

Changes in benefits and 2022 tax documents

We've made it easy for you to start 2023 off right. Here you'll find important information to get you ready for the new year.

Changes in your benefits

Any time there is a change in your monthly benefit amount, we will send you a *Statement of Benefit Payment*. If you are enrolled in the OPERS Vision or Dental Plan, you may receive a Statement in January showing a change in your benefit amount due to coverage changes or changes in premium amounts. Many retirees will see a change in their pension benefit amount in February due to Federal tax changes. Statements of Benefit Payment will also be viewable through your OPERS online account near the end of the month prior to the change taking effect.

Changing your tax withholding

Most retirees review their tax withholdings once they file taxes for the previous year. The best way to do this is through your online account, which allows you to see the impact a change will make to your net monthly benefit amount.

2022 IRS Documents

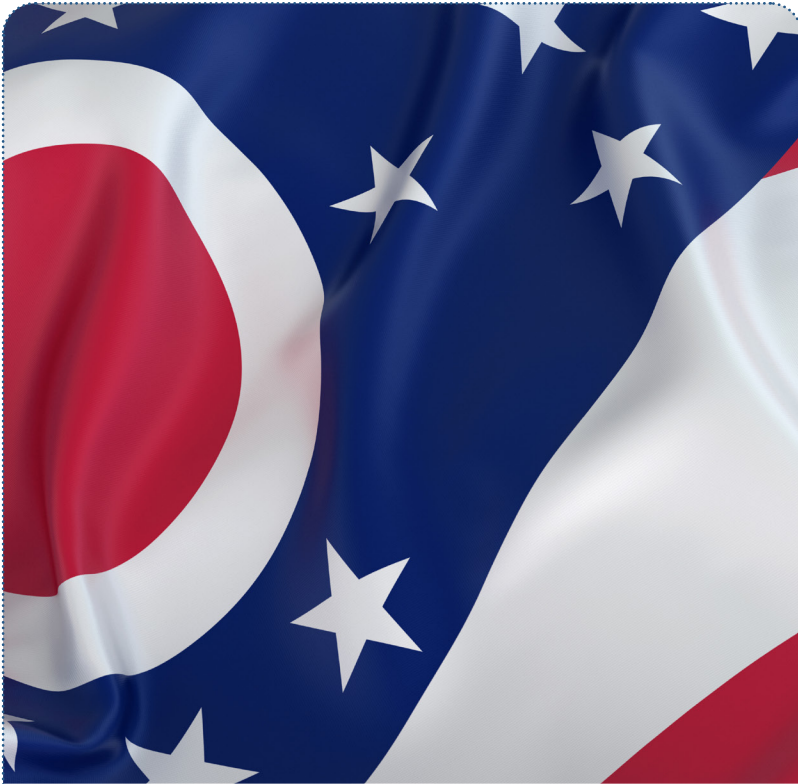
2022 IRS Form 1099-R – OPERS will mail the *2022 IRS Form 1099-R* by the end of January 2023. Approximately a week prior to mailing, this document will be available to view and print from your online account. OPERS will send an email notification when it can be viewed. Your *Form 1099-R* will not provide your vision and dental premium deductions for 2022. If needed, this information is available by signing in to your OPERS online account and accessing your 2022 OPERS Health Care Premium Receipt.

Please consult the IRS or your tax advisor if you have additional tax questions.

2022 IRS Form 1095-B – The IRS Form 1095-B provides evidence of health care minimum essential coverage. OPERS creates a *Form 1095-B* for each primary plan participant who met minimum essential coverage

requirements in 2022. The IRS requires health plan sponsors to provide access to these forms. OPERS will provide access to this form, but we will not provide a paper copy by mail. The *IRS Form 1095-B* does not have to be filed with tax returns as it is a reference document that confirms health plan coverage.

In late January 2023, OPERS benefit recipients who participated in the Health Reimbursement Arrangement and/or Retiree Medical Account plans in 2022 will be able to access their *Form 1095-B* through their OPERS online account. Simply log in to your account, access your documents, select the *Form 1095-B* and print for your records. Additionally, participants can request a copy of their *Form 1095-B* using the messaging center within their online account or by calling OPERS.



