



PERS UAL Task Force
Public Comment Summary
August 28, 2017

Between Monday, July 24, and Sunday, August 28th, the Task Force received 7 emails discussing topics within scope and an additional 10 emails with process questions or suggestions around benefits changes. Two comments that are not in scope are included because they may still be informative for Task Force members.

The substantive emails included the following comments:

“Hold an annual Race for Retirement event. Like other fund-raising walks and runs, entrants would get sponsorship. The money the race earns would go to reduce the liability.”

Why would this work? Because all active PERS members - especially the new, younger, OPSRP members - would have a reason to run...Also, retired members might be willing to contribute to the race even if they prefer not to run themselves.”

“How about putting a measure on the ballot to suspend the kicker until the UAL is paid off? Let's keep this issue from crippling us in the future. Our educators need all the help we can get in this "age of accelerations"!”

“Propose a bill that will implement a 5% sales tax on everything except food or medicine. Guarantee that it sunsets when PERS liability is low enough.”

“I've heard about the idea of selling property, including land and privatizing agencies. Has there been discussion about artwork? Art is important, and in our Portland State Office Building, there is at least one painting...that may have value. Might there be more? Should the state spend the time to do a lengthy assessment of their artwork? Could there then be opportunities to commission new, less expensive artists to fill those spaces where valuable art sat?”

“The state should take on all of the liability past and future for the increase in PERS pensions due to the taxation of PERS benefits. Then the state should issue bonds to cover all of this liability. Then pledge income taxes on PERS pensions to pay off the bonds.”

“I am requesting that NO WATER RIGHTS OR FORESTS belonging to the state be liquidated or obligated in any fashion. I am requesting that all unused and un-repurposed buildings be considered for sale to private entities excepting historic preservation sites. For example, I occasionally notice closed DMV locations that appear to be deteriorating. I would like consideration given to a lower lottery payout to assist in reaching the financial goal.”

“We believe that an accounting of the UAL by member category and status is a critical piece of information needed to develop comprehensive solutions to the PERS UAL. We hope that the Task Force can ask PERS or its actuaries for an accounting of the UAL by member category and status, and to update its communications to reflect this information.”



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“Please consider looking into a sales tax. Oregon is a destination for a lot of tourism; we are missing out collecting revenue from out-of-state pockets.”

“Instead of relying on the stock market , Income rental properties should be bought. Large apartments. In addition to this there should be an Oregon credit card available to the public , in which the fees, and interest rate can generate income.”

Issue/ Topic	For	Against	Other
Discussion of benefits changes, employee contributions, or incentives to retire (out of scope but included in comments)	III	II	II
Questions about accessibility, dates, and meeting recordings			III
Raising revenue to meet PERS obligations	II		
Bonding	I		
Other methods of raising new dollars	III		I