



## Total Fund Market Value



# PERSPECTIVE

Spring 2018

How We Balance Risk  
To Strengthen the Fund

# PERSPECTIVE

## Spring 2018

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The PERSpective newsletter provides information for members of the retirement and health programs of the California Public Employees’ Retirement System. You are receiving this newsletter because you are either presently working for a CalPERS-covered employer, retired from a CalPERS-covered employer, or you are the beneficiary of a CalPERS member.

*PERSpective is intended to provide general information about pension, health, and other retirement benefits. Nothing herein should be construed to establish, amend, enlarge, reduce, or otherwise affect any retirement rights, benefits, or privileges. If there is a conflict between applicable law or regulation and the contents of this newsletter, the law or regulation shall prevail.*

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**Marcie Frost**  
Chief Executive Officer

# We Engage to Protect Our Investments

## A Message from CEO Marcie Frost

Paying member benefits for generations is CalPERS' core mission. Every decision we make is done with this in mind. That is why when we invest in a company, we don't only want them to do well in the short term, but we hope they will provide profitable returns for decades.

*"We must ensure our investments are well taken care of now, so that they will continue to grow in the future."*

One way we do this is by engaging with the companies we own. This strategy is critical to achieving strong returns. It involves having open and honest dialogue with company leaders and voting on resolutions at annual shareowner meetings. We must ensure our investments are well taken care of now, so that they will continue to grow in the future.

Many times, we're talking with companies around environmental, social, and governance issues, commonly referred to as ESG. This includes topics like reporting on the effects of climate change, labor safety concerns, and board diversity.

I understand when some members and other groups hear about our engagement efforts and are concerned that investment returns are not our top priority. They sometimes think we're trying to advance a political agenda or act as social warriors on behalf of a well-meaning cause. I hear what they're saying, but what we are actually doing is paying attention to all the risks that could hurt our returns. We don't see it as an "either/or" choice—ESG or returns—but rather risk factors that must be addressed to ensure positive returns for the long haul.

That is why we talk with the companies we invest in. For example, if a company doesn't mitigate labor safety concerns, they're exposing themselves to potential lawsuits and regulatory penalties. If a company isn't tracking how changes in the climate could impact their business, they're more vulnerable to major losses due to natural disasters. And if a corporation doesn't have a board of directors made up of individuals with diverse backgrounds and experience, they're more likely to have blind spots and miss potential issues that could have been avoided.

At CalPERS, we see a bigger picture. It's our job as an investor to allow companies to operate in a way that ensures they return the most profit to shareowners over the long term. That means, when necessary, we engage companies on issues that we believe will ultimately impact their financial performance. For us, everything is about understanding risks that could affect the bottom line.

Our members and their pensions always come first. We're dedicated to improving the performance of the companies in which we invest, and we are always mindful that our job is to secure retirement benefits for our 1.9 million members.



## How We Balance Risk to Strengthen the Fund

Every day, investors make decisions based on how much risk they want to assume. Do you want to play things safe? You'll have less risk, but the rewards might be small. Do you want to risk a lot? The outcome might be great, but it also makes you vulnerable to higher losses.

Pension systems face these same decisions when they weigh what investment portfolio to adopt. For CalPERS, factors such as risk and obligations are weighed every four years during our Asset Liability Management (ALM) process.

### What Is Asset Liability Management?

We completed the ALM review this past December, when the CalPERS Board of Administration approved

a new investment portfolio. This portfolio will be implemented starting July 1, 2018.

As part of the process, the Board received an in-depth review of CalPERS assets (what we invest in) and liabilities (what we pay out in pension payments) from our investment, actuarial, and finance teams. The Board also examined other factors such as market projections, member and workplace demographics, and input from consultants and stakeholders.

The Board then reviewed four investment "candidate portfolios." One took on more risk than the current portfolio, one kept the risk level about the same, and two portfolios had less risk than the current portfolio.

For example, the riskier portfolio would increase the amount of stocks held, and lower the amount of bonds. This is riskier because stock prices shift more than bond rates. The benefit is that the portfolio could return more. The risk is the portfolio could have a much lower return if there is a downturn in the economy.

Each candidate portfolio was made up of different asset allocations and various risk levels. Board members weighed each portfolio carefully. Ultimately, they were looking for the portfolio that would best achieve three goals: protect the funded status of our plans; stabilize employer contribution rates; and achieve the long-term rate of return.



