

News for Active Members

Pathways to Retirement

September 2026
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LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Retirement Security That Strengthens Communities



When most people think about a pension, they think about retirement security. A new economic impact analysis shows that LACERA benefits also play an important role in supporting local economies throughout California.

According to an independent study conducted by Zenith Economics using 2025 pension benefit data, LACERA pension payments generated **\$5.3 billion in economic output statewide** and supported **more than 21,300 jobs** across California. In Los Angeles County alone, pension spending generated \$3.1 billion in economic output and supported more than 12,900 jobs.

The Positive Ripple Effect of Retiree Spending

The impact begins with everyday spending. Retirees use their pension benefits to pay for housing, healthcare, energy, food, transportation, and other household

\$527.0 million
in state and local
tax revenue

\$673.0 million
in federal tax
revenue

\$1.6 billion
in labor income
generated

21,300+
jobs supported



Statewide economic output of LACERA pensions in 2025.

expenses. As those dollars move through local businesses, they help sustain economic activity in communities across the state. That means the pension benefit you earn through your public service will continue to make a difference long after your career has ended.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DESK

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- JESSICA BAXTER, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
- JJ POPOWICH, CHIEF BENEFITS OFFICER

BOARD OF RETIREMENT

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Alternate Trustee

Elected by Retired Members

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Vice Chair

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

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Ex-Officio Trustee

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Elected by Safety Members

ALEEN LANGTON

Elected by General Members

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Appointed by Board of Supervisors

LISA PROFT

Chief Deputy County Treasurer

and Tax Collector

Acting Ex-Officio Trustee*

DAVID E. RYU

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

SHAWN R. KEHOE

Chair

Elected by Safety Members

NICOLE MI

Vice Chair

Elected by General Members

MIKE GATTO

Secretary

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County Treasurer and Tax Collector

Ex-Officio Trustee

PATRICK L. JONES

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

ALEEN LANGTON

Elected by General Members

DEBBIE MARTIN

Elected by Retired Members

ALMA K. MARTINEZ

Appointed by Board of Supervisors

LISA PROFT

Chief Deputy County Treasurer

and Tax Collector

Acting Ex-Officio Trustee*

*When ex-officio trustee is absent

Hello, members! School is back in session, meaning fall has arrived, even when the thermometer doesn't agree. We are grateful to our members who continue to care for residents and protect our communities during this season of extreme heat and fire danger. Thank you.

Your Lasting Service Reinforces Our Purpose

In this issue of *Pathways*, our cover article highlights the enduring economic impact that LACERA members make after retirement. Nearly 83 percent of our members remain in California, of whom 67 percent remain in Los Angeles County, with their pension dollars directly supporting local businesses, jobs, and economic stability.

Statistics like these help LACERA advocate persuasively on your behalf with lawmakers while strengthening our internal commitment to safeguarding your financial future. With the pension fund approaching its 90-year anniversary next year in a strong, sustainable position, we are proud to spread the message that supporting public service workers benefits everyone with stronger communities over the long term.

Planning Is Underway for the LACERA Mobile App

As part of providing your benefits, we continue to improve LACERA's service delivery. Some of those efforts

strengthen efficiency behind the scenes, while others are designed to empower you with expanded service access. An exciting example is the future LACERA mobile app, for which we kicked off planning in July. The app will provide secure, customized, on-the-go access to your pension information and benefit services.

We are currently gathering the requirements for setting the development phases and implementation timeline. The mobile app is a top priority for LACERA and a project close to my heart, so I will share more details as we reach key milestones. Stay tuned!

LACERA Board Elections

In August, elections were held for trustee positions on both LACERA's boards. We hope you took part!

General members voted for the second seats on both the Board of Retirement and Board of Investments, while retired members voted for the eighth seat on the Board of Investments. The eighth seat and Alternate Retired Trustee seat on the Board of Retirement were uncontested, so incumbents Les Robbins and J.P. Harris will automatically serve new terms from January 2027 through December 2029.