Board of Trustees election results

Four trustees to begin new, four-year terms in January

Members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System Board of Trustees certified results of this year's Board election during their October meeting.

Current trustee Steve Toth won the election for one of the two retiree seats. This year there were three other seats up for election. The trustees who held them were the only candidates to qualify for the election, so they retained the seats. They are: Randy Desposito, college/university employees; Chris Mabe, state employees; and Ken Thomas, municipal employees.

The four trustees will begin new, four-year terms on Jan. 1.

The OPERS Board consists of 11 members, and seven are elected. OPERS Board members are trustees of the system's funds and are subject to strict fiduciary standards of conduct. The Board members must act solely in the best interests of all the participants and beneficiaries of the system.

OPERS News

OPERS News is a quarterly newsletter providing news and information to retired members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. This publication allows us to communicate vital information concerning retirement benefits to our members.

This newsletter is written in plain language for use by members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. It is not intended as a substitute for federal or state law, nor will its interpretation prevail should a conflict arise between it and the Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Administrative Code or Internal Revenue Code. If you have questions about this material, please contact our office or seek legal advice from your attorney.

Contact information:

opers.org
1-800-222-7377
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
newsfeedback@opers.org

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OPERS Board of Trustees

For more information on the OPERS Board of Trustees, visit www.opers.org.

Elected Board Members

Randy Desposito
Non-teaching College/
University Employees

Julie Albers
County Employees

Christopher Mabe
Board Chair
State Employees

Tim Steitz
Retirees

Stewart Smith
Miscellaneous
Employees

Ken Thomas
Vice Chair
Municipal Employees

Steve Toth
Retirees

Statutory Board Members

Kathleen Madden
Director,
Department of
Administrative Services

Appointed Board Members

James Kunk
Investment Expert,
Governor Appointee

Scott Richter
Investment Expert,
Treasurer of State
Appointee

James R. Tilling
Investment Expert,
General Assembly
Appointee

Karen Carraher
Executive Director



For OPERS Disability Benefit Recipients

Return *Employment and Earnings Statement* to avoid interruption of benefits and HRA deposits.

Annually, OPERS disability benefit recipients are required to complete and return to OPERS an *Employment and Earnings Statement*, even if work did not occur in the previous year.

The statement allows disability benefit recipients to report any employment as well as total earnings, employer information and job descriptions. Only income from employment should be reported; spousal support, child support, and volunteer service is not required information. However, if you applied for Disability Benefits on or after

Jan. 7, 2013, you are required to report any Social Security income. OPERS will mail *Employment and Earnings Statements* beginning Feb. 10, 2023.

If OPERS does not receive your completed statement by April 15, 2023, your May 2023 disability benefit payment and subsequent monthly payments will be suspended until we receive the form. In addition, if you do not provide this form, your monthly Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) deposits and any enrollments in the OPERS vision and dental plans will be terminated effective May 1, 2023.

The *Employment and Earning Statement* submission will be waived

for disability recipients meeting one of the following criteria:

- A disability recipient who is under legal guardianship.
- A disability recipient who resides in a skilled nursing facility.
- A disability recipient is age 70 and older as of Dec. 31, 2021.

You will be able to access your *Employment and Earning Statement* through your online account. If you misplace the copy we mail to you in February, you can log in to your OPERS online account and print a new form. You can then mail the completed form to OPERS or upload a scanned copy via your OPERS online account.

Via Benefits administers auto-reimbursement for OPERS vision and dental plan premiums

Premiums for the OPERS vision and dental plans are deducted from your monthly OPERS benefit payment, and automatically reimbursed from your HRA, if funds are available. Once you enroll in coverage, auto-reimbursement is the default process, but you can opt out of this service.

Via Benefits administers this process, so if you would like to view and/or update your automatic reimbursement preference, you can do so by logging into your Via Benefits account at marketplace.viabenefits.com/opers. Once logged in, select *View Accounts* under the *Funds & Reimbursement* section. Or you can call Via Benefits at 1-844-287-9945. OPERS cannot make changes to your auto-reimbursement preferences.