Considering each of these factors, the Board voted to adopt a portfolio that was closest to CalPERS' current asset allocation and takes on a similar amount of risk. This portfolio projects a long-term investment return of 7 percent.

#### Discount Rate: A Key Component of ALM

In December, the Board also determined the discount rate, which helps determine how much employers contribute to the pensions they have promised their employees. The Board voted to maintain the decision made in 2016 to move the discount rate down to 7 percent over the next three years.

This decision was made after hearing extensive comment from employers. CalPERS' employers are the cities, schools, and other public agencies that contract with us to administer

the pensions they have promised their employees. Employer feedback was important because if the discount rate was lowered again, employers would have to pay more to meet their pension obligations.

Employers would be responsible for the increased cost because they set the pension benefits of their employees. It is a common misconception that CalPERS makes this decision to set employee benefits. The truth is that CalPERS only administers the benefits, which are funded through a mix of employer contributions, employee contributions, and investment returns.

#### Improving the Stability of the Fund

It's clear the CalPERS Board had to weigh several factors and interests while making important decisions about the investment portfolio and the discount rate. Risk, obligations, the investment market, and

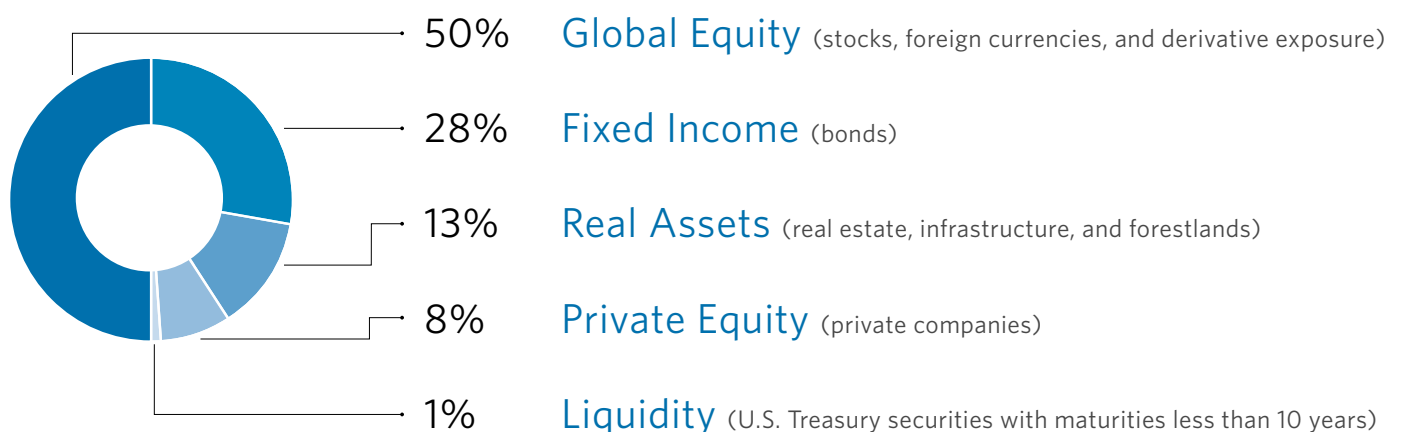
costs to employers were just a few of the important considerations at hand.

In the end, the Board voted on an investment portfolio that takes advantage of what the financial markets have to offer, but Board members were also mindful that taking on too much risk would be harmful to the Fund.

The Board also considered costs to employers. Employers told Board members that lowering the discount rate more than 7 percent would make it very challenging to meet their payments.

While there are many factors at play, the CalPERS Board puts one priority above all else—they focus on their fiduciary duty and stabilizing the Fund so pensions can be paid for generations to come.

## Investment Asset Allocation (starting July 1, 2018)



# Increase to Cost-of-Living Adjustment Coming in May

This May, all CalPERS retirees who retired in 2016 or earlier will receive an increase to their cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). This is a result of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (1967 = 100) increasing by 2.13 percent from 2016 to 2017.

The chart to the right shows the percentage of COLA increase that retirees will receive based on their employer-contracted COLA provision percentage and their retirement year. Most state and all school agencies contract for a 2 percent COLA provision, while public agencies may contract for a 3, 4, or 5 percent COLA provision.

## For More Information

For more details about how your COLA is calculated and frequently asked questions, visit our website at [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov), select the **Retirees** tab, and then select the **Cost-of-Living Adjustment** resources link. You can also call us toll free at 888 CalPERS (or 888-225-7377) if you have questions.

