PAPERS National Update

Hank Kim, Esq.
Executive Director & Counsel

National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems



Are Public Pensions Sustainable?

Most certainly yes when:

- Sponsors make their contributions consistently and fully.
- Employees make their contributions.
- Investments are well managed and fees are low.
- Benefits are appropriate and funded.



What Pension Participants Need to Know About Threats to Their Pension Plans?

- It's national.
- It's well financed and orchestrated.
- It's the economy.
- And pensions are going away in the private sector.
- But we've managed to largely hold on the public pensions because of 22 million reasons.
- And we have an opportunity to change the debate.



NCPERS

- Largest nonprofit trade association representing 550+ public sector DB plans that have \$3+ trillion in assets.
- Who we ARE:
 - Advocacy
 - Research
 - Education
- www.NCPERS.org



NCPERS Position

- All workers (public and private) should have a traditional pension benefit (DB plan) as their primary pension plan
- DB plans are good for governments, employees, taxpayers and the economy



www.NCPERS.org



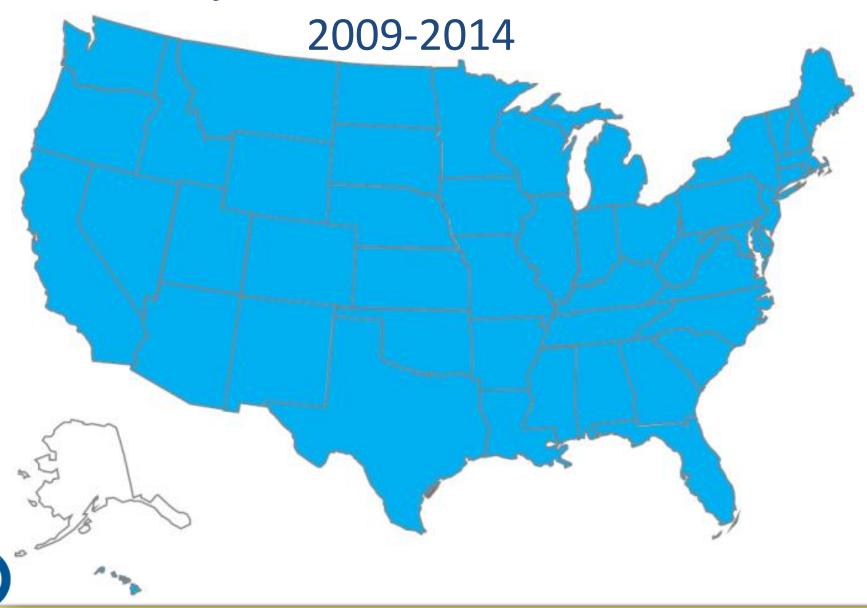


Public Pension History

- Public pensions have been around for more than 150 years.
 - 1857 New York establishes LOD benefits for NYC police.
 - 1866 FDNY gets LOD benefits.
 - 1878 NYC public safety get lifetime benefit 55/21.
 - 1894 NYC teachers pension benefit.
 - 1900's state plans in ND, CA, MA, CT, PA, NJ.
 - Most public plans established soon after 1935.



Major Pension Enactments



2014 State Battles

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Florida
- Illinois
- Indiana

- Kansas
- Louisiana
- Missouri
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania



2015 State Battles

- Arizona
- Arkansas
- Colorado
- Florida
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Michigan

- Missouri
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- Virginia
- Wyoming



Federal Challenges

Congress: Tax Reform

- > SAFE
- > PEPTA
- Pick ups
- Mandatory Social Security Coverage



National Challenges

- GASB Accounting Statements
- GASB OPEB
 Restatements
- Moody's
- ALEC model legislation to close public pensions
- Pew and LJAF
- Cato, AEI, Manhattan Institute, etc.





