



SENATOR

JOHN M. W. MOORLACH

THIRTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT

FACT SHEET

Senate Constitutional Amendment 10 – Public Pension Transparency

BILL SUMMARY

Senate Constitutional Amendment (SCA) 10 will prohibit public employers from increasing retirement benefits for their employees without two-thirds voter approval.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Growing unfunded public pension obligations will have serious ramifications for future generations unless changes are made to California's public employee retirement systems. California has more unfunded liabilities than any other state.¹

Recent reforms were a great start to addressing California's pension crisis; but substantial changes are still needed. Additionally, taxpayers who bear a significant cost of public employee pensions should have a voice if those costs are increased.

It is certainly in the interest of all Californians to encourage pensions that provide reasonable retirement benefits for our public workers. It is also very important to provide a fair, workable plan to pay down the accumulated pension debt as quickly as possible – and to reduce future obligations. By requiring two-thirds voter approval for increased retirement benefits the legislature would be taking a very important step toward fiscal responsibility.

THIS BILL

Unions negotiate with elected officials for increased retirement benefits and pay raises. This bill requires that any increase to pension benefits must also be passed with a two-thirds voter approval from the electorate of the applicable jurisdiction.

This constitutional amendment does not prohibit public employees from receiving additional retirement benefits. SCA 10 simply requires approval from the very taxpayers who are going to be responsible for paying the generous public employee retirement benefits such as increased retirement formula, cost-of-living adjustments, and reduced retirement age.

RELATED LEGISLATION

- Measure J, Orange County. Passed in 2008 with over 75% voter approval.
- Measure B, San Jose. Passed in 2012 with nearly 70% voter approval.
- Proposition B, San Diego. Passed in 2012 with over 65% voter approval.
- California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013.
- California Public Vote on Pensions Initiative (2016). Proposed constitutional amendment, failed to make 11/8/2016 ballot.

SUPPORT

City of Huntington Beach
Mayor Pro Tem Allan Mansoor, City of Costa Mesa

OPPOSITION

California Retired Teachers Association
California Teachers Association
California Federation of Teachers
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges
Association of California School Administrators
California State Teachers' Retirement System
AFSCME
California Police Chiefs Association
California Association of Highway Patrolmen
Peace Officers Research Association of California

¹ <https://www.alec.org/app/uploads/2016/10/2016-10-13-Unaccountable-and-Unaffordable.pdf> (page 8)

CAL FIRE Local 2881
Orange County Employees Association
Professional Engineers in California Government
California Association of Professional Scientists
Retired Public Employees Association
California Professional Firefighters
Los Angeles County Professional Peach Officers
Association
Orange County Professional Firefighters Association
Service Employees International Union
United Public Employees

CONTACT

Spencer Street
spencer.street@sen.ca.gov, (916) 651-4037

