

# RETIREE UPDATE

For School, Judges, & Patrol Retirees | January 2026 | Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems

## 2026 Benefit Payment Schedule

For School, Judges, & Patrol Retirees



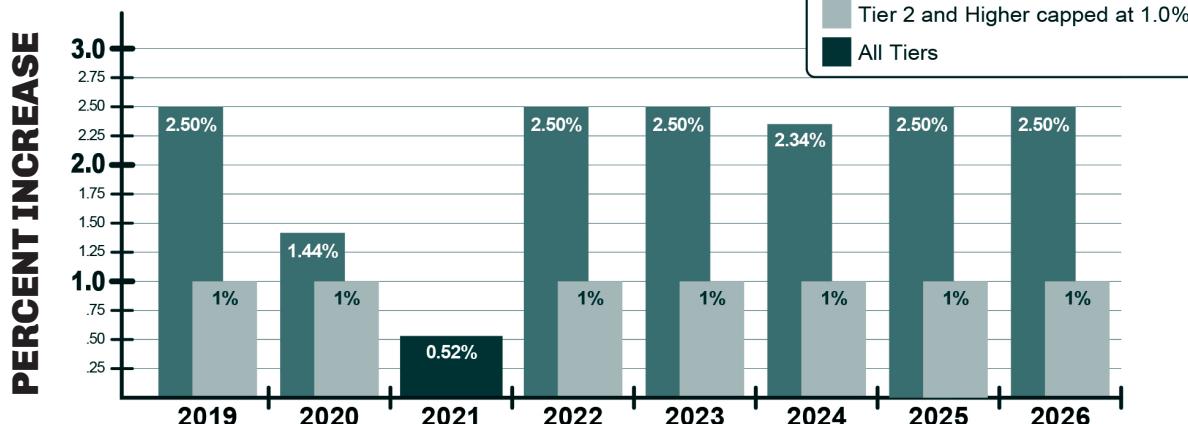
### COLA Increases 2.5% & 1.0%

Effective July 1, 2025, eligible School, Judges, and Patrol retirees received a cost of living adjustment (COLA) in their monthly benefit distributions. The COLA is calculated using the consumer price index and may be capped at 2.5% or 1.0% per plan provisions.

For the year ending June 30, 2025, the CPI increase was 2.56%. As a result, School, Judges, and State Patrol retirees received a 2.5% increase if their tier of benefits includes the 2.5% cap. Retirees with a COLA cap of 1.0% received a 1.0% increase.

NPERS issued correspondence to all affected retirees at the end of July. If you were eligible for the COLA increase, the letter explained the type of COLA and the actual dollar amount of your increase. If you have questions about the COLA, please refer to your plan handbook or contact NPERS.

### Cost of Living Adjustments



# Understanding Your 1099-R

NPERS' staff are **NOT** certified to provide any kind of advisement regarding taxation or your specific tax situation.

# What is new at NPERS for 2025

**New Contribution Rates for the School Plan.** Beginning July 1, 2025, contribution rates will vary each year based on the Nebraska School plan's funded status. The current funded status is **99.91%**. For the 2025-26 fiscal year, members will contribute **8.00%**, employers will contribute **8.08%**, and the State of Nebraska will contribute **0.70%**. These rates are adjusted each July 1 based on actuarial valuation results.