The Board of Supervisors will announce official results on October 20. Since that date is after the publication of this newsletter, we will announce the

results on lacera.gov, social media, and in next issue's Accomplishments section.

Welcome, Jessica Baxter

LACERA welcomed new Chief Administrative Officer Jessica Baxter to the team on May 4. Jessica brings decades of experience in budget oversight, administrative services, human capital management, and procurement with large federal agencies to LACERA. She is already overseeing some of our most important strategic initiatives, including workforce development and culture, resource planning, and the management tools and training that support them. We are excited to have her on board! Learn more about Jessica's professional background and dedication to public service in our Q&A below.

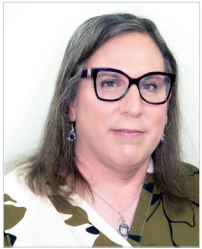
The Season of Giving Is Already Underway

In every issue, our Community Corner section provides meaningful volunteer and donation opportunities to make giving back simple. Whether you sponsor a family for the holidays, participate in a jury, or donate in honor of a veteran, please check out Community Corner on page 10 for ways to help. Our impact is greater together—and when combined with the efforts of others, even a modest contribution of time, resources, or support can make a real difference.

For all you do every day, thank you. We are proud to serve you!



Leading With Purpose and Compassion: Meet New Chief Administrative Officer Jessica Baxter



Jessica Baxter

LACERA is pleased to introduce Jessica Baxter, who joined our senior leadership team on May 4. She brings more than 30 years of public-sector leadership experience to her role—including executive positions with the U.S. Marshals Service, Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, and Department of the Army.

As Chief Administrative Officer, Jessica oversees the Administrative Services, Financial and Accounting Services, Human Resources, and Communications divisions. In the last few months, she has been getting to know the organization's operations, processes, and teams, while providing valuable input and identifying opportunities for continued progress. In a recent interview, Jessica shared insights about her background, what motivates her, and how she approaches leadership.

You've held numerous executive positions in federal agencies. How is it different working for a smaller, County-based organization?

One of the most meaningful differences for me is the closeness to the mission and the people we serve. In large federal agencies, the scope and scale of the work is significant, but it can sometimes feel more distant from the

individuals directly impacted by our decisions. At LACERA, the work feels more immediate and personal. We are supporting our members—many of whom we interact with directly—and that creates a powerful sense of responsibility and purpose.

While the organizational scope may be smaller, the importance of the mission is no less significant. In fact, it's amplified. The decisions we make have a direct and tangible impact on people's financial security and their lives. That keeps the mission front and center every day and reinforces the importance of being accessible, responsive, and service-oriented as leaders.

What drives you as a public servant, and how has your motivation evolved over the years?

President George H. W. Bush once said, "Public service is a noble calling," and that has stayed with me throughout my career. For me, that calling has always been rooted in understanding that behind every policy, every process, and every decision are real people who rely on us—often during some of the most important or difficult moments of their lives.

One of the defining moments that shaped my perspective was serving at the Pentagon on September 11. I supported the part of the building where the plane struck. The very next day, September 12, I was back in the building in a meeting with the Deputy Chief of Staff for Army Operations. He was



LACERA Accomplishments

LACERA CIO Jonathan Grabel Named to 2026 Elite Institutional CIOs List



Jonathan Grabel

Congratulations to Chief Investment Officer Jonathan Grabel, who was honored with the 2026 Allocator Lifetime Achievement Award from *Institutional Investor*. The award recognizes his significant contributions to public pension investing and leadership within the investment industry. Since joining LACERA in 2017, Grabel has helped advance the organization's investment program through initiatives such as expanding co-investments, evolving portfolio construction strategies, and fostering a collaborative approach to investment decision-making. His work supports LACERA's mission to produce, protect, and provide the promised benefits to members by strengthening the long-term stability of the retirement fund.