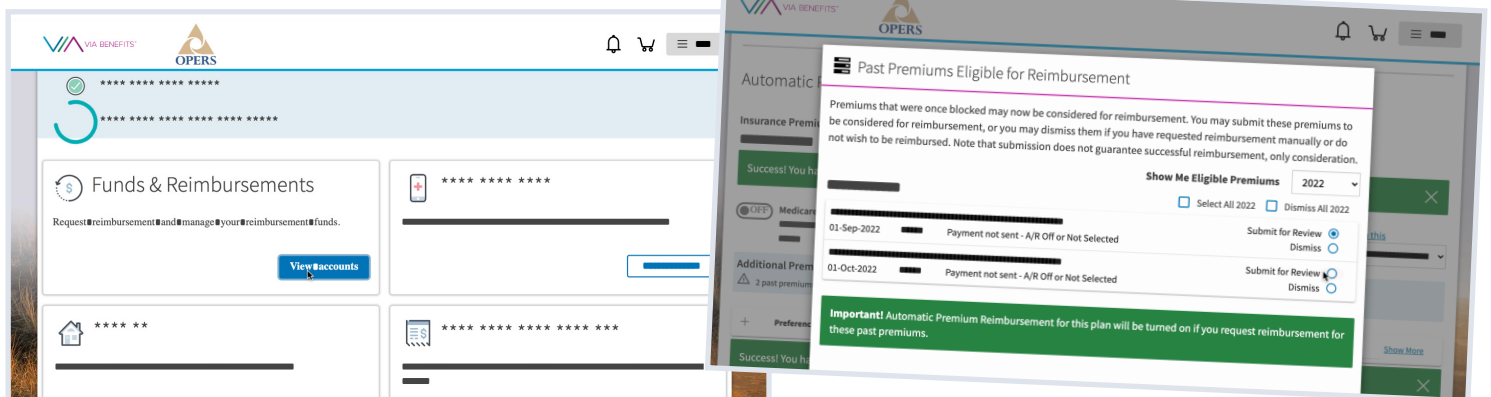
New auto-reimbursement features:

- Automatic premium reimbursement for OPERS vision and dental premiums can now be turned on and off separately through Via Benefits.
- If you were previously opted out of auto-reimbursement, you can be reimbursed for vision and dental premiums paid during the period you were opted out (with the exception of premiums paid while you were re-employed in an OPERS-covered position, if applicable.)
 - For premiums paid for months prior to Oct. 1, 2022, you can submit the OPERS Health Care Premium Receipt as the supporting documentation to receive reimbursement for any months in which you were opted out of automatic reimbursement. You can

access your premium receipt through your OPERS online account at www.opers.org or by calling OPERS at 1-800-222-7377.

- For premiums paid after Oct. 1, 2022, you can do the following to be reimbursed.
 1. Sign into your profile at marketplace.viabenefits.com/opers.
 2. Select **View Accounts** under **Funds & Reimbursements**.
 3. Go to **Automatic Premium Reimbursement** and turn it on.
 4. Once you do so, if any eligible transactions are available, an alert will display stating, “Additional Premiums May Be Considered for Reimbursement.” In this alert, select **Show Me**.
 5. In the **Past Premiums Eligible for Reimbursement** window, select **Submit for Review** for the months you wish to be reimbursed.
 6. When you’re finished, select **Save**.

For Medicare-eligible retirees: The option to receive reimbursements for premiums paid while opted out of automatic premium reimbursement is also available for Medicare Part B and Medicare medical premiums using the steps listed above.

