



April 14, 2023

The Honorable Mayor Karen Bass  
Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
City Hall, Room 303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
City Hall, Room 395  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Matthew Szabo, City Administrative Officer

**DISCRETIONARY COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR RETIRED LACERS MEMBERS AND THEIR BENEFICIARIES**

Honorable Mayor Bass and Honorable City Council Members:

The Los Angeles City Employees’ Retirement System (LACERS) Board of Administration (Board) adopted the attached report recommending that the City Council (Council) grant a discretionary cost-of-living (COLA) adjustment increase to eligible retired LACERS’ Members and their Beneficiaries (Participants.)

Although it is the City Administrative Officer’s duty to prepare appropriate reports and recommendations for Council to make findings as to the adequacy of annual COLAs,<sup>1</sup> the Board respectfully requests that Council consider granting a discretionary COLA to address the 7.4% increase in the Consumer Price Index which greatly exceeds the Tier 1 COLA limit of 3%.<sup>2</sup> This increase affects more than 22,397 LACERS Participants that have retirement dates on or before June 30, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

Council has granted discretionary COLAs to LACERS Participants in the past.<sup>4</sup> In 2002, Council granted a discretionary COLA for Participants with a retirement date before June 30, 1984.<sup>5</sup> The purpose of this one-time

<sup>1</sup> LAAC § 4.1023(e) and LAAC § 4.1080.17(c)(vii)

<sup>2</sup> LAAC § 4.0123(c)(1)

<sup>3</sup> Based on LACERS’ latest actuarial valuation

<sup>4</sup> 7% in 1982, 1.25% in 1986, and 1.6% in 1989 (Council File # 99-1158)

<sup>5</sup> Council File # 01-2343

**LA CITY EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

P.O. Box 512218  
Los Angeles, CA  
90051-0218

(800) 779-8328  
RTT: (888) 349-3996

www.LACERS.org  
lacers.services@lacers.org

**KAREN BASS**

*Mayor of the City of Los Angeles*

**LACERS BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION**

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*Elizabeth Lee, Vice President*  
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Janna Sidley  
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Michael R. Wilkinson

**LACERS EXECUTIVE STAFF**

Neil M. Guglielmo  
*General Manager*  
Todd Bouey  
*Executive Officer*  
Dale Wong-Nguyen  
*Assistant General Manager*  
Rodney June  
*Chief Investment Officer*

COLA was to reduce all excess COLA banks to no more than 25.3%.<sup>6</sup> Any banked amount that exceeded 25.3% was paid to Participants. Since then, Council has not granted any discretionary COLAs.

To help LACERS Participants cope with record-breaking inflation, the Board recommends that Council grant a 2.6%, as calculated in accordance with City Administrative Code provisions, discretionary COLA for eligible Tier 1 Participants. There are currently no Tier 3 Participants that are eligible for a discretionary COLA. It should be noted that a significant number of LACERS Members and beneficiaries have provided written and verbal comments supporting a discretionary COLA. These comments are included as an attachment for your reference.

LACERS and City Attorney staff are available to assist with any questions on the discretionary COLA. Thank you for your consideration and continued support for LACERS Members and beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Lee*

ELIZABETH LEE, Vice President  
Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System  
Board of Administration  
NMG/EA

Attachments

1. Cost-of-Living Adjustment for July 2023 and Possible Board Action
2. Public Comments (100) received for April 11, 2023 LACERS Board of Administration Meeting

c: Sharon Tso, CLA  
Jeanne Holm, MOBI  
Neil Guglielmo, LACERS  
Todd Bouey, LACERS  
Dale Wong Nguyen, LACERS

---

<sup>6</sup> Ordinance # 174419



**REPORT TO BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION**

**From: Neil M. Guglielmo, General Manager**

*Neil M. Guglielmo*

**MEETING: APRIL 11, 2023**

**ITEM: VIII-A**

**SUBJECT: COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR JULY 2023 AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION**

ACTION:  CLOSED:  CONSENT:  RECEIVE & FILE:

**Recommendation**

1. That the Board of Administration (“Board”) adopt a 3% cost-of-living-adjustment (“COLA”) increase for eligible benefits of Tier 1 and Tier 1 Enhanced Members and Beneficiaries (“Participants” hereafter) and a 2% COLA increase for eligible benefits of Tier 3 Participants as detailed in the attached schedule prepared by LACERS’ consulting actuary with an effective date of July 1, 2023.
  