Advocating for You at the State Capitol

LACERA Chief Executive Officer Luis A. Lugo and Legislative Affairs Officer Barry Lew recently completed their annual visit with members of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation in Sacramento. The delegation brings together state lawmakers representing districts throughout Los Angeles County to advocate for county priorities and community needs. These meetings help LACERA maintain strong relationships with policymakers while staying informed about legislative issues that may affect public retirement systems and the members they serve.



Luis Lugo (left) and Barry Lew (right) visited Sacramento to meet with state legislators and discuss issues affecting public retirement systems and LACERA members.

LACERA Supports Annual School Supply Drive

In August, LACERA participated in the Department of Public Social Services' annual School Supply Drive, to help provide children served by the agency with everything they need this fall. Coordinated by LACERA's Employee Council Team, every division pitched in to contribute backpacks, supplies, and donations, ensuring children in the community are properly equipped for learning and excited to get started.

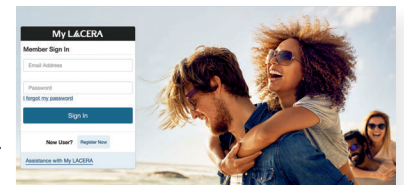


Tips for Booking LACERA Appointments

As the year-end approaches and members who plan to retire in 2027 begin the pre-retirement process, appointments are expected to be in high demand. Appointments are released up to 90 days in advance and may book quickly. If you go to lacera.gov to book a spot but don't see any availability, it means that released appointments have already been reserved. We recommend checking back daily, as a limited number of new appointments may become available each day.

My LACERA Is a Good Alternative

Remember that you can log into My LACERA (mylacera.gov) for many straightforward requests, no waiting required! Review your account, update your contact info or beneficiary, initiate a service credit purchase, create retirement benefit estimates, and more. And, for members who have already completed their one-on-one counseling sessions, you can apply online for service retirement, using the guided process for submitting your information and documents.



LACERA has over 120,000 active members working across dozens of County departments. Because it's important to recognize their contributions, we allocate space in every issue to get to know some of our hard-working members and find out more about what they do. While there are more deserving stories than we could ever tell in this space, know that we are grateful to all of you for making L.A. County a better place!

Bernie Buenafior **Chief, LACERA Quality Assurance Division**

Quality Assurance Chief Bernie Buenafior retired on March 31 after 26 years of dedicated service to LACERA. In his role, he provided quality control for LACERA's member operations. His work was instrumental in preparing staff to serve members with accuracy, consistency, and care.



Bernie began his LACERA career in 2000 in the Internal Audit Division, where he rose to the role of Principal Auditor. He later became Division Manager of the Benefits Division (then known as the Claims Processing Division), where he helped establish key units, including the Process Management Group and the Benefits Protection Unit. He also served as Interim Assistant Executive Officer, collaborating with executive leadership on organization-wide initiatives. He played a significant role in revising regulations to create a more equitable basis for calculating previous service purchases.

Among his proudest career accomplishments, Bernie lists the intangible impact he's had on LACERA—including fostering a culture of collaboration and trust across the various divisions he was a part of. He is also proud of being a part of LACERA's push toward technology and innovation.

In his retirement, Bernie looks forward to spending more time with his family. They plan to move to Arizona, where they own a hobby farm. Bernie has always dreamed of a simple life in retirement, enjoying art, nature, and his animals—and he is now living that dream!

Dushyant Bala **Administrative Services Manager, Dept. of Consumer and Business Affairs**

Dushyant Bala retired in June after 26 years of dedicated service to Los Angeles County. He began his County career in the Agricultural Commissioner Weights and Measures Department before moving to the Parks and Recreation Department. In his most recent role, Dushyant's responsibilities included risk management, contract monitoring, and workplace operations.



For Dushyant, the most meaningful aspect of his career was serving the public. He took great pride in supporting improvements to parks and community spaces during his time with the Parks and Recreation Department.