Why No Other City is Like Detroit

- July 18, 2013 Detroit files for Chapter 9
- \$18 billion debt of which \$800 million \$3.2 billion is due to public pensions
- But no other jurisdiction is like Detroit:
 - Unprecedented loss of population and jobs
 - Michigan reneged on its revenue sharing
 - Bad interest rate bet
 - Gov. forced Detroit into bankruptcy



Old and Novel Arguments Against DBs

Old

- Too expensive/risky.
- "Cooking the books".
- Hard to budget.
- Taxpayers left holding the bag.
- Private sector doesn't have pensions anymore neither should public employees.
- Too much fraud/abuse.

New & Novel

- Switch to a 401k-style plan to ensure plan sponsor contributions.
- Defined benefit plans discriminate against short term employees.
- 401k's are better wealth accumulators to pass down to heirs.
- At nearly \$3.9 trillion AUM public plans are too big.



How to Talk About Pensions

- Keep it simple
- Teachers, public safety vs politicians, Not Big Unions vs Taxpayers
- Workers put their life savings into pensions
- Politicians and bad economy got us into this mess
- Pensions are modest
- Many workers do not get Social Security
- Loss of state income tax from large multinationals



Evolution of a Message

From: Tactical/Reactive/Defensive – It's about **US**

- Hard-working public sector workers are your neighbors and relatives
- Don't make us scapegoats for the mistakes of legislators
- Nurses, public safety officers, teachers, social service professionals, administrators deliver the services you rely on every day for less pay than private sector employees
- Traditional media and stakeholder outreach



Public Pension Defense Tool Kit

- http://www.ncpers.org
 /files/public_pension_
 defense tool kit.ppt
- Culmination of months of work done in partnership with public pensions, advocates, and other stakeholders





Top 10 Advantages of DB Plans

http://www.ncpers.org /files/2011 ncpers res earch series top ten(1).pdf







Contents

Advantages

Conclusion

Background Figure 1: Participants in state and local government DB plans. 3 Figure 2: Accumulated assets and annual benefit payments of state and local government DB plans. 4 How DB Plans Work How DC Plans Work

Hustration by: James Endicott, © 2011 Stock Hustration Source

The Top 10 Advantages of Maintaining **Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

ince the mid-1990s, legislation has been proposed to replace state and local defined benefit (DB) pension plans with defined contribution (DC) plans. The pace of these proposals increased from 2003 to 2006, partly because of the equity market downturn in 2000-2002 that increased contribution rates for many DB plans, both public and private. Although the pace of DC proposals fell in 2007-2008, they increased again as a result of the financial market downturn in

This paper discusses the top 10 advantages of maintaining DB pension plans. At issue is not whether state and local employees should have access to DC plans - many already do in conjunction with their DB plans or through supplemental DC-type plans, which play a useful role in providing additional tax-deferred retirement savings. Rather, the issue is whether DB plans should be eliminated and replaced with DC plans.

While recognizing that DC plans are useful in providing supplemental retirement benefits, this paper argues against replacing DB plans with DC plans. For many reasons, eliminating the DB plan and switching to a DC plan is likely to be a lose-lose situation for governments, their employees, and taxpayers, as will be discussed throughout this paper.

However, although DB plans have many advantages over DC plans, it is also important to recognize the risks associated with DB plans and take steps to mitigate those risks. This idea is discussed in the "Managing DB Plan Risks" section on page 14.

Summary of the Top 10 Advantages of Retaining DB Pension Plans

· Retaining a DB plan is likely to cost state and local governments less over the short term. The long-term cost savings of switching to a DC plan are uncertain at best.

¹ Bramples of defined contribution (DC)-type plans available to state and local employees include governmental deferred compensation plans (also known as #57 plans) and 403(b) arountes. In addition, some state and local employees are covered by 401(b) plans, the plans were earlablabled before May 5, 1986. According to the 2010 application Plans Survey by the Naturnal Association of Government Defined Controlution Administrators, 5.2 million state and local governmental employees [27 pement of the state and local workforce] are eligible to participate in tome form of DC or deferred compensation plan.

