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## NATIONAL NEWS + OPINION

### [North Dakota public pensions on firm footing for now](#)

Grand Forks Herald

At least, that's the goal behind a set of legislative changes now being weighed to head off future disruption to one of the state's largest pension funds, the North Dakota Public Employees Retiree System -- NDPERS, for short -- which could otherwise run dry in decades to come. Sharon Schiermeister is ...

### [Report: Many state pension systems have huge funding gaps](#)

WHIO

The annual report from the Pew Charitable Trusts finds that public worker pension funds with heavy state government involvement owed retirees and ... The Pew report found that lackluster investment returns in 2016 explained most of why the condition of pensions declined from the previous year.

### [A Retirement House of Cards](#)

Show-Me Institute

We're also seeing teacher retirement benefit innovation from within public education. In 19 states, charter schools may choose whether or not to participate in their states' pension plans. A recent analysis of charter school participation in five states that make participation optional found that the schools ...

### [Majority of public plans assume lower returns in 2018](#)

Pensions & Investments

In 2018, 73% of the 128 plans surveyed by the National Association of State Retirement Administrators reported a return assumption of 7.5% or lower. Comparatively, 55% were at or below 7.5% in 2017, and 38% in 2013. Eleven plans still hold on to returns above 8%, with the Minnesota Teachers ...

### [Kentucky judge allows lawsuit against newly signed pension reform to continue](#)

Pensions & Investments

Mr. Beshear's lawsuit also condemned lawmakers for passing a bill that lacked an actuarial analysis at the time and was not subject to public comment or testimony, and for not allowing sufficient time to fully digest the changes before the bill went to a vote. (The pension reforms had been tacked onto a ...

### [The big myth about America's pension crisis](#)

CNNMoney

America's pension crisis is growing — and a lot of people are pointing fingers. Public pension funds don't have nearly enough money to pay for the benefits promised to government workers. The shortfall across the United States grew by \$295 billion between 2015 and 2016, according to a recent report ...

### [Lawmakers Study Pension Consolidation](#)

Alton Daily News

Illinois state lawmakers are also studying how to fix Illinois' growing local public safety pension problems. ... "Despite a four-fold increase in taxpayer contributions to police and fire pensions over that time period (of ten years), funding levels continued to drop, thus threatening the long term solvency of ...

### [The Living Standards of Public Servants](#)

New York Times

When we fail to invest in public services, living standards decline and communities suffer — overcrowded classrooms, understaffed prisons and more. ... Instead of uniting and demanding that everyone have adequate health insurance, vacation time, sick time and pensions, some workers attack public ...

### [NPR/Ipsos Poll: Most Americans Support Teachers' Right To Strike](#)

Maine Public

Nevertheless, she said, "The teachers are in the right for fighting for their pensions. I think most people support them. I think the governor of my state is in the wrong." Despite broad support for the right to strike, the

public's view of unions wasn't all roses. Just half of respondents overall agreed that ...

### [North Carolina lowers return assumption rate to 7%](#)

Pensions & Investments

Despite being one of the top-five best funded pension systems in the country, "we need to make realistic assumptions regarding our ability to achieve expected returns in the future. We owe it to the General Assembly, taxpayers, public employees and future generations to be transparent and realistic ...

### [The Struggle to Stay Middle Class](#)

New Republic

But there is little in the Times's coverage to connect the dots between slashed wages, disappearing pensions, and second jobs to make ends meet and the wave of bipartisan austerity that swept state governments during and after the recession, along with the accompanying attacks on public-sector ...

### [Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System named Top 4 best funded State Pensions by Pew ...](#)

Wgnradio

Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) is the defined benefit pension plan serving over 350,000 active and retired state, higher education, and participating local government employees, as well as K-12 public teachers. Administered by the Tennessee Department of Treasury, TCRS ...

### [Give teachers their due, but hold them accountable](#)

USA TODAY

In some cases, the lack of funds is also driven by public employee pensions that are overly generous, not adequately funded, or both. Teachers benefit from these pensions, but the biggest beneficiaries tend to be police and firefighters, whose pension deals can often be called lavish. Those pension ...

### [Where The Struggle Stands Over Funding Public Employee Pensions Stands](#)

Colorado Public Radio

State lawmakers are wrestling with a \$32 billion question: what to do about Colorado's public pension fund. PERA only has enough cash to cover about half of its obligations. Lawmakers want to close that gap quickly, before it hurts the state's credit rating and workers' retirement plans. We asked for your ...