In his retirement, Dushyant is looking ahead to the next chapter of his life. He began a master's program at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona in August. He will be studying American history, Indian history, and hopes to one day teach at a community college. In his spare time, he plans to continue practicing yoga, playing tennis, and public speaking.

Continued Growth Amid Unpredictability

Over the past several months, LACERA's Investments Division has navigated a rapidly changing market environment marked by inflation, global trade uncertainty, and the accelerating impact of AI-driven investment. These factors are great examples of the unpredictable nature of investing, and why LACERA remains committed to our strategic asset allocation rather than reacting to the short-term.

This disciplined approach has made it possible for LACERA's total Assets Under Management (AUM) to break the \$100 billion mark for the first time in our existence, despite the previously mentioned challenges.

Pension Fund and OPEB Trust Updates

LACERA shared the following updates on the Pension Fund (Fund) and Other Post-Employments Benefits Trust (OPEB) at the July 8 Board of Investments (BOI) meeting. May was another month of growth for both

the Fund and the OPEB. The Fund posted a net gain of 2 percent net month over month, raising the AUM total market value to a new high-water mark of \$93.9 billion. Cash equivalents remained steady at \$1.2 billion.

Meanwhile, the OPEB saw a monthly net return of 2.2 percent, raising the AUM to a new high-water mark of its own at \$6.3 billion. Cash equivalents stood at \$199 million as of the end of the month.

Watch Every BOI Meeting Online

You can watch live streams and past BOI meetings on our YouTube channel, at www.youtube.com/@lacera2580.



Retirement Security That Strengthens Communities, cont. from cover

The study found that pension spending supports industries ranging from healthcare and housing to retail and financial services. Business owners, employees, and suppliers all benefit as pension income continues to circulate through the economy.

A Steady Source of Support for Local Businesses and Services

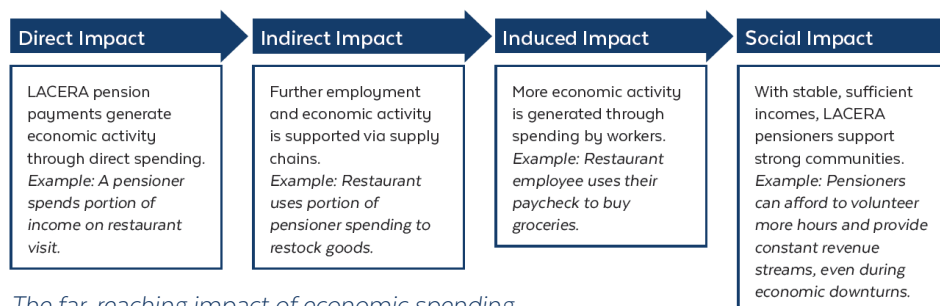
One of the defining features of pension income is its consistency. Benefits continue to be paid regardless of economic conditions, providing a dependable source of spending that local businesses can count on. That stability helps support economic activity during both strong and challenging periods. In other words, your pension contributes to a reliable stream of spending that helps communities weather economic uncertainty.

The findings are especially meaningful because so many LACERA retirees remain in the communities they served during their careers. More than **77,000 retirees and survivors** receive LACERA pension benefits nationwide. Approximately 83 percent reside in California, and nearly 42,800 live in Los Angeles County. Their spending

contributes to economic activity in neighborhoods throughout the region.

Pension spending also generates significant tax revenue. The analysis found that LACERA pension benefits generated **\$527 million in state and local tax revenue statewide** and \$673 million in federal tax revenue. Within Los Angeles County, pension spending generated approximately \$750 million in combined tax revenue, helping fund public services and infrastructure.

The following graphic shows how pension payments flow into local economies through the daily purchases made by retirees and survivors. Taken together, those individual decisions have a meaningful impact on businesses, workers, and communities throughout the state.