National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems

444 N Capitol St. HW * Suite 630 * Washington, DC 20001 * 202-624-1456 * 1-877-202-5706 * 202-624-1439 FAX * info@NCPERS.org



Legal Protections for Pensions

http://www.ncpers.org
/files/News/03152007
RetireBenefitProtectio
ns.pdf

STATE CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIONS FOR PUBLIC SECTOR RETIREMENT BENEFITS									
State	Summary of state law	Constitutional Provision							
Alabama	Benefits are contractually protected for vested employees who are eligible to retire. Board of Trustees of Policemen's and Firemen's Retirement Fund of City of Gadsden v. Cary, 373 So. 24 841 (Ala. 1979) (pension benefits were vested for employees who had completed 20 years of service before the effective date of a statutory amendment, but were not vested for employees with less service); Calvert v. City of Gadsden, 454 So. 24 983 (Ala. 1984) (retirement benefits for members who had not yet served 20 years of service at time statute fixing retirement pay as last three years' rank had not yet vested and were not entitled to specific performance); Snow v. Abernathy, 331 So. 24 626 (Ala. 1976) (holding that where employee voluntarily elected to become member of the contributory retirement system relationship was contractual in nature giving rise to vested indits).	AL CONST., Art. I, § 22							
Alaska	"Membership in employee retirement systems of the State or its political subdivisions shall constitute a contractual relationship. Accrued benefits of these systems shall not be diminished or impaired."	AK CONST., Article XII, § 7							
Arizona	"Membership in a public retirement system is a contractual relationship that is subject to article II, § 25, and public retirement system benefits shall not be diminished or impaired."	AZ CONST., Article XXIX, §1							
Arkansas	No explicit constitutional protection for public pension benefits, but courts provide limited protection for contributory vested pension benefits. See Jones v. Cheney, 489 S.W.2d 785 (1973)(holding that vested pension benefits funded with employee contributions are protected from impairment); compare Blackwood v. Floyd, 29 S.W.3d 691 (2000)(holding that noncontributory pension benefits are a mere gratuity).	AR CONST., Art. 2, § 17							
California	California caselaw now recognizes that public pension rights are governed by startue and not contract principles. Outerrez. v. Board of Retirement, 72 Cali Rptr 2d 837(1998); Betts v. Board of Admin., 582 P. 2d 614 (Cal. 1978)("A public employee's pension constitutes an element of compensation, and a vested contractual ingit to pension benefits accrues upon acceptance of employment. Such a pension right may not be destroyed, once vested, without impairing a contractual obligation of the employing public entity.").	CA CONST., Art 1, § 9							
Colorado	Courts have applied the state constitutional protection against impairment of contract in Art. 2, \$11 to protect vested pension benefits. Until benefits fully vest, a pension benefits can be changed. For benefits which are only partially vested, any adverse change must be balanced by a corresponding change of a beneficial nature, a change that is actuarially necessary, or a change that strengthens or improves the pension plan. If a plan amendment fails to satisfy any of these three criteria, it will be deemed an unconstitutional impairment of existing contract rights. See Police Pension & Relief Board v. Bills, 366 P.2d 541 (1961); Peterson v. Fire & Police Pension Ass'n, 759 P.2d 720 (Colo 1988).	CO CONST., Article 2, §11 (not explicit protection of public pensions; basic protection against impairment of contract)							



Evolution of a Message

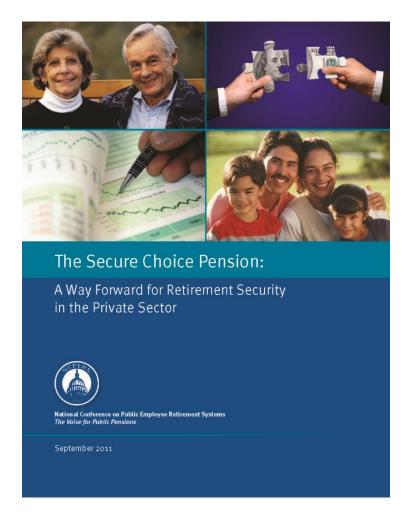
To: Strategic/proactive story - it's about **YOU**, the general public

- NCPERS-member work group selects "Retirement Security for All" as campaign slogan
- Public Sector pension model supported by data is the solution for the nation's overall retirement security crisis
- NCPERS Secure Choice Pension becomes part of the national conversation
- NCPERS national surveys of Small Businesses show support
- Web, social media, blogosphere, editorial engagement
- Media now asking NCPERS for comment, insights
- Lobbying for and garnering state-by-state interest in SCP



Secure Choice Pensions (SCP)

Public-Private Partnership to bring retirement security to the private sector by leveraging the investment expertise and economies of scale of public pension plans





Why State Based?