COLA Provision	Year of Retirement	% COLA Increase <i>Effective May 1, 2018</i>
<b>2%</b> COLA Provision	2004 & Earlier	2%
	2005-2015	2.13%
	2016	2%
	2017	Not Eligible
<b>3%</b> COLA Provision	1979 & Earlier	3%
	1980	2.65%
	1981-2016	2.13%
	2017	Not Eligible
<b>4%</b> COLA Provision	1969 & Earlier	4%
	1970	3.93%
	1971	3.63%
	1972	4%
	1973	2.15%
	1974-2016	2.13%
	2017	Not Eligible
<b>5%</b> COLA Provision	2016 & Earlier	2.13%
	2017	Not Eligible



## Explore your health benefits with my|CalPERS.

- Get 24/7 access to health plan statements.
- Confirm your health plan coverage.
- View available health plans and premium rates.

Go to [my.calpers.ca.gov](http://my.calpers.ca.gov) to register now.

# Medicare Changes ID Cards to Prevent Fraud

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking a major step to help people with Medicare protect their identities from theft and fraud. CMS is removing Social Security numbers from current Medicare ID cards and replacing them with a unique Medicare number that does not contain a Social Security number.

An increasing number of people age 65 and older are falling victim to identity theft crimes in the U.S. Using a stolen Social Security number is one of the easiest ways a criminal can steal a person's identity and commit fraud. To help stop identity thefts and Medicare fraud, Congress required CMS to remove Social Security numbers from Medicare cards.

## When to Expect Your New Card

CMS will begin mailing new Medicare cards without Social Security numbers in April 2018. The deadline for replacing all Medicare cards is April 2019. If you are new to Medicare as of April 2018, you will only receive the new Medicare card.

## No Need to Contact CalPERS

As a member currently enrolled in a CalPERS Medicare health benefit plan, you won't have to provide CalPERS with your new card. We will obtain your new Medicare number directly from CMS. No action is needed from you for the transition to the new identification numbers.

Are you a Medicare-eligible retiree receiving health benefits and not enrolled in a CalPERS Medicare health benefit plan? If so, you will need to enroll in a CalPERS Medicare plan to continue your health coverage through the CalPERS Health Program.

For more information about the Medicare ID card changes, you can visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

For more information about the CalPERS Medicare health benefit plan, you can visit [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov).

## New Dependent Verification Process for State and CSU Retirees

The new dependent verification process for active state and California State University (CSU) employees began February 2018. Beginning August 2018, retired state and CSU members must also meet the requirement to verify their dependents' eligibility for CalPERS health benefits once every three years.

Dependent verification is required for the following:

- Spouses
- Registered domestic partners
- Natural born children
- Adopted children
- Stepchildren
- Children of registered domestic partners

Certified parent-child relationships and certified disabled dependents over the age of 26 are not included in this new requirement.

## How will I be notified?

Letters will be mailed to retired subscribers 90 days before the first of the month following the retiree's birth month. For example, we will mail letters in August to each retiree who has an October birthday.

## What do I need to do?

You must provide the required documentation to CalPERS before the final filing date on the letter or your dependents will be removed from your health coverage.

## When will I receive my first letter?

This process will occur over a three-year period. You can use the chart below to determine the month and year you will receive your first letter based on your birth month.

Birth Month	Letter Month and Year
January	November 2020
February	December 2018
March	January 2020
April	February 2021
May	March 2019
June	April 2020
July	May 2021
August	June 2019
September	July 2020
October	August 2018
November	September 2019
December	October 2020



## Long-Term Care Insurance Helps with Caring for Family Members with Dementia

Family members are often the primary caregivers for loved ones with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia. And in most cases, caring for a family member can be stressful on the caregiver. But there is help—long-term care insurance provides services to help relieve the stress of being a caregiver.

### Early Onset Dementia

Early onset dementia affects people under the age of 65. At the time of the onset of symptoms and diagnosis, many of these people are still employed, or may have younger children or adult children with young families. Often, family caregivers must quit their jobs or cut back on hours, which might impact household income and their own health. But for those with long-term care insurance, benefits

are available for formal, paid assistance from professional caregivers.

### Dementia with Behavioral Disturbances

Challenging behaviors are associated with all types of dementia. However, these behaviors are more prevalent with certain types and may become problematic before the person experiences significant memory loss. People with dementia may become paranoid, or aggressive and abusive. Dementia-related behaviors put unique stress on a family caregiver, who may be the primary “target” of the paranoia or aggression.