The far-reaching impact of economic spending.

understandably frustrated that we could not immediately hire an intelligence specialist to meet an urgent need. While the conversation was difficult, it reinforced something that has stayed with me ever since—the critical role the administrative workforce plays in enabling the mission. Even when we are not on the front lines, our ability to act, respond, and support has direct consequences for mission success.

Later that same day, I met with family members who were experiencing some of the worst moments of their lives. In those conversations, my role shifted. It was no longer about operational urgency—it was about compassion, presence, and helping them navigate benefits and support systems in any way I could. Those moments reminded me that public service is not just about systems and processes; it is about showing up for people with empathy, dignity, and care.

Early in my career, I was driven by a strong sense of duty and the desire to contribute. Today, that motivation has matured into a deeper sense of responsibility to lead with purpose, ensure our teams understand their impact, and create environments where people feel connected to the mission. I am driven by the opportunity to make a difference not only in outcomes, but in how we support one another as public servants.

At its core, what drives me has remained constant: a belief that this work matters, that people depend on us, and that there is truly no greater calling than serving others.

How do you inspire and get the best performance from your teams?

I would describe my management style as servant leadership,

grounded in meeting people where they are—not where I am. That principle is important to me because every person brings different experiences, strengths, and challenges to the workplace. My role as a leader is to understand that, to listen, and to create the conditions where each individual can succeed and contribute meaningfully to the mission.

I believe you inspire performance by connecting people to purpose. When individuals understand how their work directly impacts the organization and the people we serve, it creates a deeper level of ownership and pride. I make it a priority to consistently reinforce that connection—whether someone is in a frontline or administrative role—because every role matters and contributes to the broader mission.

Finally, I believe in recognition and development. People do their best work when they feel seen, valued, and invested in. I strive to acknowledge contributions—both large and small—and to create opportunities for growth so individuals can continue to develop and expand their impact.

What are you most focused on moving forward?

As I continue to learn more about LACERA, I see strong opportunities to build on an already solid foundation. Our greatest strength is our people and their deep connection to the members we serve. By improving hiring and procurement, strengthening communication, recognizing employee contributions, and expanding leadership development, we are investing in the teams and tools needed to serve members more effectively. These efforts will help LACERA remain responsive, reliable, and focused on supporting members throughout their retirement journey.

 **Highlight On
Filipino American
History Month**

Every October, LACERA joins the nation in celebrating Filipino American History Month (FAHM) to honor the history, pursuits, accomplishments, and legacy of Filipino Americans. The Filipino American National Historical Society first began celebrating FAHM in 1992, and October was chosen to honor the arrival of the first Filipinos in the United States—Morro Bay, California to be exact—on October 15, 1587. After years of advocacy, FAHM was officially recognized by Congress in 2009.

FAHM carries a special significance in Los Angeles County. The County is home to over four million people of Filipino descent, the largest concentration in the world outside of Manila. Filipino culture is ever-present throughout Los Angeles neighborhoods, including Historic Filipinotown (HiFi), which serves as a center for preserving Filipino heritage and fostering community. We encourage you to join one of the many FAHM celebrations this October, whether it's the annual Kultura Pilipino Day (at Disneyland!), the Natural History Museum's Celebration of the Filipino American Community, or any of the other special events.

Sources: www.loc.gov, www.asianart.org, www.fanhs-national.org, www.filcom.org

Heritage Months	September • Sep 15-Oct 15: Hispanic Heritage Month • German American Heritage Month	October • Disability Employment Awareness Month • Italian American Heritage Month	November • Native American Heritage Month/American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

Domestic Partnerships: Important Reminder to Register With the State of California

Your survivor's eligibility for LACERA benefits depends on it!

As part of serving you and your family, we are committed to helping you understand survivor benefit provisions and domestic partnership regulations so you can make informed decisions and protect your survivor's eligibility for benefits.