NEW YORK

to New York's state and local pension plans supported \$6.87

of financing for reticement

Each \$1 in state and local pensi

residents ultimately supported

the direct, indirect, and induced

impacts of retiree spending.

as it ripples through the state

3.0 billion

\$5.1 billion

NEW YORK

Pensionomics 2012:

Measuring the Economic Impact of DB Pension Expenditures

Key Findings

Benefits paid by state and local pension plans support a significant amount of economic activity in the state of New York.

Pension benefits received by retirees are spent in the local community. This spending ripples through the economy, as one person's spending becomes another person's income, creating a multiplier effect.

In 2009, expenditures stemming from state and local pensions supported

- . 200.106 jobs that paid \$11.9 billion in wages and salaries
- . \$5.1 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues

in the state of New York.

Each dollar paid out in pension benefits supported \$1.62 in total economic activity in New York.

Each dollar "invested" by New York taxpavers in these plans supported \$6.87 in total economic activity in the state.



Taxpayer Contribution Factor*

New York pensions over 30 years

Pension Benefit Multiplier

National Institute on Retirement Security

Pensionomics 2012: Measuring the Economic Impact of DB Pension Expenditures

Retirement Security

Overview

Expenditures made by retirees of state and local government provide a steady economic stimulus to New York communities and the state economy. In 2009, 768,392 residents of New York received pension plans.

Economic Multipliers

\$1.00

\$1.00

retirees in New York

Impact on Tax Revenues

for \$4.7 billion in tax revenue.



from employee contril historically made up ti

Impact on Job Retiree expenditures s

200,106 jobs in the sta expenditures was \$11.

To put these employn rate was 8,4%. The fac significant, as it repres

Economic Imp

State and local pensio in benefits to New Yo supported a total of \$3 billion in value added

\$15.3 billion in direct An additional \$8.8 bil additional goods and s hired by businesses as

> DIREC IMPAC \$15.3 bil

Economic Impacts by Industry Sector The economic impact of state and local pension benefits was broadly felt across various industry sectors in New York. The ten industry sectors with the largest employment impacts are presented in the table below.

State and local pension payments made to New York residents

and local governments. Taxes paid by retirees and beneficiaries

directly out of pension payments totaled \$347.6 million. Taxes

attributable to direct, indirect and induced impacts accounted

supported a total of \$5.1 billion in revenue to federal, state,

Value Added Impact Industry Output Impact Private Hospitals \$1,164,368,753 \$2,569,644,838 Real Estate Establishments

\$1.62

total output

Federal Tax

State/Local Tax

"Caution should be used in intermediate these numbers. See the Technical Appendix of the full Pensionemics report for details

\$850,966,045 51.410.822.459 Physicians, Dentists, and other Health Practitioners Nursing and Residential Care Facilities 6471 661 200 Colleges, Universities, and Professional School 6273 653 688 6511 173.680 Individual and Family Services 6149.214.816 \$283,475,798

Retirement security means productive, taxpaying retirees.

- Limits social safety net expenditures.
- Helps manage workforce.
- No foreseeable Federal action.
- Bottom line: it's in states' interest.



SCP Estimated Income Replacement

ESTIMATED REPLACEMENT RATIOS WITH A 5% INTEREST CREDITING RATE

Average Life Time Income	Expected Social Security Replacement Ratio ¹	Replacement Ratio from Expected Personal Savings Including 401(k) ²	Total Replacement Ratio with Social Security and Personal Savings Only	Expected SCP Replacement Ratio ³	Total Replacement Ratio with SCP
\$20,000	60%	0%	60%	29%	89%
\$50,000	43%	12%	55%	29%	84%
\$100,000	32%	25%	57%	29%	86%



Retirement Income Replacement Gap: Surveys report individuals estimate 60% as adequate—when 80% to 90% is needed.