2. That the Board authorize the Board President to sign and transmit a letter to the Los Angeles City Council (“Council”) requesting review of the COLA for those who receive retirement benefits from LACERS and consider granting a 2.6% discretionary COLA increase to eligible Tier 1 Participants. There are currently no Tier 3 Participants that are eligible for a discretionary COLA.

**Executive Summary**

On July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, the Board may authorize that eligible Participants receive a COLA to their benefits in accordance with the Los Angeles Administrative Code (“LAAC”). The COLA is based on the average annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (“CPI”) for the Los Angeles area for the previous calendar year and is subject to the limitations in LAAC § 4.1022 for Tier 1 and § 4.1080.17 for Tier 3. According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the annual average CPI for the Los Angeles area increased by 7.4% in 2022. However, due to LAAC limitations, Tier 1 and Tier 1 Enhanced eligible participants will receive a maximum COLA of 3% while Tier 3 eligible participants will receive a maximum COLA of 2%, effective July 1, 2023.

Since the average CPI increase for last year exceeds the COLA caps, the policy imposed by LAAC § 4.1023 and § 4.1080.17(c), gives Council discretionary authority to grant additional COLA. The Council may determine the adequacy of the COLA being granted to Participants. If the Council finds that the COLA is inadequate “in light of the movement of the [CPI], [Council] may grant [an] additional, but discretionary cost of living adjustment.”

## Discussion

In any given year, the Board shall review the CPI to determine if Tier 1 and Tier 1 Enhanced Participants are eligible for a maximum increase of 3% COLA (LAAC § 4.1022 for Tier 1). Tier 1 Enhanced Members are Tier 1 Airport Peace Officers (including certain fire fighters) appointed to their positions before January 7, 2018 that elected to remain in Tier 1 with LACERS after January 6, 2018. Tier 1 and Tier 1 Enhanced benefits include a COLA bank, whereby participants are entitled to receive and accumulate the excess amount (known as “Excess COLA”) whenever the CPI change is greater than the maximum limit of 3% in any year. Based on the 7.4% CPI increase, Tier 1 and Tier 1 Enhanced Participants are proposed to receive the maximum of 3% increase, with the remaining excess COLA of 4.4% (7.4%-3.0%) banked for future use. In contrast, benefits under Tier 3 cap the COLA at 2.0% and there is no banked benefit (LAAC § 4.1080.17), therefore Tier 3 Participants will receive 2% COLA effective July 1, 2023. Based on LACERS’ latest actuarial valuation, this significant increase in CPI could affect more than 22,399 LACERS Participants that have retirement dates on or before June 30, 2022

The COLA benefits effective July 1, 2023 are summarized in the table below and are further detailed in the attached letter from LACERS’ consulting actuary.

<b>Membership</b>	<b>Initial Retirement Date</b>	<b>COLA Limitation</b> pursuant LAAC § 4.1022 & § 4.1080.17	<b>COLA Effective July 1, 2023</b>
Tier 1 and Tier 1 Enhanced Participants	On or before July 1, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.0% maximum increase</li> <li>• Excess COLA will be banked (i.e., added to existing accumulated COLA balance, see attached schedule).</li> </ul>	3%
Tier 1 and Tier 1 Enhanced Participants with less than one full year of retirement	July 2, 2022 to June 30, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prorated COLA increase of 1/12th for each full month of retirement</li> <li>• Excess will not be banked for less than one full year of retirement</li> </ul>	1/12th of 3.0% each full month retired
Tier 3 Participants	On or before July 1, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2% maximum increase</li> <li>• No COLA Bank</li> </ul>	2%
Tier 3 Participants with less than one full year of retirement	July 2, 2022 to June 30, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prorated COLA increase of 1/12th for each full month of retirement</li> <li>• No COLA Bank</li> </ul>	1/12th of 2.0% each full month retired

