

RETIREWISE



WRS RETIRED MEMBERS NEWSLETTER | FALL 2026



WYOMING RETIREMENT SYSTEM: FUELING OUR LOCAL ECONOMIES

In 2025, the Wyoming Retirement System (WRS) distributed nearly \$854 million in total benefits, and 78% remaining in Wyoming.

WRS pension payments serve as a steady economic engine for local communities across the state:

- * **\$666 Million Kept Local:** Equivalent to 4% of all statewide annual wages, supporting local businesses and services.

- * **27,419 In-State Payees:** Reaching 4.7% of Wyoming's population and supporting 11.5% of households statewide.



Tina M. Leiss
WRS Executive Director

WELCOME TO OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tina M. Leiss was appointed Executive Director of the Wyoming Retirement System in August 2026. She brings extensive leadership and executive experience in public pension administration, having previously served as Executive Officer and Operations Officer for the Public Employees' Retirement System of Nevada (NVPERS).

"You, our members, are the driving force behind our mission, and my commitment is to ensure you have the resources and strong representation you need to thrive now and in retirement."
- Tina M. Leiss, WRS Executive Director

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: COLA AND RETIREE BENEFIT DISCUSSIONS

During the recent legislative session, state lawmakers evaluated proposals regarding a one-time "13th check" and Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs).

- **Session Outcome:** No 13th check or COLA legislation was enacted during this session. Regular monthly pension benefit amounts remain unchanged.
- **Statutory Requirement:** By state statute, the WRS Board cannot recommend a COLA unless a plan is 100% funded and actuarial projections demonstrate that it will remain over 100% funded after the COLA recommendation is granted. (The Public Employees Plan currently stands at 82.5% funded).
- **Interim Legislative Work:** The WRS Board is actively working during the legislative interim to develop and provide COLA recommendations through the Joint Appropriations Committee for plans that meet full funding criteria.

Retiree Advocacy Notice

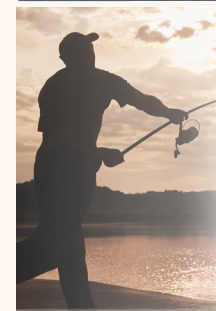
As a public state agency, WRS is prohibited by law from lobbying the state legislature on benefit adjustments or COLA legislation.

For independent advocacy, legislative updates, and retiree representation, retirees can connect with the **Wyoming Coalition for a Healthy Retirement (WCHR)**, an independent coalition dedicated to preserving public retiree financial security:

- **Website:** www.wchr307.org



RETIRE RESOURCES & BENEFITS



Pioneer Bird, Fish, and Small Game License

Wyoming residents aged 65+ who have lived in Wyoming for 30+ years (after age 10) qualify for a free permit from the Wyoming Game & Fish Department. Contact 307-777-4600 for details.

Automatic Monthly Pension Deductions



Simplify payments for approved insurance premiums or association dues via direct pension deduction.

View approved vendors at retirement.wyo.gov/retirees/monthly-retiree-deductions/.



1) Why is the "Harvest Moon" unique?

- A) It appears bright orange all night
- B) It rises much earlier in the evening
- C) It is the closest the moon gets to Earth all year
- D) It stays visible in the sky for 24 hours

2) Which U.S. state produces roughly 85% of the nation's pumpkins?

- A) Ohio B) New York C) Illinois D) Indiana

3) On the autumnal equinox, what is true everywhere on Earth?

- A) Day and night are approximately equal length
- B) It is the coldest day of the season
- C) Shadows are at their longest point of the year
- D) The sun sets directly due North

3) Which spice blend makes up Pumpkin Spice?

- A) Cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, and allspice/cloves
- B) Cinnamon, cardamom, vanilla, and sugar
- C) Nutmeg, anise, coriander, and mace
- D) Allspice, ginger, paprika, and brown sugar

ANSWERS: 1. B) It rises much earlier in the evening
2. C) Illinois
3. A) Day and night are approximately equal length
4. A) Cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, and allspice/cloves

KEEP YOUR WRS ACCOUNT SECURE

Update Your Info: Maintain up-to-date mailing, phone, and email information in your online account portal.

Practice Account Hygiene: Use strong, unique passwords and never share account credentials. WRS staff will never call or email asking for your personal login and password credentials.

Stay Alert Against Scams: WRS will never ask for login passwords or personal banking credentials via phone, email, or direct message.



SCROLL SMART: SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY FOR RETIREES



Fraudsters increasingly use lookalike ads, fake direct messages, and social media comments to target public retirees.

- **Warning Signs:** Unsolicited messages warning of account issues, claims of unannounced payout programs, or requests to "verify" financial credentials.
- **Stay Safe:** WRS will never ask for your login passwords or personal banking credentials via message, email, or phone. Always open a fresh browser window and manually type www.retirement.wyo.gov to access your account securely.

*This content is for informational and educational purposes only.
** Source: CalPERS: PERSpective



RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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Attention WRS Retirees! Important Year-End Tax Withholding Notice

As the end of the year approaches, please review your current federal and state tax withholding elections. If you plan to make changes to your withholding for your pension benefit payments, your updated tax forms must be submitted before year-end processing to be reflected on your **2026 Form 1099-R**.

HOW TO UPDATE YOUR TAX WITHHOLDINGS

- **Online Portal:** Log in to your WRS Member Portal to review and update your withholding preferences directly.
- **By Mail:** Download IRS Form W-4P from IRS.gov or request a copy from our office. For state taxes please go to our website and use our State Tax Withholding Change form.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

If you have questions regarding your pension benefit or tax forms, please contact the **Retiree Services Team: Email to wrs-retireeservices@wyo.gov or call 307-777-7691.**

