

911 Telecommunicator Pension Survey

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A 2021 law requires the establishment of a working group to study whether 911 telecommunicators should receive enhanced pension benefits. Currently most 911 telecommunicators in Minnesota are covered by the PERA General Plan (county and municipal employees) or the MSRS General Plan (state employees).

The law requires the working group to “recommend whether changes to the pension plan coverage for 911 telecommunicators are appropriate. If the working group finds that such changes are appropriate, the working group must recommend changes to the pension plan coverage for 911 telecommunicators. The recommended changes may include but are not limited to moving 911 telecommunicators to the correctional plans.”

The working group is considering a variety of enhancements, including changing the age at which 911 telecommunicators can retire with a full pension to an earlier retirement age, such as at age 55. The working group is also considering whether 911 telecommunicators should be transferred from the General Plans to the Correctional Plans.

The working group has just begun to meet and is in the information-gathering stage. For more information on the group, please see the LCPR website at www.lcpr.leg.mn/911WorkGroup.htm.

With help from the staff of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement (LCPR), which is the legislative commission that oversees the state’s public pension plans, the Chair of the working group, Dar Pankonie, has prepared this survey to give 911 telecommunicators an opportunity to provide feedback to the working group.

The recommendations of the working group may eventually result in changes to pension benefits for telecommunicators. However, the LCPR will ultimately decide whether to follow the recommendations of the working group or not. Even with LCPR approval, any changes to pension benefits will require legislation to be passed by both the House and Senate and signed by the Governor before the changes can take effect.

Your answers to this survey will be provided anonymously to the Chair and LCPR staff. Your response and the results of the survey will not be used for any purpose other than to inform the working group. We do not want you to identify yourself, except to provide your agency, position, age, years of service, annual base salary, and the public pension plan of which you are a member. This specific information is VITAL to doing an accurate cost assessment.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. Please respond as soon as possible, and no later than Monday, October 18, 2021.

911 Telecommunicator Pension Survey

Survey of 911 Telecommunicators Employed by a County or City

Questions 1 to 6 seek the MANDATORY information necessary for the 911 Telecommunicator Pension Working Group. All 6 questions must be answered to validate the survey.

The results of this survey will be presented in aggregate to ensure the anonymity of survey respondents.

* 1. Agency Name. Choose your agency name from the below list.

* 2. Position Title

NOTE: Select exact title used by your agency's human resource department. If your exact title is not listed, enter it in the "Other" box below.

Other (please specify)

* 3. What is your age? Round to the nearest whole number in years.

* 4. How many years of service do you have? Round to the nearest whole number.

NOTE: Years of Service should be the TOTAL years of service in all 9-1-1 communication positions in the State of Minnesota (all pension qualifying).

* 5. What is your current annual base salary? **Do not include a dollar sign or commas.**

NOTE: do not include overtime pay or any other pay that is not salary (e.g. uniform, cell phone, training, parking).

* 6. What pension plan covers your current employment?

- PERA Coordinated (General) Plan
- PERA Correctional Plan
- PERA Police and Fire Plan
- MSRS General Plan

Comparing Pension Features

Compare the features of the PERA Coordinated (General) Plan to the PERA Correctional Plan:

Coordinated Plan:

- Pension: 1.7% X years of service X high five salary
- 100% vested at 5 years of service
- Employee contribution rate: 6.5% of salary
- Normal retirement age (full pension age): 65 (or 66 if hired after 1989)
- Annual cost of living increase for retirees is one half of inflation up to 1.5%

Correctional Plan:

- Pension: 1.9% X years of service X high five salary
- 50% vested at 5 years of service, increasing by 10% each year, until 100% vested at 10 years of service
- Employee contribution rate: 5.83% of salary
- Normal retirement age (full pension age): 55
- Annual cost of living increase for retirees equals the rate of inflation up to 2.5%

7. Indicate which plan you prefer and state why in the comment box:

- Coordinated Plan
- Correctional Plan

911 Telecommunicator Pension Survey

Prefer Coordinated (General) Plan

8. Why I prefer the Coordinated (General) Plan?

Prefer Correctional Plan

9. Why I prefer the Correctional Plan?

911 Telecommunicator Pension Survey

Benefits

10. Rank in order of importance to you, 1 = most important 7 = least important



Option to retire with a full pension at age 55



Bigger pension in terms of monthly payments after retirement



Legislative involvement to seek more pay



Legislative involvement to seek more mental health and other medical benefits



Legislative involvement to seek approval for more staff to share workload



Other (use comment box)



Increased leave benefits (e.g PTO, Vacation)

11. Enter your OTHER option for the ranking question.

911 Telecommunicator Pension Survey

Absences from work

These next several questions will be used to provide information to the working group about your workplace.

12. In the last 12 months, how many days did you miss work due a COVID diagnosis or quarantine?

13. In the last 12 months, how many days did you miss work due to work related stress? Do NOT include days included in the previous question.

14. In the last 12 months, how many days did you miss work due to a work related injury? Do NOT include days included in either of the previous two questions.

911 Telecommunicator Pension Survey

Schedules

15. What is your preferred schedule option?

- A shorter shift working more days per week?
- A longer shift working fewer days per week?

16. In the last 12 months, how many hours of overtime did you average per week?

17. What type of schedule do you currently work?

- 8 hours (fixed 5-2 pattern)
- 10 hours (fixed days)
- 10 hours (rotating days)
- Mix of 8 hours and 10 hours (rotating days)
- 12 hours (rotating pattern)
- 12 hours (fixed pattern)
- Other schedule (please specify hours and pattern):

18. Do you like your current schedule?

- Yes
- No

Current Schedule Positives

19. Why do you like your current schedule?

Current Schedule Negatives

20. Why don't you like your current schedule?

911 Telecommunicator Pension Survey

Effects of Age

21. Do you feel that your ability to perform your job effectively and efficiently has declined as you age?

Yes

No

911 Telecommunicator Pension Survey

Effects of Age on ability to perform job effectively and efficiently.

22. Please explain why you answered, YES, to this question.

911 Telecommunicator Pension Survey

Submit or Exit Survey

Your survey will be saved and submitted by clicking the "DONE" button.

If the survey is incomplete, please exit the survey [right upper corner] and come back another time. You will need to start over.

Please remember, only one submission per person.