



[JANUARY 31, 2018](#)

## [MINNESOTA NEWS + OPINION](#)

### [Commission explores public pension privatization](#)

Minneapolis Committee of 13

An organization that spends millions of dollars on a state-by-state effort to privatize public pensions is now playing a significant role in pension discussions at the Minnesota state capitol. The Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement (LCPR) heard testimony on Wednesday from a University ...

### [Tina Smith: 'Republicans need to negotiate with us'](#)

Minnesota Public Radio News

Whether it comes to dealing with pensions or the opioid crisis or making sure that people who were brought to this country when they were children have a path to citizenship. That's something that we've got bipartisan agreement on. So let's do it. Republicans are of course teeing up the criticism. Senate ...

### [Housing, taxes, pot: Central Minnesota reps gear up for the session](#)

St. Cloud Times

State pension reform and stabilization will be on O'Driscoll's agenda this spring. "People are living longer, healthier and happier, which is all good," O'Driscoll said. He wants to make sure the pension system is equipped to handle that. He'll be looking at the Minnesota election process to see if there are ...

### [Editorial: In praise of intelligent decision-making — and the Citizens League](#)

TwinCities.com-Pioneer Press

That entails a focus on issues in which the league can be "distinctly useful," she told us, citing property taxes, public pensions and the workforce among possibilities, and noting that the league uses events to test member interest and the resonance of topics. A December gathering on aging, for example, ...

## [NATIONAL NEWS + OPINION](#)

### [Major Advisors Lower Their Long-Term Investment Return Outlooks, Curbing Public Pension Plans ...](#)

Reason Foundation

Major Advisors Lower Their Long-Term Investment Return Outlooks, Curbing Public Pension Plans' Enthusiasm. Public pension plans should use these market outlook updates to better gauge their long-term investment return assumptions and safeguard pension assets from the future market volatilities.

### [Proposed \\$107 billion bond isn't the cure for Illinois' public pension crisis](#)

Chicago Tribune

While full details of this plan are expected to be unveiled Tuesday before a state panel, bond and public finance experts are already highly skeptical. They're concerned it will add to Illinois' pension burdens — now estimated at \$130 billion in unfunded liabilities and growing — and further hinder the ...

### [Yes, Pensions Are Collapsing, And Progressives Can't Remain in Denial](#)

In These Times

Recent history offers no support for the idea that magical stock market profits—rather than actual contributions—can save the public pension system. Stock prices more than tripled between their low in March 2009 and the end of the third quarter of 2017, but according to Federal Reserve statistics, this ...

### [US. The rationality \(or otherwise\) of public pension fund managers](#)

Pension Policy International

A new research paper from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business discusses the rationality (or otherwise) of the return expectations of institutional investors, with especial reference to public pension funds. It finds that the returns that pension fund managers expect from their investments are ...

## [NCPERS Study Reports Solid Year for Public Pensions](#)

Chief Investment Officer

Public pension systems saw a year of positive returns, adopting more conservative investment assumptions as well as budgeting their spending, an annual National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS) report shows. Pulling responses from 164 state and local government ...

## [The Ticking Time Bomb in the Municipal-Bond Market](#)

Barron's

Yet many pensions still assume they will be able to generate the returns they saw in the past. New Jersey's pension and the California Public Employees' Retirement System have lowered their assumed rate of return to 7%. But with the 30-year Treasury yielding less than 3% and stocks already at record ...

## [Murphy: GOP bill would reinforce IPERS](#)

Quad City Times

Bertrand said he opposes any changes to the Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System, or IPERS. ... Iowa's public employee pension funds are funded at more than 80 percent, according to multiple independent studies, and that typically ranks it among the healthiest public pension funds in the nation.

## [Public Pensions Produced Solid Returns in 2017](#)

PLANSPONSOR

In 2017, public pensions managed to raise the market value of fund assets above the actuarial value of assets, the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS) found in a survey of 164 state and local government pension funds, conducted in partnership with Cobalt ...

## [An 8% return is so 2006](#)

Pensions & Investments

Since the blissful ignorance of the pre-financial crisis period, public pension funds have had to deal with the reality of that lower return assumptions have hit the largest U.S. public pension plans. While the few plans that maintain 8%-plus return assumptions are in a better funded position than most, data ...

