

The Wisconsin Retirement System: What to watch for

Governor Walker's state budget attacked more than just our schools and our profession – it has the potential to harm our retirement and a successful Wisconsin investment intuition. Walker's 2011-2013 budget called for a study of the Wisconsin Retirement System, the pension fund hundreds of thousands of Wisconsinites invest into and rely on for retirement. Here's what to watch as Walker targets your retirement:

Unnecessary changes:

Your retirement is stable as it is. Your benefit plan (a defined benefit pension plan) allows you to plan your retirement with a modest, predictable monthly benefit. Switching to a defined contribution plan (as has been the case in similar situations) comes with higher risks, new costs, lower investment returns, and variable benefits – negatively impacting the delayed salary you invested in your career.

Example of extreme agenda:

This study proposal is just another example of extreme legislation aimed at public employees, initiated by the same politicians who voted to silence the voices of educators and balance the state budget on the backs of working families. We cannot allow the retirement benefits families rely on to be put in jeopardy and possibly destabilized because of political attacks. After all of your investments, your retirement shouldn't be changed on a whim.

The risks are real:

The Wisconsin Retirement System is one of the best run, best funded and most secure retirement systems in the nation. Walker's study committee will look at two components: changing benefit plans to 401(k)-style investments and allowing employees to "opt out" of the system. Both of these proposals stand to destabilize the system for

everyone who depends on the WRS for their retirement. Politicians should not play politics with families' livelihood.