¹ Calculated using Social Security AIME calculation.

² Calculated using assumed salary increases based on age, an average return of 5% per year, a contribution rate of 3% per year at \$50,000 and 6% per year at \$100,000, retirement of age 65, and annuity conversion based on PBGC annuity valuation assumptions.

³ Calculated using assumed salary increases based on age, and an expected credited interest rate of 5% per year.

SCP Structure Summary

- State-based Public Private Partnership
- Single Multiple Employer Plan
- Board of Trustees and plan staff
- DB "Career Accumulation Plan" (variation of a cash balance plan)
- Conservative actuarial, funding, and investment assumptions
- Normal Retirement at 65
- 6% Contribution Rate





SCP Structure Summary

- 7% Discount Rate
- 5% (approximately) Interest Crediting Rate is based on a US Treasury reported rate
- 3% minimum career interest crediting rate
- Immediate vesting
- Individual SCP Participant Balances, but comingled for investment purposes
- At retirement the SCP balance is converted to an annuity
- Could use the investment power of public plans
- Death Benefit is the annuitized account balance
- Augments (not replace) existing retirement programs
- Multiple options to address underfunding risk





These provisions can be adjusted to fine-tune the balance between benefits and cost.

SCP Sample Projections

- The following tables illustrate a sample projection of an employer group over a 10-year period
- The employer group assumes:
 - 25 employees
 - Ages uniformly distributed over the working career
 - Average salary of \$40,000
- Modeled investment return and crediting rates are as shown in the tables



SCP Stress Test 1

The projection below models an investment market assuming the valuation assumptions as described earlier are exactly met.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Effective Contribution %	6.01%	6.03%	6.04%	6.04%	6.04%	6.03%	6.00%	5.99%	5.93%	5.89%	5.88%
Funded %	100.00%	137.77%	138.12%	138.42%	138.68%	138.73%	139.20%	139.12%	140.41%	141.09%	140.38%
Unfunded/ (Overfunded) Liability	0	(18,717)	(39,644)	(62,865)	(88,463)	(116,011)	(146,953)	(178,109)	(216,429)	(255,008)	(286,433)
DRF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Investment Return	_	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%
Total Payroll	1,000,000	1,035,181	1,071,091	1,107,363	1,144,006	1,181,031	1,210,979	1,240,228	1,247,629	1,268,236	1,290,993



SCP Stress Test 2

The projection below models an investment market using actual returns for the 1990 to 2000 period.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Effective Contribution %	6.01%	6.04%	5.98%	5.98%	5.96%	6.00%	5.67%	5.45%	4.97%	4.51%	4.32%
Funded %	100.00%	136.60%	140.12%	141.51%	142.51%	142.12%	140.52%	138.59%	134.23%	134.51%	139.30%
Unfunded/ (Overfunded) Liability	0	(17,047)	(40,455)	(66,519)	(95,704)	(124,574)	(150,316)	(174,103)	(181,973)	(212,750)	(277,111)
DRF	0	0	0	0	0	0	13,062	32,012	76,994	121,387	152,960
							,				
Investment Return		2.45%	19.36%	7.37%	8.20%	4.08%	22.31%	14.72%	19.97%	17.13%	13.58%
Total Payroll	1,000,000	1,035,181	1,071,091	1,107,363	1,144,006	1,181,031	1,210,979	1,240,228	1,247,629	1,268,236	1,290,993



