



# TSTA NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **TSTA and TSTA-Retired endorse Proposition 9 to provide much-needed financial relief to retired school employees**

Ovidia Molina, president of the Texas State Teachers Association, and Barbara Davis-Staley, president of TSTA-Retired, released the following joint statement:

The Texas State Teachers Association and its affiliate, TSTA-Retired, have endorsed Proposition 9 on the Nov. 7 constitutional amendments ballot to provide a one-time cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for retired school employees. We believe this is one of the most important amendments on the ballot because many of our retired educators, who spent their careers preparing school children for the future, are struggling to make ends meet.

Most retired teachers and other retired public school employees in Texas are not eligible for Social Security, and their Teacher Retirement System pension is their primary source of income. The average monthly pension for these retirees in fiscal 2022 was \$2,174. What's more, no former educator who retired after Sept. 1, 2004, has ever received a cost-of-living adjustment, while inflation has eroded their ability to purchase basic needs.

Unlike Social Security, the TRS pension does not provide automatic cost-of-living adjustments. They must be approved by the Legislature, and this is the first one the Legislature has approved in years.

These pension adjustments will be modest, ranging from 2 to 6 percent, depending on when an individual retired, and they will not require a tax increase. The Legislature already has appropriated the necessary funding, contingent on Proposition 9's approval.

These retirees spent years putting millions of Texas children on the road to success as adults. They have earned and deserve the additional security these COLAs can bring.

The last day to register to vote for the Nov. 7 election, if you are not already registered, is Oct. 10. The deadline to apply for a mail ballot is Oct. 27. Early in-person voting will be Oct. 23-Nov. 3.