### [Teachers Federation Calls Out Gun Investors](#)

Chief Investment Officer

The report identifies financial institutions and public pension systems that have taken steps toward engaging with weapons manufacturers, but also names financial institutions and public pensions that have not acted on the matter. Citigroup, Bank of America, Fidelity, Vanguard, BlackRock, State Street, ...

### [Colorado Senate bill seeks to punish teachers with jail time should they go on strike](#)

WXYZ

Colorado teachers plan to rally again next week for higher pay and better pensions, and some of the state's largest school districts could close those days ... The bill also directs school districts to fire teachers on the spot without a proper hearing if they're found in contempt of court and also bans public ...

### [Pew: Illinois' public pension system less funded than all but two states](#)

Illinois News Network

A new report paints a dismal financial picture for Illinois' public pension systems. The Pew Charitable Trusts analyzed the pension funding gap for each state as of fiscal year 2016, the most recent year for which comprehensive data were available. The study indicates Illinois is 36 percent funded for ...

### [Pension cuts harm public employee recruitment](#)

National Public Pension Coalition

Cuts to public pension plans harm the recruitment of public employees by making overall compensation less competitive than the private sector.

### [Indiana Public Retirement posts 9.98% return for 12 months](#)

Pensions & Investments

Indiana Public Retirement System, Indianapolis, returned 9.98% on its investments in the 12 months ended March 31, above its 9.35% custom benchmark return and the pension fund's 6.75% expected annualized rate of return. For periods ended March 31, the pension fund returned 5.37% over five ...

### [Texas teachers' pay is average. But their pensions are among the lowest in the country.](#)

Texas Tribune

That's when state lawmakers created the plan known as TRS-ActiveCare. The teacher health insurance program, which is run by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, requires the state to contribute \$75 per employee toward monthly health care premiums. Nearly 430,000 public school teachers and ...

### [Pension Reform Hurts Public Sector Competitiveness](#)

Chief Investment Officer

A new report exploring the effects of pension reform on state and local government competitiveness in the labor market has found that pension benefit cuts have hurt governments' ability to attract new employees. "It is well known that pensions are a significant component of public sector compensation," ...

### [Institute for Pension Fund Integrity \(IPFI\) Launches to Address the Public Pension Crisis and the ...](#)

Virginian-Pilot

Public Pension Crisis and the Politicization of Pension Fund. Management. ARLINGTON, Va., April 18, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- The Institute for Pension Fund Integrity (IPFI), a project which seeks to ensure that state and local leaders are held responsible for their choices in public pension investment ...

### [New Pensions Group Says Forget About Climate Change](#)

Institutional Investor

"The primary responsibility of any public pension plan manager is to manage the investment in a way that guarantees the best return possible for beneficiaries," the paper concluded. "Even though many are managed by politically appointed or elected managers, those individuals must be able to ...

### [Nation's largest teachers union, frustrated with gun-makers' response to shootings, turn to pension ...](#)

CNBC

Public school teacher pensions in 12 states have stakes in firearms-makers, largely through these funds, for example. BlackRock and Vanguard, managers of some of the most widely held ETFs, are among the largest shareholders of Sturm Ruger and American Outdoor Brands because of the funds.

### [How Have Pension Cuts Affected Public Sector Competitiveness?](#)

Center for Retirement Research - Boston College

To improve the funded status of state and local pensions, many plan sponsors have cut benefits, particularly for new hires. Such cuts, without offsetting increases in wages, could potentially make government employment less attractive to workers. The analysis found that workers joining the public sector ...

### [Colorado teachers stage rally at statehouse to lobby for higher pay](#)

The Denver Post

The CEA is also demanding that teachers' pensions, part of the Colorado Public Employees Retirement Association, be stabilized to avoid discouraging potential teachers from entering the profession. "The positive state revenue forecast clearly demonstrates there is substantially more money available ...

### [States Should Offer Teachers the Portable Retirement Option Available to Other Public Employees](#)

TeacherPensions.org

For many workers who don't remain in one job for their full career, 401ks and other defined contribution plans often earn greater benefits than a traditional pension. And, these plans are portable and can easily be transferred across state lines. Thus, teachers can change jobs or cross state lines without ...