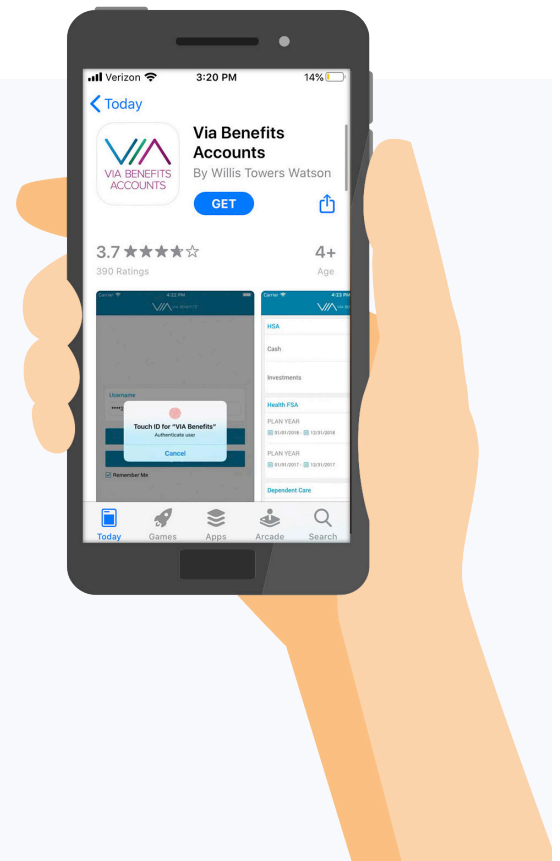


Via Benefits is here to help!

Via Benefits is available to assist you during enrollment and year-round. They will help you find and enroll in the coverage that is right for you. Via Benefits also offers education on a variety of topics including how to receive reimbursements from your HRA.

Pre-Medicare OPERS benefit recipients: Please call Via Benefits toll-free at 1-833-939-1215 (TTY:711) with questions about your coverage or your HRA. Or visit marketplace.viabenefits.com/opers to access a list of educational opportunities including webinars, recorded webcasts, videos and informational events.

Medicare-eligible OPERS benefit recipients: Please call Via Benefits toll-free at 1-844-287-9945 (TTY: 711) or visit my.viabenefits.com/opers to access a list of educational opportunities including webinars, recorded webcasts, videos and informational events.



Resources for the OPERS Vision Plan administered by MetLife

Effective Jan. 1, 2023, the OPERS Vision Plan will be administered by MetLife, the same insurance carrier that currently administers the OPERS Dental Plan. With just a single insurance carrier for both the OPERS Vision and Dental plans, you'll get a single, dedicated phone number (1-888-262-4874) and access to your coverage information within a single website (metlife.com/opers) and online account.

- **MetLife will be sending ID cards to vision plan participants.** Cards will be mailed close to the end of the year. You can expect to receive them at the end of December or early in January.
- **To find out if your current vision provider is within MetLife's Superior Vision network,** please visit metlife.com/opers. Go to **Vision Insurance** and then click on the **Find a Vision Provider** button.

We strongly encourage you to confirm whether your vision provider is in-network prior to any visit. You will have higher out-of-pocket costs if you use an out-of-network provider.

- **OPERS has provided answers to some common questions about the transition to MetLife vision coverage** and the OPERS Dental Plan at opers.org/health-care.

Annual earnings exclusion increases for Election workers

Individuals employed as election workers and paid less than \$600 per calendar year for that service are not considered public employees, so retirees can earn up to that limit without any effect on their benefits and eligibility for the OPERS health care program. This year Ohio law was amended to increase the annual earnings exclusion for election workers.

An exception now exists for election workers to earn up to \$1,000 during a year in which there is more than one primary election and one general election, such as 2022, when primaries were held in May and August.

Election workers earning more than the exclusion amount must contribute to the retirement system. An election worker, for the purposes of participation in OPERS, is "an

individual who performs services as a precinct election official or voting location manager for the board of elections for a day the election polls are open and training or preparation for such service."

This year Ohio law was amended to increase the annual earnings exclusion for election workers.

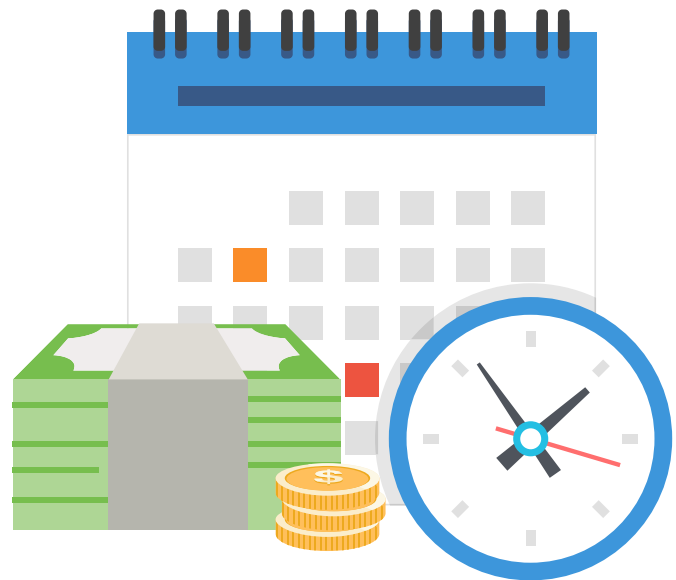
If the combined amounts you are paid to work the polls on a given

election day(s) and the money you earn while training add up to \$600 or more (\$1,000 during 2022), you will be considered a public employee during that calendar year.