If you have a registered domestic partnership, be sure to doublecheck your paperwork. **You must be registered with the California Secretary of State for your domestic partner to be eligible for LACERA survivor benefits.** A County-issued domestic partnership registration does not qualify your partner for LACERA benefits nor, with any certainty, do partnerships registered outside of California, which are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Because of this registration issue, LACERA has encountered tragic situations in which an active member died, and their domestic partner was not considered an eligible survivor for a continuing allowance and healthcare. In addition to the pain of losing their loved one, the surviving partner lost their financial security as well.

Steps to Take Now

Because tomorrow is never guaranteed, take the time now to ensure your family will receive the benefits they are entitled to as quickly and smoothly as possible in case something happens to you.

- 1) **If you haven't designated a LACERA beneficiary or don't know your designation(s):**

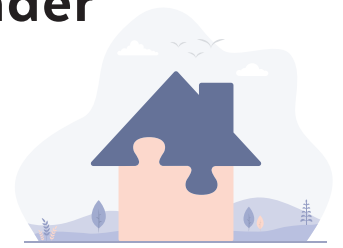
Check now by logging in to My LACERA at home.mylacera.gov and clicking the Beneficiaries tab. Make any needed updates, especially if you have had any kind of life event.

- 2) **If you have any type of domestic partner registration:** Log in to My LACERA to update your beneficiary designation and upload your registration certificate as soon as possible so we can confirm eligibility.

- 3) **If you're unsure whether LACERA has confirmed your domestic partnership registration:** Log in to My LACERA and go to the Member Document Library. Review any certificate confirmation letters from LACERA to see whether we reviewed and accepted your domestic partnership registration.

For additional information regarding eligible beneficiaries, please visit the Eligible Beneficiaries page on lacera.gov.

Contact LACERA if you have questions about your beneficiaries, domestic partnership, or certificate on file. You can send us a secure message via My LACERA or call us at 800-786-6464.



3 Things: Special Delivery

If you're reading the printed version of this *Pathways* newsletter, you are a part of a sophisticated postal system that traces its roots to ancient Egypt, where pharaohs used couriers to send out decrees throughout the Egyptian territory. Thousands of years later, in 1874, the United Postal

Union was created in an effort to standardize international mail delivery. In 1969, the United Postal Congress officially declared October 9 as World Post Day to honor the UPU's anniversary. Here are three fun facts to celebrate World Post Day 2026!



The modern envelope was born in England in the 1800s to provide a simple and effective way to protect written correspondence.



The world's first postage stamp was introduced in the United Kingdom in 1840. It became known as the penny black, as it used black ink and cost one cent.



108.7 billion pieces of mail were mailed out by the United States Postal Service in 2025 alone.

Bonus Fact! LACERA's Administrative Services Division processed a total of 412,917 pieces of mail for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Who Would Handle Your LACERA Benefits if You Couldn't?

Life is easier when the right plans are already in place. That is especially true when it comes to your LACERA benefits.

LACERA has updated its Special Power of Attorney materials, including the guide, form, and instructions. Find them on lacera.gov > Resource Center > Forms and Publications > Change Your Personal Information. The updated materials are designed to be clearer and easier to use, so you can make informed choices about who may act on your behalf for LACERA benefit-related matters.

The Purpose of a Power of Attorney and the Role of Your Attorney-in-Fact

A LACERA Special Power of Attorney lets you appoint someone you trust as your Attorney-In-Fact. This person can help with LACERA matters if you need support, including retirement benefit elections, beneficiary designations, address changes, tax withholding elections, direct deposit, retirement applications, and LACERA-administered healthcare plan choices.

One key update appears in Section 5 of the form. You must now choose when your Power of Attorney becomes effective and

whether it continues if you become incapacitated. There is no default selection, so you will need to initial one option for LACERA to accept the form.

Having a current LACERA Special Power of Attorney on file is a simple way to help protect your benefits and give your loved ones a clearer path forward. It can help ensure that someone you trust is able to assist with your LACERA matters if you are ever unable to act for yourself.