Physicians may prescribe medication to help ease the aggressive symptoms, but regular, dependable help for

the family caregivers can be critical to maintaining the physical and emotional health of the family—and prolong the period that care can be provided at home. Once again, long-term care insurance can be a great relief, providing benefits for home care professionals and facilities.

### Learn More About CalPERS Long-Term Care

The CalPERS Long-Term Care Program has many coverage options for not just the elderly, but for people of all ages who may experience injuries or certain health conditions during their lifetime. For more information about the CalPERS Long-Term Care Program, visit [www.calperslongtermcare.com](http://www.calperslongtermcare.com) or call (800) 908-9119.



# When to Change Your Beneficiary Designation After Retirement

Did you know that the death of your beneficiary, a marriage or domestic partnership, dissolution or annulment of marriage, termination of a domestic partnership, and the birth or adoption of a child are all life events that can impact your CalPERS benefits after retirement?

*Changing Your Beneficiary or Monthly Benefit After Retirement* (PUB 98) walks you through what you need to consider in such instances. This publication is helpful when you need to do one of the following:

- Add or change your lump-sum beneficiary designation.
- Modify your retirement payment option and/or life option beneficiary.
- Request a benefit allowance increase due to removal of your option beneficiary.

The changes you're eligible for depend on the life event, the retirement payment option you chose when you retired, and the type of change you want to make.

You can change your lump-sum beneficiary designation anytime through your personal my|CalPERS account or by completing the *Post-Retirement Lump-Sum Beneficiary Designation* form. You can get an estimate and add or change a payment option beneficiary by logging in at [my.calpers.ca.gov](http://my.calpers.ca.gov) and following the prompts from the **Retirement** tab to **Change Retirement Benefit**.

Don't remember what choices you made at retirement? You can review them in your my|CalPERS account at [my.calpers.ca.gov](http://my.calpers.ca.gov) or call us toll free at 888 CalPERS (or 888-225-7377).

Find *Changing Your Beneficiary or Monthly Benefit After Retirement* (PUB 98) on our website at [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov) in **Forms & Publications**.



## Life Events

Changes will occur in your life that will impact you and your family. These life changes can come in many forms: marriage, moving to a new home, birth or adoption of a child, divorce, or planning for your retirement.

CalPERS has educational resources to help answer your questions and guide you through your life events.

To help navigate changes in your personal life and career, visit the **Life Events** quick link at [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov).

# Purchase Service Credit Now

## Have More Money in Retirement

Purchasing service credit may help secure your financial future. Your service retirement benefit under CalPERS is based on your total years of service credit (earned and purchased), your final compensation, and your benefit factor, which is determined by your age at retirement and retirement formula.

The more service credit you have at retirement, the higher your monthly retirement allowance might be. Just look at the example below comparing

retirement allowances with and without purchased service credit.

It may cost less if you purchase service credit early in your career. Purchasing service credit early on also gives you more accurate retirement estimates for planning your future, and you may be able to retire sooner. However, you should consider your options before you purchase service credit to determine if it is worth the cost.

Learn about all service credit types, eligibility, cost methodology, and how to estimate your cost and benefit increase by visiting our website at [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov).

You can also find detailed information in our two service credit publications: *A Guide to Your Service Credit Purchase Options* (PUB 12) and *A Guide to Your Military Service Credit Options* (PUB 15). These publications, along with all the necessary forms, are available on our website in **Forms & Publications**.

### Comparing retirement allowances with and without purchased service credit

	Years of Earned Service Credit	Years of Purchased Service Credit	Total Service Credit		Benefit Factor		Final Compensation		Unmodified Allowance
Member A	20	0	20	x	2.0%	x	\$4,000	=	\$1,600
Member B	20	4	24	x	2.0%	x	\$4,000	=	\$1,920

## Community Property Claim? You Can Now Retire Online

If you are a CalPERS member with a community property claim on your retirement account, you can now apply for retirement online.

Previously, any CalPERS members with a community property hold—even those who fully resolved their case—were not able to apply for retirement online.

### Important!

Make sure to resolve the community property claim on your account as soon as possible. We will not release any retirement, health, or dental benefits until the claim is resolved. However, if

you are ready to retire, do not delay submitting the application until the claim is resolved. Your application must be received within nine months of separation from employment to ensure you receive the earliest retirement date and other benefits that you may be entitled to.

