

From: [Kitsap Labor Council](#)
To: [Office State Actuary, WA](#)
Subject: COLA for PERS and TRS Plan 1 Retirees
Date: Monday, April 18, 2022 1:06:26 PM
Attachments: [COLA for PERS and TRS Plan 1 4-18-22.pdf](#)

CAUTION: External email.

Dear Committee Members,

Please see the attached letter from our Council President, Rusty Grable, in support of a permanent COLA for PERS and TRS Plan 1 retirees.

Thank you,
Tera Wittner, Secretary
Kitsap County Labor Council, AFL-CIO
(360) 692-1420

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Kitsap County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO

April 18, 2022

WA Select Committee on Pension Policy
PO Box 40914
Olympia, WA 98504-0914

Dear Committee Members:

The Kitsap County Central Labor Council is comprised of 25 unions representing over 4300 workers in Kitsap County. We represent and support many industries and professions within the county, including grocery store, state, federal government, building trades, and healthcare workers. As a group, our goal is to support not only union members and retirees, but all residents within our communities.

We are writing today in support of a permanent restoration of a COLA for PERS and TRS Plan 1 retirees. Please see the attached resolution that was passed on March 14, 2022. We ask that you take this in consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rusty Grable".

Rusty Grable, President
Kitsap County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO



Retired Public Employees Council of Washington

March 7, 2022

Re: RPEC Plan 1 COLA Resolution

Brothers and Sisters,

Enclosed please find a copy of the Plan 1 COLA Resolution recently approved by the RPEC Executive Board (February 28, 2022).

We are asking for your support of the permanent restoration of a COLA for PERS and TRS Plan 1 retirees and inclusion of that support in your legislative priorities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Interim Executive Director, Derek VanSpoor at derek.vanspoor@rpecwa.org.

In solidarity,

Kandy Kraig, President
Retired Public Employee Council of WA,
AFSCME Retirees Chapter 10

COLA for PERS and TRS Plan 1 retirees

WHEREAS, the state of Washington has one of the best-funded public pension systems in the country. The PERS system covers state employees and employees of most city, county and local public entities. The TRS system covers teachers in our public schools.

WHEREAS, accumulated pension funds are under the control of the Washington State Investment Board, which has had excellent return on its investments: 8.9% over the last 20 years. Seventy-five percent of funds paid to retirees are from those returns.

WHEREAS, retirees who participated in Plan 1 of the systems annually received a Cost of Living Adjustment upon a vote of the Legislature. That annual COLA was eliminated in 2011 due to the economic downturn. Retirees in Plans 2 and 3 receive a COLA of up to 3% depending on the inflation index each year.

WHEREAS, the lack of a regular, consistent COLA for Plan 1 member retirees has resulted in a loss of more than 20% of their purchasing power in the past 10 years.

WHEREAS, the Retired Public Employees Council of Washington and other retiree groups are asking the Legislature to restore an annual COLA to Plan 1 retirees.

WHEREAS, many of the retirees were unionized workers who have taught our children, repaired our roads and provided basic services on behalf of our state and local government entities. They should have the dignity and respect of the retirement system they paid for and were promised.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Kitsap CLC, AFL-CIO support a permanent restoration of a COLA for PERS and TRS Plan 1 retirees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that support for the Plan 1 COLA become adopted as a legislative priority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That support for the Plan 1 COLA be communicated to the Select Committee on Pension Policy

*Submitted by Retired Public Employee Council of WA, AFSCME, AFL-CIO
Approved by the RPC Executive Board, February 28, 2022.*