Council has the authority to determine the adequacy of COLAs and may grant an additional but discretionary COLA for Tier 1 and Tier 3 in accordance with LAAC § 4.1023 and LAAC § 4.1080.17(c),

respectively. Although it is the City Administrative Officer's duty to prepare appropriate reports and recommendations for Council to make findings as to the adequacy of annual COLAs (LAAC § 4.1023(e) and LAAC § 4.1080.17(c)(vii)), upon its adoption of the recommendations, the Board requests that the Mayor, CAO, and the City Council consider authorization of a discretionary COLA for situations when the CPI meaningfully exceeds the authorized COLA for one or more years. Members, especially those who have been retired for longer periods of time, can experience significantly diminished buying power in high inflation environments. Council has previously provided three discretionary adjustments: 7% in 1982, 1.25% in 1986, and 1.6% in 1989 (Council File # 99-1158). In 2002, Council granted a discretionary COLA for Participants with a retirement date before June 30, 1984 (Council File # 01-2343). The purpose of this one-time COLA was to reduce all excess COLA banks to no more than 25.3% (Ordinance # 174419). Any banked amount that exceeded 25.3% was paid to Participants. Since then, Council has not granted any discretionary COLAs based on staff research conducted using City Clerk Connect.

### **Strategic Plan Impact Statement**

The Board's action on this item aligns with the Benefit Delivery Goal by ensuring accurate payment of benefits in accordance with plan documents codified in the Los Angeles Administrative Code.

Prepared By: Jo Ann Peralta, Departmental Chief Accountant

NG:TB:JP,EA

Attachment 1: Segal Letter dated January 26, 2023 with COLA schedule

Attachment 2: Discretionary Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Retired LACERS Members and their Beneficiaries



Andy Yeung, ASA, MAAA, FCA, EA  
Vice President & Actuary  
T 415.263.8283  
ayeung@segalco.com

180 Howard Street  
Suite 1100  
San Francisco, CA 94105-6147  
segalco.com

**Via Email**

Board Mtg: 04/11/23  
Item: VIII-A  
Attachment 1

January 26, 2023

Mr. Neil Guglielmo  
General Manager  
Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System  
P.O. Box 512218  
Los Angeles, CA 90051-0218

**Re: Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS)  
Cost-of-Living Bank as of July 1, 2023**

Dear Neil:

We have prepared a schedule showing the accumulated banked benefits for the System's retirees and beneficiaries reflecting the cost-of-living adjustments as of July 1, 2023.

The annual average CPI increased from 289.244 in 2021 to 310.782 in 2022, an increase of 7.4% (rounded to the nearest one-tenth of one percent). This figure was determined by using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all Urban Consumers in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim Area, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Note that participants with membership dates on and after February 21, 2016 were placed in Tier 3, unless the participant qualified for Tier 1 membership. Participants in Tier 3 are entitled to a maximum of 2% COLA provision after retirement (instead of a maximum of 3% COLA provision for Tier 1 and Tier 1 Enhanced<sup>1</sup>). In addition, excess COLA will not be banked under the Tier 3 provision and all Tier 3 retirees and beneficiaries will receive the same COLA regardless of retirement date.

The schedule in Exhibit A contains four columns for Tier 1 and Tier 1 Enhanced participants:

- Column 1.** Accumulated Banked Benefits as of July 1, 2022. This data was obtained from a similar schedule we prepared last year.
- Column 2.** Actual average CPI increase of 7.4%.
- Column 3.** Cost-of-living increase granted as of July 1, 2023, for a full year of retirement.
- Column 4.** Accumulated Banked Benefits as of July 1, 2023.  
(Column (1) + Column (2) - Column (3), but limited to no less than 0%)

<sup>1</sup> Tier 1 Enhanced is for all Tier 1 Airport Peace Officers (including certain fire fighters) appointed to their positions before January 7, 2018 who elected to remain at LACERS after January 6, 2018, and who paid their mandatory additional contribution of \$5,700 to LACERS before January 8, 2019, or prior to their retirement date, whichever was earlier.

