



GSRA Legislative and Advocacy Goals and Objectives for 2026

- . Continue advocating for restoration of our **earned and warranted** annual 3% COLAs. Advocate for one or more of the following goals as leadership's feedback suggests opportunities to achieve good outcomes.
- . Support passage of SB 339 which mandates annual 3% COLAs except under well-defined revenue-deficient years.
- . Obtain commitments from the Governor's Office and Legislative leadership to fund a 3% COLA for FY 2027 by allocating upwards of an additional \$300 million (total \$450 million including annual \$150 million being included in ADEC by Governor Kemp). Funding to come from the \$500 million being considered for appropriation to the ERS pension fund for the stated purpose of reducing unfunded liabilities.



- . Work to establish statutory parameters for the administration of COLAs: Support the drafting and passage of a bill that mandates that ALL funds appropriated for COLAs are distributed as COLAs as soon as administratively feasible within the fiscal year for which they are appropriated.
- . Advocate that ERS modifies its policies and formula for determining the annual amounts of COLAs. Intended outcome is that ALL funds appropriated for COLAs are distributed as COLAs to members. Work with ERS Board of Trustees, including providing alternate formula criteria to accomplish policy change.
- . Until meaningful COLAs are restored, continue to advocate for significant one-time adjustments. Advocate ERS board to award as soon as administratively possible all funds appropriated “for an annual benefit



adjustment.” Advocate for the ERS Board to direct the creation of a work group, to include one or more GSRA members, to recommend the basis for calculating the benefits.

- . Support any initiative by ERS to amend OCGA 47-2-29 to permit members of the Georgia State Employee Pension and Savings Plan (GSEPS) to receive COLAs beginning July 1, 2026. Support passage of SB 339 which makes this amendment.
- . Work for and support legislation to determine and codify best method(s) for comparing performance of public investments to performance of private (alternative) investments over the same time frame.
- . Oppose bills which will modify existing pension plans or create new retirement plans that will require substantial increases in state funding unless there is a commitment to also increase



state funding for materially substantial ERS COLAs

- . Advocate amending bills which benefit single or a limited number of retirement systems' beneficiaries so that the bills benefit members of all other systems the same or in like fashion.
- . Determine the most effective method for the DCH Consumer Advisory Council to advocate for members' health insurance interests. Identify a legislative sponsor, develop draft language, and obtain DCH support for statutorily creating the DCH Consumer Advisory Council.
- . Support any State Tax Reform initiative that does not adversely affect retirees ~~or~~ and other low-and middle-income Georgians and that does not hinder the ability of the state of Georgia to provide essential services and meet financial responsibilities and obligations.



- . Through legislative monitoring, identify and oppose any proposal to use the Pension Trust Fund for any purpose other than direct payment of benefits to beneficiaries. This includes use of the fund to buy life insurance for beneficiaries with payments to be made to the fund (“dead peasants” insurance).
- . Continue efforts and develop new strategies to contact all retired and active ERS members in effort to expand our membership.
- . Establish an advocacy relationship with the Public Service Commission on issues likely to impact low-and middle-income retirees and similar consumers in the state at large. Advocate for regulatory decisions and public utility rate structures that will not disproportionately and adversely impact low- and middle-income citizens, including state retirees and active workers.