SCP Sample Projection 3

The projection below models an investment market using actual returns for the 2000 to 2010 period.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Effective Contribution %	6.01%	6.05%	6.12%	6.25%	6.14%	6.12%	6.14%	6.05%	6.06%	6.74%	6.47%
Funded %	100.00%	135.65%	133.60%	129.58%	130.08%	130.72%	131.27%	132.69%	135.56%	127.52%	127.38%
Unfunded/ (Overfunded) Liability	0	(16,603)	(33,879)	(47,404)	(67,731)	(90,861)	(116,011)	(147,462)	(189,025)	(169,664)	(193,094)
DRF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		,			,						
Investment Return		-1.25%	-2.95%	-8.39%	16.69%	7.73%	4.51%	10.17%	5.01%	-16.30%	15.71%
Total Payroll	1,000,000	1,035,181	1,071,091	1,107,363	1,144,006	1,181,031	1,210,979	1,240,228	1,247,629	1,268,236	1,290,993



State Actions

Enacted Legislation

2015 Activities

Massachusetts 2012

Treasurer will manage a separate trust for small non-profits

California 2012

CA Secure Choice Retirement Savings Trust Act

Oregon 2013

Enacted study commission

Connecticut 2014

Enacted study commission

Illinois 2014

IL Secure Choice Savings Program Act

Minnesota 2014

Enacted study commission

Vermont 2014

Enacted study commission

Utah 2015

Enacted study commission

Virginia 2015

Enacted study commission

Hawaii

Indiana*

Kentucky*

Maryland*

Massachusetts*

New Hampshire*

New Jersey*

New York

North Dakota*

Ohio

Oregon*

Washington*

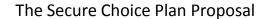
West Virginia*

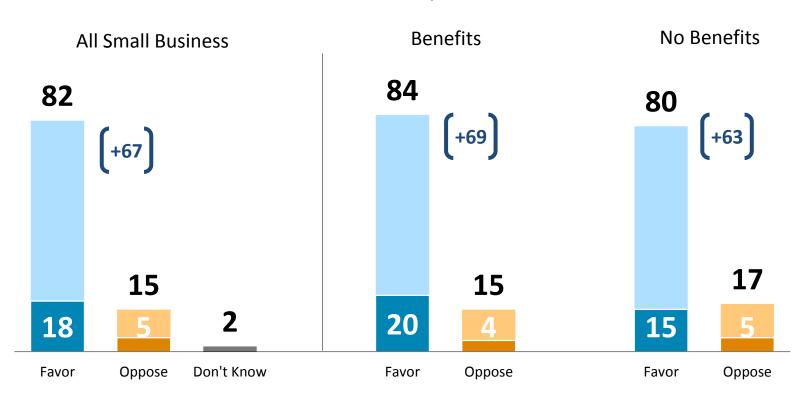
Wisconsin*



^{*} indicates legislation introduced Underline indicates failed

Small business owners overwhelmingly support the Secure Choice Pension, regardless of whether or not they already provide a retirement benefit to their employees.



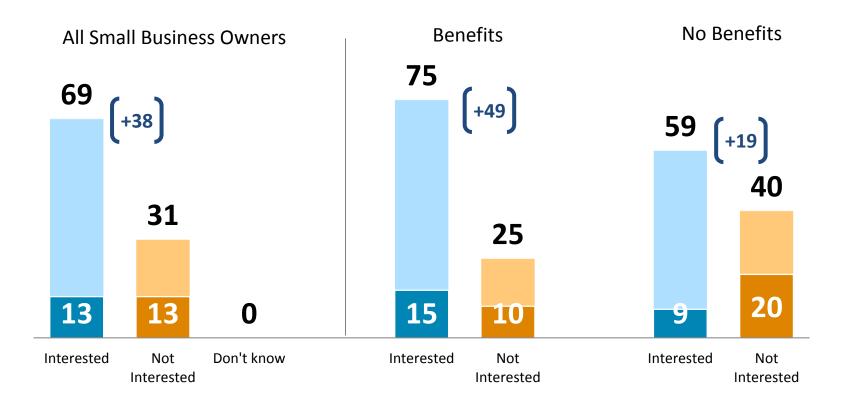




Now, please tell me if you would favor or oppose this proposal having this type of retirement plan available for small private employers? [FAVOR/OPPOSE] Is that strongly or somewhat?

Three out of four small business owners who provide retirement benefits are interested in the Secure Choice Pension for their own employees. A majority of those not providing benefits are also interested.