Mr. Neil Guglielmo  
January 26, 2023  
Page 2

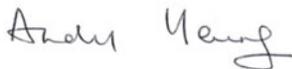
As shown in Exhibit A, the cost-of-living increase as of July 1, 2023 for Tier 1 and Tier 1 Enhanced participants with an initial retirement date on or before June 30, 2022 is the full 3.0% maximum increase permitted by the Administrative Code. The difference between 7.4% and 3.0%, or 4.4%, will increase the accumulated bank for each of these participants for future COLA increases.

For Tier 1 and Tier 1 Enhanced participants with an initial retirement date between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, the full cost-of-living increase as of July 1, 2023 will be 3.0% but COLA benefits for partial year retirements will be pro-rated. The accumulated bank for these participants will be 0% as of July 1, 2023.<sup>2</sup>

For Tier 3 participants, the cost-of-living increase as of July 1, 2023 will be 2.0% regardless of retirement date as shown in Exhibit B.

Please give us a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Andy Yeung, ASA, MAAA, FCA, EA  
Vice President & Actuary

bts/bbf  
Attachments

cc: Edwin Avanesian  
Todd Bouey

<sup>2</sup> Except for July 1, 2022 retirees, whose accumulated banks as of July 1, 2023 will be 4.4%

**LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES AND ACCUMULATED BANKED BENEFITS  
As of July 1, 2023**

**Exhibit A  
Tier 1 and Tier 1 Enhanced Participants**

Initial Retirement Date	July 1, 2022 Accumulated Banked Benefits (1)	Increase in the Annual Average CPI (2)	COLA* (3)	July 1, 2023 Accumulated Banked Benefits (4)
On or Before 07/01/1978	15.300%	7.400%	3.000%	19.700%
07/02/1978 to 07/01/1979	11.050%	7.400%	3.000%	15.450%
07/02/1979 to 08/01/1979	6.444%	7.400%	3.000%	10.844%
08/02/1979 to 09/01/1979	6.639%	7.400%	3.000%	11.039%
09/02/1979 to 10/01/1979	6.833%	7.400%	3.000%	11.233%
10/02/1979 to 11/01/1979	7.028%	7.400%	3.000%	11.428%
11/02/1979 to 12/01/1979	7.222%	7.400%	3.000%	11.622%
12/02/1979 to 01/01/1980	7.417%	7.400%	3.000%	11.817%
01/02/1980 to 02/01/1980	7.611%	7.400%	3.000%	12.011%
02/02/1980 to 03/01/1980	7.806%	7.400%	3.000%	12.206%
03/02/1980 to 04/01/1980	8.000%	7.400%	3.000%	12.400%
04/02/1980 to 05/01/1980	8.194%	7.400%	3.000%	12.594%
05/02/1980 to 06/01/1980	8.389%	7.400%	3.000%	12.789%
06/02/1980 to 07/01/1980	8.583%	7.400%	3.000%	12.983%
07/02/1980 to 06/30/2018	0.800%	7.400%	3.000%	5.200%
07/01/2018 to 06/30/2021	0.800%	7.400%	3.000%	5.200%
07/01/2021 to 06/30/2022	0.000%	7.400%	3.000%	4.400%
07/01/2022 ** to 06/30/2023		7.400%	3.000%	0.000%

\* COLA benefits for partial year retirements are pro-rated.

\*\* Only those retirees (or continuing survivors) whose benefits commenced on July 1 and continued through June 30 receive a COLA bank in years of excess CPI. For initial retirement dates starting July 1, 2018 and later, the COLA bank for a July 1 retiree (or continuing survivor) is shown on the row above. For example, the July 1, 2022 COLA bank for a July 1, 2018 retiree (or continuing survivor) is 0.800% (i.e., from the 07/02/1980 to 06/30/2018 row) and such retiree (or continuing survivor) would receive a July 1, 2023 COLA of 3.000%. The July 1, 2023 COLA bank for such retiree (or continuing survivor) would be increased to 5.200%.

**LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES  
As of July 1, 2023**

**Exhibit B  
Tier 3 Participants**

	Increase in the Annual Average CPI	COLA*
All Tier 3 Participants Retired on or before 06/30/2023	7.400%	2.000%

\* COLA benefits for partial year retirements are pro-rated.



