



# GET THE FACTS on Anti-PERS Ballot Measures

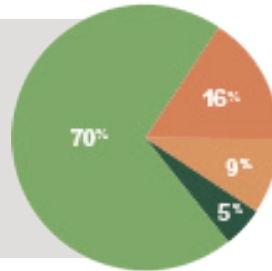
Some of the richest and most powerful corporations in Oregon have filed two ballot measures to cut retirement benefits to Oregon teachers, firefighters, child welfare workers and other public employees. These corporate-backed proposals create more problems than they solve, don't reduce the unfunded liability, and would result in more lengthy and costly legal battles for the state and local school districts.

*Polling shows Oregon voters want real solutions and do not believe the state's obligation to retirees should be paid for by slashing the promised benefits to today's working people.*

## **These ballot measures do not address the root cause of increased employer rates.**

The unfunded liability that is increasing employer costs comes from an old system that was changed first in 2003 and again 2013 to reduce benefits. Increased employer costs are not caused by people working today and all analysis shows that creating a fourth tier for PERS will not reduce the unfunded liability. If there is another economic downturn, rates will just shoot up again. We need long-term solutions that don't repeat mistakes made in the past.

- 70% is benefits being paid to retirees and inactive members
- 16% is for Tier One members who haven't retired yet
- 9% is for Tier Two members who haven't retired yet
- 6% is for OPSRP members who haven't retired yet



## **These measures reduce retirement security for public employees by decimating the individual retirement accounts for public employees. The average 35-year-old teacher would see a 57% cut.**

The Oregon Business Council plan takes dollars directly out of the promised retirements for public employees who are already receiving the lowest level of benefits and leaves their promised retirements in shambles.

## **These measures open up new territory for legal challenges and would send the state back into court.**

There are constitutional issues with requiring today's workers to pay the UAL, so the ballot measures have tried to find a loophole that has never been tested in court before. Their plan diverts the 6% that today goes into a PERS member's individual account programs and creates a new account that goes to the employer instead. There is no legal precedent for such a change and if the ballot measure were to pass, there is a high likelihood it would be overturned by the court, just like Bill Sizemore's Measure 8 in 1994.

## **ON AVERAGE**



# 57% CUT

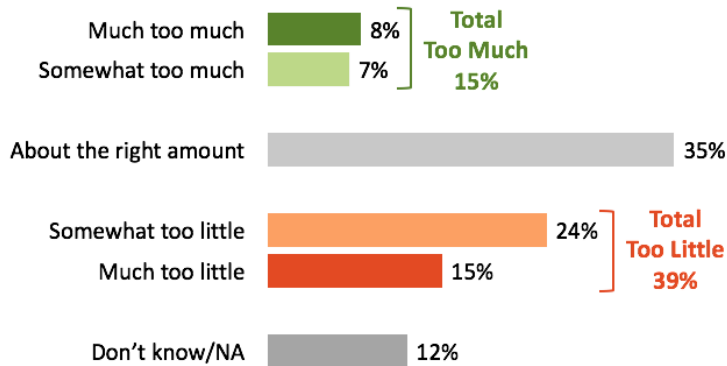
*The average 35-year-old teacher would see a **57% cut to their retirement account***

**Voters do not want benefits cut to pay the unfunded liability and believe public employees are not compensated enough.**

Recent research shows that when asked if public employee benefits should be cut to pay for the unfunded liability, 56% of Oregon voters say no. By a two to one margin, voter believe that a secure retirement should be part of the deal for public employment and they are more likely to state that compensation is too little, than too high.

**Voters are more likely to say that public employee compensation is too low than that it is too high.**

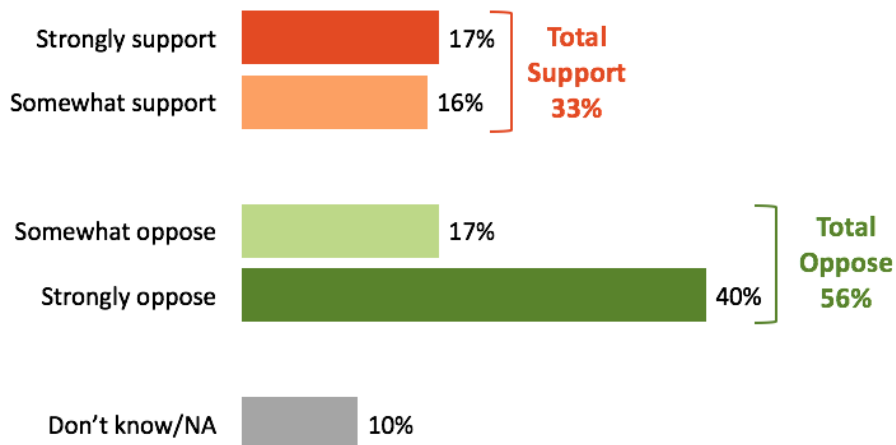
*Thinking about the compensation – that is, salary and benefits – that these types of employees receive, in general, would you say they get paid too much, about the right amount, or too little?*



Survey of a representative sample (521) likely voters conducted August, 2018.

**A majority opposes further cutting retirement benefits for public employees to address PERS' unfunded liability.**

*There is currently a projected unfunded liability in Oregon's Public Employee Retirement System, meaning it is estimated that there will not be enough funds in the system to pay the retirement benefits that have been promised to current and future retirees. Would you support or oppose further cutting retirement benefits for public employees in order to address that unfunded liability?*



Survey of a representative sample (521) likely voters conducted August, 2018.