Without a valid Power of Attorney that allows someone to act when needed, LACERA may be unable to process certain benefit-related changes or transactions until a court-appointed conservator is named.

Because a Power of Attorney is a legal document, you may wish to consult an attorney before completing it, especially if you have questions about whom to appoint or which

authority to grant. LACERA can answer questions about the form, but cannot provide legal advice.

Take a few minutes to review the updated LACERA Special Power of Attorney Guide, form, and instructions. Putting a current Power of Attorney on file now can help make things smoother later—for you and for the people you trust.



The following content was provided by the Retired Employees of Los Angeles County and does not constitute an endorsement by LACERA.

Retirement Starts Now—Before You Retire

Act Today! Join RELAC for Free. You have worked hard to earn your pension and retirement benefits. The best time to protect and understand them is **before you retire—not after**. That's why the Retired Employees of Los Angeles County (RELAC) offers free Affiliate Membership to active (working) Los Angeles County employees.

But there is one important requirement: You must enroll before you retire. Once you retire, the opportunity to join as a free Affiliate Member is no longer available. Many employees wait until retirement to learn about their pension, healthcare benefits, and retirement resources. By then, important decisions have already been made. RELAC helps you stay informed, prepared, and connected while you are still working—so you can enter retirement with confidence instead of uncertainty.

Why Should You Join RELAC?

- **Protect your pension:** When benefit-related proposals arise at the County or state level, RELAC helps review the impact on retirees to protect earned benefits.
- **Stay informed before decisions are made:** Receive timely updates on pension issues, healthcare,

legislation, and retirement-related developments—so you are informed.

- **Enjoy exclusive member experiences:** Connect with fellow County employees and retirees through Dodger games, Hollywood Bowl concerts, golf tournaments, and other activities.

What an Affiliate Member Says

"I joined RELAC a few years before I retired from Los Angeles County. The updates, education, and access to information helped me understand my benefits and prepare for retirement. When I retired, I felt informed and confident about my decisions."

— Maria G., Retired County Employee

Join Now—It's Free Today, Invaluable Tomorrow

Call: (800) 537-3522

Visit: RELAC.org

Scan the QR Code

Because retirement doesn't start on your retirement date, it starts with the decisions you make today.



Community Corner

LACERA members contribute to the well-being of our community through both their professional and volunteer efforts. Because of your engagement, we regularly receive requests from County partners to share meaningful donation, volunteer, and work opportunities, listed below. Thank you for giving back and making a positive impact—on and off the job!

Adopt-A-Family for the Holiday Season!

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) is gearing up for its annual Adopt-A-Family Program, which runs from October through December. This special program gives individuals and groups the opportunity to sponsor families in need currently served by DPSS. Every year, DPSS provides gifts of clothing, toys, food, and other items to over 2,000 families.



Sponsors and groups can choose the family size, general location, and number of families they would

like to sponsor, and there is no limit. Once a sponsor is matched, they can review the family's wish list and decide what and how to give.

Visit <https://dpss.lacounty.gov/en/community/volunteer.html> for more information.



Volunteer to Serve on the Civil Grand Jury

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County is seeking qualified citizens interested in serving on the Civil Grand Jury, an independent investigative body composed of 23 citizens. The Civil Grand Jury monitors the performance and activities of county, city, and special district governments, and makes recommendations for improvement to ensure that the

best interests of Los Angeles County residents are being served.

The application deadline is November 1, 2026. For an application and more information, visit www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us. If you have any questions, please contact Grand Jury Administration at grandjury@lacourt.ca.gov or (213) 893-0411.



Let's Feed L.A.! Join the LACERA-RELAC Veterans Day Donation Drive

Approaching Veterans Day, LACERA has joined forces with the Retired Employees of Los Angeles County (RELAC) to feed our community in honor of those who have served our country. Donations go directly to the L.A. Regional Food Bank, and the drive is ongoing.