For information about the different methods of division and basic community property questions, you can review the publications *A Guide to CalPERS Community Property* (PUB 38A) and *CalPERS Model Domestic Relations Orders* (PUB 38B).

With the latest update to my|CalPERS, you can now apply for retirement by logging in to your personal account at [my.calpers.ca.gov](http://my.calpers.ca.gov).

Follow the steps to get started:

1. Go to the **Retirement** tab.
2. Select the **Apply for Retirement** link.
3. Select the **Start My Application** button.



## Work-Related Felonies and Benefit Forfeiture

With the implementation of the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA), members, including retirees, who are convicted of a work-related felony must forfeit all service credit and contributions beginning with the date the crime was first committed through their last day worked with the employer. Forfeiture may affect retirement benefits, refunds, service credit purchases, community property cases, and retiree health benefits.

Service credit earned before the date of the crime remains in the member's or retiree's account, but he or she can no longer work for a CalPERS-covered employer. If the member has the minimum service credit needed to retire, he or she can still collect a CalPERS pension.

Employers are required by law to notify CalPERS when a member is convicted of a work-related felony. However, anyone can notify us, including prosecuting attorneys, the media, coworkers, and concerned citizens.

You can find more information on forfeiture of benefits on our website at [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov).

## Need a Lawyer?

Group Legal Offers 2018 Open Enrollment for State Employees

Active and retired state employees have a trusted place to turn for help with life's legal issues—CalHR's Group Legal Services Insurance Plan offered through ARAG®.

Group Legal insurance is an affordable benefit that connects you with attorneys who can:

- Consult with you on a variety of legal matters.
- Review and prepare personal legal documents.
- Represent you in court.

Network attorney fees are paid in full for most covered matters.

**Enroll now. Protect what's important.**

Don't miss out on this valuable benefit. Sign up during **Open Enrollment March 1 through April 30.**

- **Active state employees:** Use the Open Enrollment kit that was mailed to your home, or go to [ARAGLegalCenter.com](http://ARAGLegalCenter.com) and enter access code **10202soc** for more information.
- **Retired state employees:** Call ARAG Customer Care at (800) 511-4007, or go to [ARAGLegalCenter.com](http://ARAGLegalCenter.com) and enter access code **17642ret** to download the retiree enrollment form.





## Keeping Member Information Safe

At CalPERS, we take an innovative approach to protecting your member information. We adhere to all state and federal standards in securing your information through a multi-layered system that allows us to detect, identify, and respond to fraudulent activity.

Our system monitors attempts to gain access to our information assets and protects them through a defensive strategy that includes threat detection, blocking, and data encryption.

Our multi-layered system consists of three important components:

- **People** – We make sure that every member of the CalPERS team receives training on the latest cybersecurity measures.
- **Process** – We ensure that our system of detection, identification, and response is the most up to date.
- **Technology** – We use the latest technology to ensure the quickest and most accurate detection and response.

There are some things you can do to help us keep your member information safe:

- Never respond to emails that appear to be from CalPERS asking you for password or PIN information. We will never ask you for your password or PIN information, and the emails are likely an attempt to get your personal information.

- Never provide any information to someone who comes to your home identifying themselves as being from CalPERS. We will never send someone to your home or place of business without making a prior appointment that relates to your member account.
- Never provide any personal information over the phone to a phone number that is not the same as our Customer Contact Center number. We will never call you from any number other than **888 CalPERS (or 888-225-7377)**.

If we have a need to reach out to you, we will call you from **888-225-7377** and identify ourselves properly. If you have any concerns about the call, end the call, and contact us to verify.



## New Board President and Vice President Elected

Priya Mathur, a principal financial analyst for the Bay Area Rapid Transit District, was elected president of the CalPERS Board of Administration by her peers in January. She is the first woman to hold this office.

Rob Feckner, a 41-year employee of the Napa Valley Unified School District, was elected vice president. He had previously served as president and vice president of the Board, and has been a Board member since 1999.

Both positions are one-year terms, elected annually by members of the Board.

### New Public Representative Joins Board

Additionally, CalPERS welcomed a new Board member, Ramón Rubalcava of South Pasadena, who was appointed by the Assembly Speaker and the Senate Rules Committee. Rubalcava has worked for SEIU Local 721, the public-sector union serving workers in Southern California, for over 30 years. He is currently director of Member Benefits and Employer Relations.