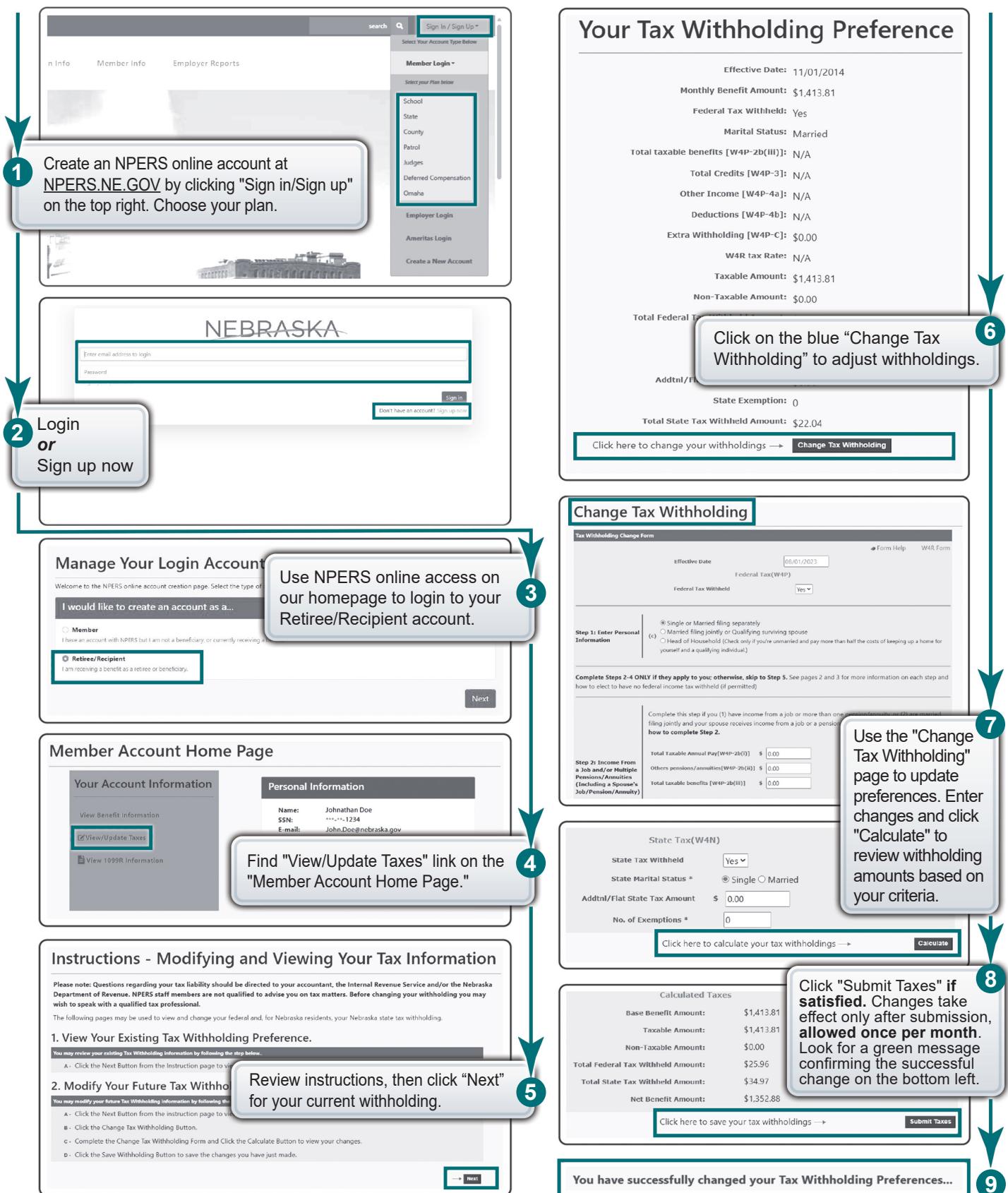
Funded Status	Employee	Employer	State
100% or above	7.25%	7.32%	0.00%
At least 98% but less than 100%	8.00%	8.08%	0.70%
At least 96% but less than 98%	8.75%	8.84%	0.70%
Less than 96%	9.75%	9.85%	2.00%

**Based on the most recent actuarial valuation, the School Plan is funded at 102.1%.** This means that effective **July 1, 2026**, the employee contribution rate will be **7.25%**, the school employer contribution rate will be **7.3225%**, and the State of Nebraska contribution will be **0.00%**.

**Funding Matters.** Funding shows the financial health of each plan. The Nebraska School Plan reported a funded ratio of 102.1%, the Judges Plan reported 105.1%, and the State Patrol Plan reported 84.3%. Due to changes in contribution rates and benefits over the past decade, the School Plan's funded status has improved from 77.2% in 2013. The OSERS (Omaha School) Plan funded status is funded to 59%. The State of Nebraska Plan was funded at 100.7% and the Nebraska County Plan was funded at 101.8%. This resulted in a dividend for Cash Balance participants of 0.95% for State and 0.84% for County. A higher percentage indicates a stronger ability to continue paying benefits to members. A higher funded status provides peace of mind for everyone in the plan.

# Change Your Tax Withholding Online

Retirees who have **created an NPERS account** can change the taxes withheld on their pension/annuity payments.



# TIPS FOR PREVENTING FRAUD

Hang up the phone if you feel uneasy. Scammers create a sense of urgency to make you act quickly and give them money. If something feels off, hang up and call a verified number for the person or organization to confirm they are contacting you.

Be suspicious if someone asks you to pay using gift cards or cryptocurrency (such as Bitcoin). Scammers can trick intelligent people with elaborate schemes, leading victims to lose thousands at a Bitcoin ATM, money they cannot get back.

If a loved one unexpectedly asks for money, verify it is really them, use a family verbal password or a question

only they would know. Even in a crisis, it's okay to confirm who you are speaking to; this could save you a huge sum of money.

People can fall for romance scams due to loneliness. Combat this by maintaining social connections: join a book club, volunteer, host neighbors for card games, or take a class. The holidays can be a vulnerable time, when family and friends may be far away. Don't let the holiday blues put your bank account at risk.

Use these quick tips to keep yourself and your loved ones safe from scams and fraudsters targeting your hard-earned retirement. Happy Holidays!



NEBRASKA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

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## RETIREE UPDATE

NEBRASKA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

PROVIDING INFORMATION TO RETIREES  
OF NEBRASKA'S SCHOOL, JUDGES  
AND PATROL RETIREMENT PLANS

PHONE: 402-471-2053  
TOLL FREE: 800-245-5712  
FAX: 402-471-9493

NPERS.NE.GOV



To update your address or to request a form, fill out the request below and return it to NPERS at P.O. Box 94816, Lincoln, NE 68509.

## ADDRESS CHANGE/REQUEST FORM

Please use this form to notify NPERS  
when you change your mailing address  
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Signature (A SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED FOR AN ADDRESS CHANGE.)

If you need additional information or a form,  
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