

Working After Retirement

If you are considering returning to public employment in any capacity after retirement, consult with a PERA representative.

Should you return to PERA-covered employment after retirement, you will continue to collect your retirement benefit and pay no contributions to PERA. However, if you are under full retirement age for Social Security and your earnings exceed the annual limits set by that agency, your total annual pension will be reduced or suspended and the withheld amount set aside in an escrow account. These earnings limits are subject to change each year. You can contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213.

You can apply for a refund of the withheld pension amount one year after you again leave PERA-covered employment. If your re-employment extends through the end of a calendar year, the deductions from that year may be reclaimed one year later.



Important Note

Earnings limits only apply to PERA-covered employment. There is no limit on earnings from self-employment, private employment, elective service, investments, pensions, or other sources of income.

Need Additional Help?

Everything you need to apply for retirement is available online. If you have additional questions, we provide ways that you can meet with a PERA representative.

- ♦ **Telephone**
Call us at 1-800-652-9026 or 651-296-7460.
- ♦ **Group conferences**
Register on MY PERA on our website or call 1-800-652-9026 or 651-296-7460.
- ♦ **Individual conferences**
Please schedule a meeting at least two weeks in advance to give us time to prepare the necessary information.

St. Paul—Suite 200, Retirement Systems of Minnesota Building, 60 Empire Drive

Duluth—Suite 530, Medical Arts Building, 324 W. Superior St.

Mankato—Suite 150, 11 Civic Center Plaza.



Public Employees Retirement Association
60 Empire Drive, St. Paul MN 55103-2088
1-800-652-9026 | 651-296-7460

www.mnpera.org

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling 1-800-652-9026 or through the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529.

This publication is intended to provide general information; the rights and obligations of PERA members are governed by state and federal laws, rules and regulations. The Minnesota Legislature or the federal government may change the statutes, rules and regulations governing PERA at any time. If there is a discrepancy between the law governing PERA and the information contained in this pamphlet, the statutes and regulations shall govern.
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Retirement Checklist ✓



for Your
PERA Benefit

**Information You Should
Know Before You Retire**

Public Employees Retirement
Association of Minnesota

Retirement Checklist

Your benefit application checklist

Here's what we need to process your retirement application.

What you need to do:

60 to 90 days before you want your benefits to start:

- Visit MY PERA and our website at www.mnpera.org to learn more about your PERA benefits, create your own individual benefit estimates, and to download the necessary forms. You may also wish to register for one of our group retirement conferences.

When you apply for retirement, you need to provide PERA the following:

- A completed and notarized retirement application;
- Proof of your age; (birth certificate or passport)*
- Proof of any name change; (marriage certificate, court documents, or passport)*
- Proof of age and any name change for your survivor if you choose a Survivor Option*; and
- A completed *Verification of Termination* form. (Your employer completes this form.)

* We will accept photo copies of these documents; however, we reserve the right to see the originals or certified copies.

Your guide to prepare for retirement

- ✓ Create your own benefit estimates, register for a group or individual conference, or PERA workshop any time in MY PERA at www.mnpera.org.
- ✓ Several decisions you make at retirement, including your retirement option and your named survivor, become irrevocable on the date PERA issues your first benefit payment.
- ✓ If you choose a Survivor Option, upon your death, the person you name as your survivor will receive a monthly benefit for the rest of his or her life. If the person you name as your survivor should die before you, the amount of your benefit will increase to the Single-Life amount.
- ✓ The effective date of your retirement, or the benefit begin date on your retirement application, is the first day of the month following your termination of public employment if you work continuously up to retirement.
- ✓ If we have all documents before you terminate employment, we will issue your first benefit payment about two weeks following the effective date of your retirement.
- ✓ You will receive your benefit via direct deposit on the first business day each month. To make changes, download the *Direct Deposit Agreement* form at www.mnpera.org.
- ✓ We base your initial benefit on estimated earnings and service credits. When we receive all salary deductions and necessary information from your employer, we make any necessary adjustments, and notify you of your final benefit amount.
- ✓ Your retirement benefit is not a fixed amount. As a retiree, you'll receive annual benefit increases in January. However, your first increase will be a prorated portion of this amount based on the effective date of your retirement. Each subsequent increase will be the full percentage awarded.

Important Note

A right to a retirement benefit requires a complete and continuous separation from all public employment for 30 days.

There can be no written or verbal agreement prior to termination to provide services to a public employer.

Independent contractors and employees of an independent contractor may not work for their same employer for 30 days.

Public employment includes service to any governmental employer in Minnesota— e.g. school districts, cities, counties, townships, and state.

- ✓ Elected officials who wish to receive a retirement benefit and run for a subsequent term of office, must resign that position before filing for re-election and maintain at least a 30-day separation before the date of the election.
 - ✓ All PERA pensions are subject to state and federal income taxes. When your first benefit payment is approved, PERA will send you a verification of the taxes withheld, based on the withholding choices you made on your retirement application. You can change your tax withholding any time in MY PERA or by completing the *Tax Withholding Preference/Change Certificate* form available at our website at www.mnpera.org.
- We will provide you with a *Form 1099R* every January. This form indicates how much of your past year's pension was taxable and the amounts withheld for taxes. Your 1099R is also available at MY PERA.
- ✓ If you change your address, be sure to notify PERA.