

No School, Judge, or Patrol COLA for 2015

Each July 1, the rate of inflation is reviewed to determine if the monthly retirement benefit issued to School, Judge, and Patrol retirees is eligible for a cost-of-living (COLA) adjustment. This COLA is intended to help offset inflation and is designed to keep benefits in step with the changing economy. *When economic factors increase the prices consumer pay for goods and services*, the COLA reflects these increases by raising benefits accordingly.

Per Nebraska statute, School, Judge, and Patrol plan COLA's shall be determined using the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) during the previous fiscal year. CPI-W rates are developed by the U.S. Department of Labor and track the changes in the prices paid by consumers on a "representative basket of goods and services."

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, the CPI-W rate experienced a *decrease* of 0.383%. As a result, School, Judges, and State Patrol benefits are not eligible for a COLA for the current fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015.