Rubalcava has successfully completed certificate programs from the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, including the Certificate of Achievement in Public Plan Policy for both pension and health administration.

His term ends January 15, 2020. He replaces Ron Lind.

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## Ethics Helpline

If you have concerns regarding potential misconduct or inappropriate activities involving your CalPERS account, you can submit a report by calling the CalPERS Ethics Helpline:

**Toll Free: (866) 513-4216**

**TTY: (866) 294-9572**



## Board Elections This Fall

This fall, CalPERS will be conducting the 2018 state, school, and public agency Board of Administration elections. Active members will have an opportunity to cast their vote for their representative in their respective election one of three ways: online, telephone, or paper ballot.

The Notice of Election was sent to all CalPERS employers on March 26, 2018, for distribution to active employees. The notice provides details on how to run for the Board seat and provides a timeline for the election process.

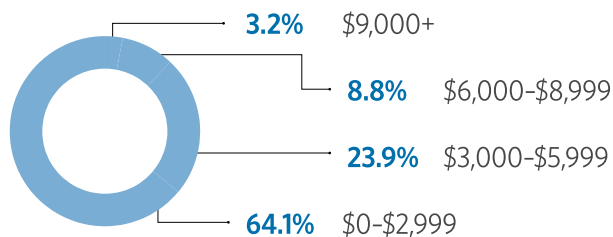
All three incumbents have indicated they plan to run for re-election: Theresa Taylor for the state seat; Rob Feckner for the school seat; and Priya Mathur for the public agency seat.

More information about the CalPERS Board elections is available at [www.calpers.ca.gov/boardelections](http://www.calpers.ca.gov/boardelections).

# Get the Facts About CalPERS Pensions

Did you know 64 percent of all CalPERS service retirees receive less than \$3,000 a month? Find quick facts and statistics on our pensions, investments, and health programs in Facts at a Glance. Go to [www.calpers.ca.gov/facts-at-a-glance](http://www.calpers.ca.gov/facts-at-a-glance) to learn more.

## Average Monthly Allowance, All Service Retirees



**64%** **< \$3,000 a month**  
Percentage of all CalPERS service retirees receiving less than \$3,000 a month

**\$2,876** Average monthly allowance, all retirees

**\$3,182** Average monthly allowance, all new retirees

**33%** Retirees who do not receive Social Security  
(as of June 30, 2016)

## Thank You!

We would like to thank everyone who completed our online survey to help us improve PERSpective. Your insight will help us create communications to better serve your needs.

Look for changes to come as we use your suggestions to help us shape the future of PERSpective.

### Read PERSpective Online

Current and previous issues of PERSpective are always available at [www.calpers.ca.gov/perspective](http://www.calpers.ca.gov/perspective).

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### Holiday Schedule

**May 28**

Memorial Day

**July 4**

Independence Day

**September 3**

Labor Day

Our offices will be closed on these holidays, but we're still available online when you need information on our programs and services. Visit [my.calpers.ca.gov](http://my.calpers.ca.gov) to view your account information and conduct your CalPERS business at any time.



### CalPERS Board Meeting Schedule

**April 16-18**

**May 14-16**

**June 18-20**

**July 16-18 (offsite)**

**August 13-15**

Live coverage of all open sessions of the Board and its committees is streamed online from the CalPERS auditorium.

Visit [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov) on Board meeting days to watch and listen. You can also access videos of past meetings at [www.youtube.com/CalPERSNetwork](http://www.youtube.com/CalPERSNetwork).



### Upcoming Webinars

Sign up for our free educational webinars. Visit [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov) to view webinar details and to register.

#### Retiree Refresher

April 11, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

#### Service Credit Purchases

May 16, 11:00 – 11:20 a.m.

#### Retirement Planning Checklist

June 13, 11:00 – 11:20 a.m.



## CalPERS Benefits Education Events

### May 11 & 12 | Olympic Valley

The Village at Squaw Valley

1750 Village East Road

Olympic Valley, CA 96146

### June 15 & 16 | Riverside

Riverside Convention Center

3637 5th Street

Riverside, CA 92501

To register for an event near you, or to find additional 2018 dates, visit [www.calpers.ca.gov/cbee](http://www.calpers.ca.gov/cbee).

### Learn More About Your Benefits

Would you like to receive the latest information about our educational training, resources, and events? Go to [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov) and subscribe to our **Member Education Bulletin** to get email alerts about all our educational opportunities.





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