## [Public Pensions Are Delivering on Promises to Retirees, Annual NCPERS Study Shows](#)

Business Wire (press release)

"The nation's pension systems are deeply committed to their mission of providing a secure retirement for millions of firefighters, police officers, teachers, and other public sector workers," Kim said. "Over the seven

years we have conducted this annual study, pension systems have grown increasingly ...

## [Commission hears testimony on the cost of Connecticut's "dysfunctional relationship with its ...](#)

Yankee Institute (blog)

Teacher pensions face a much more difficult future and could grow to \$6 billion per year if the state does not meet its discount rate. Unlike state employee pensions, teacher pension are set in statute and can be changed legislatively. Yankee Institute's Director of Public Policy Suzanne Bates pointed out ...

## ['Devastating' cut could mean some retired Kentucky teachers pay thousands more in insurance](#)

The Courier-Journal

And Bowen emphasized that retired teacher health benefits have never been part of what is known as the "inviolable contract" – a bedrock principle in state pension law that protects pension benefits given a public employee at the time they were hired. Bowen complained that the Kentucky Teachers' ...

## [Pension Reform Hot Topic for Illinois Gov's State of the State Address](#)

Chief Investment Officer

The public employers that will incur the additional costs are state agencies, state universities and colleges, school districts, counties, and certain municipalities and other governmental entities. Among employer groups responsible for the additional contributions, Florida's counties would be expected to ...

## [New session will bring new efforts at pension reform](#)

SaukValley.com

Illinois lawmakers are gearing up to start another spring session that will include more attempts to address an issue that has remained stubbornly elusive so far. What can the state do to rein in the cost of public employee pensions and try to address the \$129 billion debt faced by the five state-funded ...

## [National Study Hammers Illinois Budget Practices](#)

NPR Illinois | 91.9 UIS

The survey of all 50 states found some are better than others when it comes to budget forecasting, putting money aside and paying down long term debts like public pensions. But Illinois was among the worst states overall in most categories. Glasgall is especially critical of how Illinois handles what are ...

## [The Williams Report](#)

American Legislative Exchange Council

Pensions. National: "Everything is Overvalued" – Public Pensions Face Dangerous Dilemma In 2018. National: Only One Report Has Aggregate State Pension Funding Level Above 50 Percent, Looming Insolvency Crisis Noted. Arizona: Phoenix City Councilman Aims to Reduce Public Pension Debt, ...

### [Ohio Public Employees tweaks target asset allocation](#)

Pensions & Investments

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, Columbus, approved slight changes to its target asset allocation, spokesman Todd Hutchins said in an email. The \$97.5 billion retirement system, which includes \$83.7 billion in pension fund assets, increased its pension fund target allocation to international ...

### [Last year we bailed out the SC pension system. When do we reform it?](#)

The State

Here's some perspective on just how hot the water will get: As a result of the bailout, taxpayers will pay more than double into the pension what public employees do. This two-to-one ratio is way out of whack; the Heartland Institute argues in its survey of states' pension systems that "a fair rule of thumb ...

### [Strong returns for the Wisconsin Retirement System in 2017](#)

WiscNews

The Wisconsin Retirement System funds — the source of pensions for nearly 198,000 retired public employees — brought in double-digit earnings in ... The state Department of Employee Trust Funds uses the results, along with an actuarial analysis, to calculate adjustments in the pension checks of ...

### [So long, Chris Christie](#)

National Public Pension Coalition

Today Chris Christie departs the New Jersey governor's mansion. Christie's record of failure includes repeated broken promises to fund public pensions.

### [NASRA: ALEC Report Contains 'Serious Flaws'](#)

Chief Investment Officer

The National Association of State Retirement Administrators, (NASRA) has rejected the findings of a recent report on public pension funding from the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), saying the findings contain "serious flaws." The ALEC report claimed that US public pension plans are far ...

### [Matt Bevin calls for eliminating 70 programs, spending cuts to fund pension reform](#)

The Courier-Journal

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Gov. Matt Bevin on Tuesday night proposed a budget that he said would eliminate 70 state programs and cut spending at most agencies by 6.25 percent while fully funding state pension plans. And the governor gave a high priority in the lean spending plan to the main public school ...

### [The Democrat Phil Murphy has taken over as New Jersey's governor](#)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Murphy, 60, ran as an unabashed liberal who pledged to nearly double the minimum wage to \$15, legalize marijuana, and offer free community college. He also said he would "fully fund" schools and public workers' pensions and spend more on public transportation, but it's unclear how he'll accomplish ...