



All Arizona School Retirees Association

16165 N. 83rd Avenue, Suite 201, Peoria, AZ 85382-5816

602-262-5174

Key Talking Points: Defending ASRS Defined Benefits

- 1) Defined benefits (DB) programs (like ASRS) cost less than defined contributions (DC) programs for the same retirement benefits—*“More bang for the buck!”*.
- 2) Defined benefits plans are more dependable than defined contribution plans for retirees—*“No gambling on your livelihood”*.
- 3) ASRS is not a “gift funded by taxpayers”. The most significant portion of benefits comes from investment earnings. The remainder is paid for equally by workers and employers. *“Don’t apologize for what we’ve paid for”*.
- 4) ASRS is healthy and well managed-- *“One of the TOP systems in the nation”*.
- 5) Defined benefits plans allow retirees to continue to support healthy local economic activity-- *“DB plans support job growth and local tax revenue”*.
- 6) Our defined benefits plan enables AZ to attract and maintain more highly qualified and educated employees.....despite relatively low salaries—*“Arizona deserves the best”*.
- 7) The American public as a whole believes in pensions and security in our senior years-- *“Secure retirement has three parts: pensions, social security, & savings”*.
- 8) AASRA will monitor and respond to myths of comparisons between public and private sector compensation---*“No apples and oranges comparisons”*.

For additional information on advocacy issues, please contact AASRA:
Duane Nelson, State President: dnelson@ctaz.com
Joe Carter, Legislative Team Chair: jl.carter@yahoo.com
Executive Director: Janet Fee: janetfee2619@cox.net



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HOW to Contact Your Legislators

Via the internet:

1. Go to the website of the State Legislature at www.azleg.gov.
2. Click on the right side under FAQ, on “How Do I Find My Legislators”
3. Now to find your Legislative District:
 - A. At the top right-hand corner where it asks for your address, enter your street address. (If your address doesn't work – try writing a different way)
 - B. Next, where it asks for your zip code, put your NINE digit zip code (no hyphens)
4. Click on “Find”. It will then give you your State and Congressional **district numbers** on the top left-hand side. **Remember the district number.**
5. Do “Click here for a list of State Senators and Representatives”. This will take you to a list of all the senators and representatives. Use your district number to find your legislators.
6. If you already know who your legislator is, for the **email address**, use the **first initial** of the **first name**, then the full **last name**, then **@azleg.gov**.

For those who do not use the internet:

You will probably need to know your legislators' names.

1. To call: Senate info desk – (602) 926-3559

House info desk - (602) 926-4221

Outside the Phoenix metro area: 1-800-352-8404

2. To write: Legislator's Name
Arizona State Senate or House of Representatives
Capitol Complex
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2890