


Financial Health of the System

- LASERS continues to remain financially **strong and stable**.
- **FY 2025 investment return:** 12.4%
- **Total market value of assets:** \$17.2 billion
- **Funded ratio:** 74.5% (improving)
- Ranked in the **top 7% of public pension plans nationwide**.

 **What this means for you:** Strong investment performance helps improve long-term stability and supports future benefit enhancements like COLAs.

2026 Legislative Session

House Bill 23 | Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

- Proposed **2% COLA** (House Bill 23)
- Applies to the first **\$81,201 of your annual benefit**
- Would begin **July 1, 2026** (if approved)
- Additional information and eligibility requirements are in your packet.

House Bill 312 (if passed) would dedicate **\$144.3 million** to LASERS unfunded accrued liability.

Additional retirement-related bills we're tracking are on our website.

 **Stay informed:** Visit the LASERS website and sign up for legislative email updates

New COLA Funding Approach (Reminder)

- A **new** method (Act 184 of 2023) is being phased in through ~2030
- Designed to provide **more consistent COLAs in the future**

Returning to Work After Retirement

If you return to a LASERS-covered job, you must choose **one option**:

Option 1: Keep your benefit (with limits)

- Continue receiving retirement benefits
- Can earn up to **50% of your annual benefit**

Option 2: Suspend your benefit

- Stop retirement payments
- Earn **unlimited salary**

Option 3: Return to active membership

- Repay retirement benefits
- Treated as if you never retired

Important:

- Submit your reemployment form within **45 days**
- If not received, LASERS may:
 - Assume suspension
 - Require repayment of benefits

Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP)

- Drop Rate: **10.91% (January 2026)**
- Funds are accessible **only after leaving state employment**

Tax Advantage

- DROP funds are **exempt from Louisiana state income tax**
- Rolling funds to another provider = **loss of this exemption**

"Pop-Up" Benefit Increase

- If your beneficiary passes away before you:
 - Your benefit can increase to the **maximum amount**
 - May be retroactive (depending on date)

Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)

Federal law requires withdrawals from DROP/IBO accounts:

- Age **73** (current rule)
- Age increases to **75** starting in 2033

What to expect:

- Spring: notification of required withdrawal amount
- November: confirmation letter
- December: automatic payment if needed (to avoid penalties)

👉 Always consult a tax advisor for personal guidance.

myLASERS

- Secure online account management available 24/7 at myLASERS.org
- Features: View payment history, download 1099-R forms, update personal information, upload documents

Security Enhancements

- Multi-factor authentication (MFA) required
- Helps protect your personal information

Benefit Payments & Timing

- If the 1st falls on a weekend/holiday:
 - **Checks are mailed early (last business day prior)**
 - **Direct deposits are sent to the bank before the 1st**

⚠️ Your bank determines when funds are available.

Stay Connected

- Visit the LASERS website for: legislative updates, forms, financial reports, retiree resources
- Follow us on social media and sign up for emails

Tax Forms (1099-R)

- Mailed each January
- Also available in myLASERS

You may receive **multiple forms** if:

- You turned age 59½
- You received DROP or lump-sum payments

Power of Attorney (POA)

- Allows someone to act on your behalf
- Must:
 - Be **notarized**
 - Include **financial authority**

⚠️ Medical-only POAs are not accepted.

Privacy & Protection

- LASERS:
 - Does **NOT sell member lists**
 - Will **NOT call to schedule home visits**

👉 Report suspicious activity: **1-800-256-3000**

Managing Deductions

- Contact providers directly to:
 - Cancel insurance
 - Update credit union deductions

For questions:

- Insurance → OGB or former employer
- Medicare → Social Security Administration

Final Tip

Watch for upcoming **Retiree Workshop announcements**

✅ **Sign up for Direct Deposit** - Faster and safer