As a retiree, if you work as an election worker and exceed the threshold, access to your HRA account will be affected during the time of your re-employment. Retirees should carefully evaluate the financial and health care issues surrounding re-employment in an OPERS-covered position. We have a comprehensive section at opers.org/retirees/re-employment that explains how re-employment works.

2023 OPERS benefit payments schedule

Pension benefit payments will be issued on the first business day of the month. If that day falls on a weekend or holiday, payments will be issued on the last business day of the previous month (except January when, for tax purposes, the payment must be issued on the first business day of the month).



- 2023 -

- Tuesday, Jan. 3
- Wednesday, Feb. 1
- Wednesday, March 1
- Friday, March 31 (April)
- Monday, May 1
- Thursday, June 1
- Friday, June 30 (July)
- Tuesday, Aug. 1
- Friday, Sept. 1
- Friday, Sept. 29 (October)
- Wednesday, Nov. 1
- Friday, Dec. 1



Access your personal account information and keep it safe

OPERS offers all members a secure online account. By registering and signing in to this account, you have access to your account details and can view and print personalized documents and forms (including your *Forms 1099-R* and *1095-B*). If you have registered for an online account, it's very important to safeguard your login information the same as you would for an online banking account.

If you don't yet have an online account, you can register by visiting opers.org and clicking on account login from the top, right corner of the homepage.

Your OPERS ID

Your OPERS ID is a number that is exclusive to you and your OPERS account. It was created to protect your

personal information. We use it as an identifier instead of requiring you to provide your Social Security Number.

As a security measure, you will need to know your OPERS ID to register for an online account or if you have previously registered and don't know your username or password.

Where can I find my OPERS ID?

You can access your OPERS ID in one of three ways:

- Sign in to your online account if you have already registered
- Locate your ID number in the top, right corner of any recent personalized correspondence from OPERS (i.e. letters, statement of benefit payment)
- Call OPERS at 1-800-222-7377



New law brings more coverage and savings to Medicare-eligible benefit recipients

This past August, the Inflation Reduction Act was signed into law. The bill includes significant changes to the Medicare program that will be introduced over the next few years. There are two items of note for Medicare-eligible benefit recipients:

1. Starting in 2023, all vaccines covered under Medicare Part D, including the shingles vaccine, will be provided to benefit recipients at no cost.
2. The cost of insulin will be capped at \$35 per month for benefit recipients. This will be a significant savings for Medicare enrollees who currently use insulin to control their diabetes.

To make sure seniors are getting these savings right away, people who are charged more than \$35 per month for their insulin in the first few months of 2023 will be reimbursed by their insurance carrier. Seniors will receive insulin reimbursement process details from their carrier before the beginning of the year.



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Fourth quarter 2022

OPERSNEWS

News and information for retired members of
the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System.



If you no longer wish to receive a paper copy of your newsletter and would like to receive the electronic version, log into your OPERS online account and update your correspondence preferences to electronic.

Medicare lowering Part B premium

Annual Part B deductible also being reduced in 2023

Medicare Part B premiums and deductibles will decline in 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services said. It's the first decrease in the Part B premium in more than a decade and comes a year after the monthly premium increased by more than \$21.

CMS said the standard monthly premium for Part B will be \$164.90 for next year, down \$5.20 from this year. Part B covers physician services, outpatient hospital services, certain home health services, durable medical equipment and some other medical and health services not covered by Medicare Part A. The annual deductible for Medicare Part B beneficiaries will be \$226, a decrease of \$7 from this year's deductible.

Meanwhile, the Medicare Part A deductible charged per hospital stay is increasing next year by \$44 to \$1,600. Part A covers inpatient hospital and other services.

