



Frequently Asked Questions for Members Nearing Retirement

Visit us online at: mpera.mt.gov. We have retirement calculators, handbooks, forms, news, and a comprehensive education calendar. Check it out!

I'm thinking about retiring. Where do I start?

At least a year prior to your retirement, we strongly recommend you attend our "Steps to Retirement" webinar or watch a pre-recorded video to learn more about your benefit! Our comprehensive education calendar can be found at: mpera.mt.gov.

How do I begin the retirement process?

It's easy! Contact MPERA 3-4 months prior to your retirement and request an official estimate. You'll receive an estimate of your benefit and your retirement application.

When do I send my retirement application?

Your application should be submitted *at least* 30 days prior to your retirement date to ensure timely processing.

What type of payment options are available?

You may have several options available. They include:

- Monthly benefit payable to you only, for life.
- Optional survivor payments may be available. See your current retirement system handbook at: mpera.mt.gov.
- Lump sum payment in lieu of a monthly benefit.

What additional documents does MPERA need?

You may need to provide proof-of-age documents for yourself and your contingent annuitant. These can include copies of birth certificates, driver's licenses, passports or military/church records. Questions? Please contact MPERA Staff.

Are taxes withheld from my monthly benefit?

We will provide forms for you to indicate the amount of taxes you would like withheld. We will then withhold that amount from your monthly benefit.

What about direct deposit?

Most retirees currently use direct deposit. You will be provided with a direct deposit form. This is the easiest and most secure way to receive your monthly benefit!

When will my retirement be effective?

You must terminate employment before you can retire. Your retirement is effective the first of the month following your retirement date. For example, if you retired December 31st, your retirement would be effective the first day of January and your first payment will arrive at the end of January.

When will I receive my first check?

Your monthly retirement benefit will be paid the last working day of each month. Remember, with direct deposit, you will receive your payment faster.

What if I experience a life change after I retire?

If you experience a life change such as death or divorce of your contingent annuitant, it is important to contact MPERA immediately, as it may impact your retirement benefit. If you move, please keep your mailing address current so we can keep you updated with important information!

Questions? Give us a call at:

1-877-275-7372 or

(406) 444-3154

