



# Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

## LRTA Gubernatorial Candidate Survey

The Louisiana Retired Teachers Association (LRTA) adopts a list of legislative priorities each year. This list contains items that support the granting of periodic cost-of-living adjustments, maintaining the financial integrity of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL), and protecting the benefit structure offered by the retirement system. Although LRTA does not endorse candidates for public office, the association remains keenly interested in receiving support from elected officials on issues that are important to maintaining and improving the benefits needed to secure dignity and independence in retired life. LRTA would like to obtain your feelings about four issues that may come up during your term in office. Please take a minute to respond to the issues outlined below.

**Please return this survey by September 14, 2007 in the envelope provided or by faxing it to the LRTA office at 225.927.8838.**

1. Current law, specifically R.S. 11: 883.1. A. 3., states that: "In no event shall the amount in the employee experience account exceed the reserve necessary to grant two cost-of-living adjustments..." At the end of the current fiscal year, it is possible that TRSL will be depositing sufficient funds in the account from which COLAs are granted to fund three benefit adjustments.

- Will you support efforts to amend current law that would allow reserves in TRSL's Employee Experience Account to grow to an amount sufficient to fund COLAs in three consecutive years?  
\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No If not, please explain why.

2. LRTA supports the dedication of state revenues from the previous fiscal year, or the current fiscal year, for the purpose of paying down the initial unfunded accrued liability of TRSL. This liability exists because of the state's failure to properly fund benefit changes in the past.

- Will you provide in your Executive Budget recommendations a dedication of funds in the Supplemental and/or General Appropriations Bill(s) for the pay-down of TRSL's initial unfunded accrued liability?  
\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No If not, please explain why.

3. LRTA opposes any action that would consolidate TRSL with any other retirement system, and also opposes any action that would consolidate the assets of TRSL with any other retirement system.

- Will you be proposing the consolidation of any of the state retirement systems, specifically TRSL, or its assets, with any other retirement system? \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No If yes, please explain why.

4. TRSL offers a defined benefit plan to most of its members. There have been attempts to convert this plan design which guarantees a benefit based on years of service, salaries earned, and an accrual factor, to one that would be based on accounts that are self-invested by the member—a defined contribution plan.

- Will you be proposing any change in the benefit structure or retirement plan design currently being offered by TRSL?  
\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No If yes, please explain why.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date