issue-based [virtual lobby day on April 20th](#)
 - Group action ideas
 - Plan a date in March, April and May that for a group action
 - Example: Everyone writes personal emails to their legislator on the same day
 - [Set up a Lobby Day for your local](#)
 - Set up a meeting locally with your state representative and senator

Contextual information:

- Strategic organizing and action – Our ability to work together strategically is our strength but members don't have unlimited time. Set a local goal for member action. Example goal: 75% of members take at least one action.
- Legislative process – Avoid getting tied to one solution. Our goal is to get many options in front of legislators and push for the best possible benefit increase. It's most important to first get legislator's support for improvements and funding.