Interest in the Secure Choice Plan for their Employees





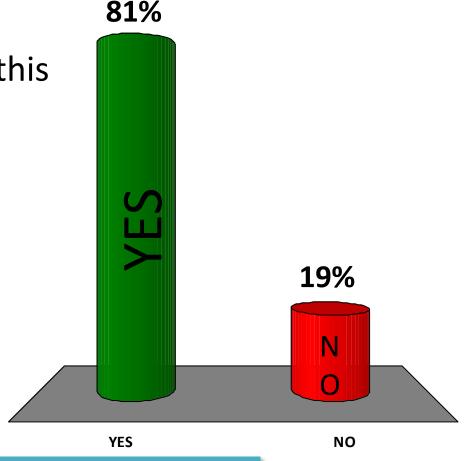
And thinking about your own small business, would you be very interested, somewhat interested, not too interested, or not at all interested in this type of retirement plan for your own employees?

What is Next?

Response After Recent Presentation to Public Retirement Administrators

Is the upside potential of this concept greater than the downside risk?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

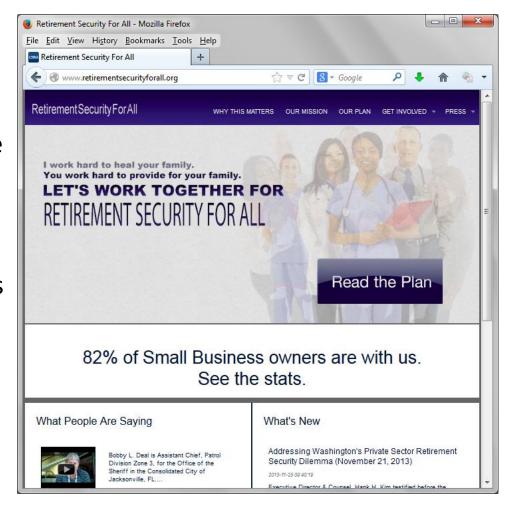




What do you think?

www.RetirementSecurityforAll.org

- Campaign to bring awareness and support for SCPs
- We want ordinary Americans telling elected officials to make SCPs a reality
- We want employers and employees who don't have pensions to say they want SCPs
- We want folks who have pensions to say we support working Americans to have SCPs





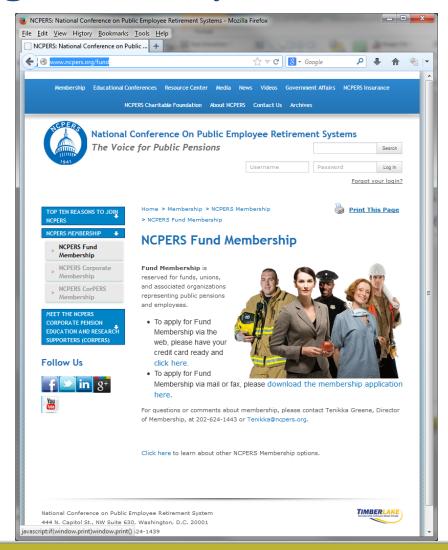
Next Steps: Increased Engagement By You

- Lobby your local legislators and government officials to preserve pensions and consider an SCP Model for Retirement Security for All
- Pitch your state newspapers' editorial boards for meetings that would include you and NCPERS to discuss a solution to the growing national retirement crisis
- Train your participants to spread the word about benefits
- Link your home page to pertinent pages on NCPERS Website
- Use NCPERS Downloadable Resources
 - Media Training Tool Kit
 - Secure Choice Pension White Paper



Next Steps: Increased Engagement By You

- Join NCPERS
- http://www.ncpers.org /fund





NCPERS 2015 Educational Programs

Public Pension Funding Forum

August 24-25, 2015 at UC-Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

Public Safety Employee Pension & Benefits Conference

October 25-28, 2015 in Rancho Mirage, CA



Thank You

NCPERS

444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 630 Washington, DC 20001 1-877-202-5706 www.retirementsecurityforall.org www.NCPERS.org

