



What you can do to protect your retirement benefits

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SUAA - State Universities Annuitants Association



**UIC SUAA chapter
~ 1,500 members**



**SUAA Illinois
~16,000 members**

Mission of SUAA

- To preserve and protect a strong public pension system and healthcare benefits.
- **State Universities Retirement System (SURS)** staff and faculty at public universities and community colleges - both retired and current employees - their spouses and survivors.

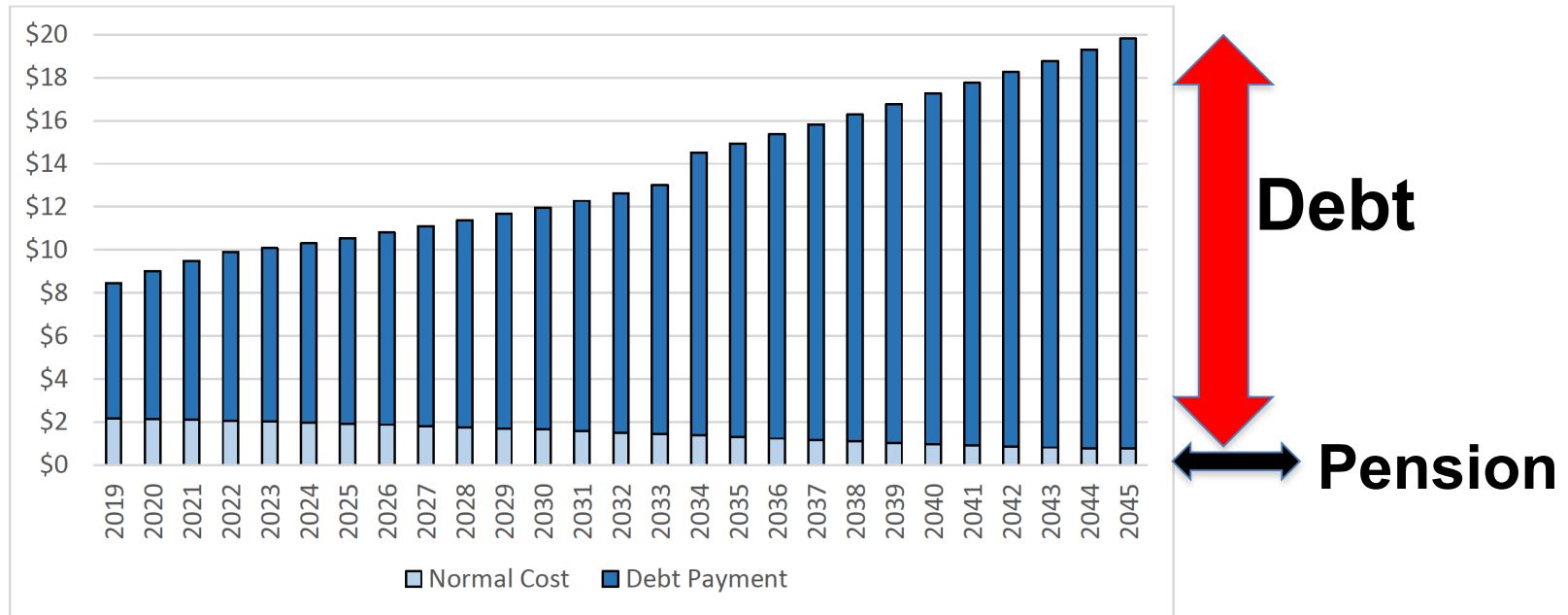
SUAA Influence Illinois Legislature

- SUAA members live in most senate and representative districts
- SURS has over 200,000 members
- Bipartisan
- Large political impact

Illinois Pension “Reform”?

- Pensions are a very small part of the IL fiscal mess
- Blame goes to state for debt not to pensions

Figure 1: Projected Pension Normal Cost and Debt Payments for the State Retirement Systems (\$ billions)



Source: Actuarial Valuation Reports for TRS, SERS, SURS, JRS, and GARS.

Pension Clause

1970 Illinois Constitution

“Membership in any pension or retirement system of the state, any unit of local government or school district, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, shall be an **enforceable contractual relationship**, the benefits of which shall **not be diminished or impaired.**”

1970 Illinois Constitution Protects Pensions

Illinois Supreme Court

2014, SB 1313, PA 97695 “Kanerva”

Free retiree health insurance

2015, SB 1, PA 98599

Your monthly pension

3% Automatic Annual Increase, AAI (aka COLA)

What next for pension “reform”?

Good:

Re-amortize debt payments

More revenue

SUAA will fight legally to protect us

Bad:

Future constitutional pension amendment

New tiers 3 etc.

Health insurance coverage cuts

COLA (AAI) cuts

Join SUAA

- SUAA central office advocates for pension and benefits
- SUAA mini-briefings and website on retirement
- UIC SUAA chapter hosts a Spring meeting, Fall forum, newsletter, messages, legislative grass roots
- Pre-retirement Q&A 12 March at www.uicsuaa.org



What can you do?

- Join UIC chapter of SUUA for under \$1/week
 - ✓ Join here today
 - ✓ <http://www.uicsuaa.org/membership/>
- Contribute to SUAA legal fund
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