RELAC and LACERA members have donated more than \$11,000 this year—let's keep that number growing!

Visit give.lafoodbank.org/relac-lacera to donate now, or scan the QR code.



Follow LACERA on Social Media

Keep tabs on LACERA on social media and learn something new about your pension or retiree healthcare while you scroll. We post frequently on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, so follow us on your favorite platform and get connected today! Just scan the QR code on the right to get started.



Your Frequently Asked Questions—Answered

You may already know that your County of Los Angeles Service Center is a phone call or mouse click away, but what if you have a question late at night, or after hours on the weekends? We've gathered the top three questions the Service Center receives, and the answers to each.

#1. How do I enroll?

Enrolling is a quick and easy self-serve process!

- 1) Go to www.countyla.com or download the Empower mobile app, then select Register.
- 2) Choose the *I do not have a PIN option*.
- 3) Input the requested three data points to authenticate your identity.
- 4) Follow the prompts to create your username and password.

#2. Where can I find past statements?

If you have opted to receive electronic statements, accessing them is another quick and easy self-serve process:

- 1) Log in at www.countyla.com.
- 2) Select *Account* from the top menu.
- 3) Hover over the plan you want to view.
- 4) Select *Statements and documents* from the pop-up menu.

From here, you'll be able to access your account statements for the last seven years. If you need one from more than seven years ago, you'll need to call the Service Center at the number listed below. If you'd like to sign up for electronic statements, log in to your account and click your initials

in the top right corner, then select settings to access your *Document Communication Preferences*.

#3. What are termination pay contributions?

During your County career, you may accrue sick, vacation, or other types of leave that may be paid to you in cash upon your termination from County service. This cash amount is referred to as termination pay. You may elect to contribute a portion of your termination pay to your 457(b) Horizons Plan, and/or 401(k) Savings account, which, together with your other contributions for the year, cannot exceed the annual contribution limit applicable to you.

There are important deadlines for termination pay elections, and the process typically takes 90 days to complete. You can read more about termination pay contributions and how to begin them at www.countyla.com by selecting *Plan resources* in the top menu, then *Things to consider*. If you have questions about the amount of your termination pay, please contact your department's payroll office.

Of course, if you have further questions about any of these or any other topics or would like some assistance with one of these processes, give us a call at 800-947-0845 Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Pacific Time.

We also have several FAQs available in the Plan Resources section of our website at www.countyla.com, covering beneficiaries, loans, and more!



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Upcoming Holidays

LACERA will be closed on:

Monday, September 7
For Labor Day

Wednesday, November 11
For Veterans Day

Monday, October 12
For Indigenous Peoples Day

**Thursday and Friday,
November 26 and 27**
For Thanksgiving

Join Us: Webinars for Your Career Level

It's always the right time to prepare for retirement, no matter where you are in your career! To browse upcoming sessions and register online, visit lacera.gov, click on the Resource Center tile, then the Workshops page. We look forward to seeing you soon!

- **New Hire Orientations** are held monthly on the first Wednesday, with additional sessions as needed, in partnership with Empower. This workshop is for new and recent hires—those with fewer than two years at L.A. County—and employees who want a refresher on their pension and 457(b) or 401(k) plans.
- **Mid-Career Workshops** are held monthly, co-presented with Empower. This seminar is for early- to mid-career members who want to stay on track for retirement; it covers retirement eligibility, plan

transfers, purchasing service credit, and leaving service.

- **Pre-Retirement and Retiree Healthcare Workshops** are held Tuesdays in partnership with Empower. These comprehensive workshops offer retirement strategies and benefits information, including medical, dental/vision, and long-term care insurance.

Additional Sessions

Rotating topics include the LACERA Special Power of Attorney, My LACERA, Retirement Options, Death Benefits, Domestic Partnership, and Empower mini-webinars.



Email: welcome@lacera.gov

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