April 11, 2023

Los Angeles City Council  
c/o City Clerk  
200 N. Spring Street  
Room 395, City Hall  
Mail Stop #160

**DISCRETIONARY COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR RETIRED LACERS MEMBERS AND THEIR BENEFICIARIES**

Honorable City Council Members:

The LACERS Board of Administration (Board) adopted the attached report recommending that the City Council (Council) grant a discretionary cost-of-living-adjustment increase to eligible retired LACERS' Members and their Beneficiaries (Participants).

Although it is the City Administrative Officer's duty to prepare appropriate reports and recommendations for Council to make findings as to the adequacy of annual COLAs,<sup>1</sup> the Board respectfully requests that Council grant a discretionary COLA to address the 7.4% increase in the Consumer Price Index which greatly exceeds the Tier 1 COLA limit of 3%.<sup>2</sup> This increase could affect more than 22,397 LACERS Participants that have retirement dates on or before June 30, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

Council has granted discretionary COLAs to LACERS Participants in the past.<sup>4</sup> In 2002, Council granted a discretionary COLA for Participants with a retirement date before June 30, 1984.<sup>5</sup> The purpose of this one-time COLA was to reduce all excess COLA banks to no more than 25.3%.<sup>6</sup> Any banked amount that exceeded 25.3% was paid to Participants. Since then, Council has not granted any discretionary COLAs.

To help LACERS Participants cope with record-breaking inflation, the Board recommends that Council grant a 2.6% discretionary COLA for eligible Tier 1 Participants. There are currently no Tier 3 Participants that are eligible for a discretionary COLA.

Sincerely,

ELIZABETH LEE, Vice President  
LACERS Board of Administration  
NMG/EA

Attachment  
COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR JULY 2023 AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION

<sup>1</sup> LAAC § 4.1023(e) and LAAC § 4.1080.17(c)(vii)  
<sup>2</sup> LAAC § 4.0123(c)(1)  
<sup>3</sup> Based on LACERS' latest actuarial valuation  
<sup>4</sup> 7% in 1982, 1.25% in 1986, and 1.6% in 1989 (Council File # 99-1158)  
<sup>5</sup> Council File # 01-2343  
<sup>6</sup> Ordinance # 174419

**LA CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

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**KAREN BASS**  
*Mayor of the City of Los Angeles*

**LACERS BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION**  
*Vacant, President*  
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*Assistant General Manager*  
*Rodney June*  
*Chief Investment Officer*

c: Neil Guglielmo, LACERS  
Todd Bouey, LACERS  
Dale Wong Nguyen, LACERS

**From:** [Velveer Grant](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Adopt Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 12:41:54 PM

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LACERS Board,

I am requesting that you:

- Adopt the staff's recommendations Re: the discretionary COLA.
- Inflation has affected everyone and an increase in COLA would help bridge the financial gap. Until the economy is stabilized, the standard 3.0% is insufficient

Thank you for your consideration!

V. R. Grant  
Retired LAWA

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**From:** [Leslie Smith](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** 2.6 % Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 1:09:46 PM

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Good afternoon LACERS Board members,

I am submitting this email to request that the board adopt the staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA.

Inflation has hit everyone really hard over the past several years. Gas, groceries, utilities, interest, are just a few things that have increased tremendously. While all of these things have increased our allowance has not kept up. The likelihood of inflation going down is not likely in the near future so it is unlikely that our 3% COLAs will help us catch up to inflation.

Your consideration in adopting the discretionary 2.6% COLA is greatly appreciated.

Best regards,

Leslie E. Smith

**From:** [Sylvia Murakami](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** 2.6 discretionary raise ACTION ALERT  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 10:01:45 AM

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Good morning City Council and Mayor,

Due to the high cost of living for us retirees and pandemic recover, I am requesting that you approve the staff's recommendation as to another 2.6% to this coming 3% COLA.

It's become quite clear that inflation has hit our pockets deep and I truly do not see any relief in the near future. The way things are going it's in the opposite direction. This is putting stress in our daily lives. My husband and I are now on special diets due to chronic health issues, which is very costly. Not to mention gas prices and everything else.

Though I appreciate the past COLA added to my monthly check, it is really not enough in these desperate times.

I ask you consider this request and give the retired Los Angeles City Employees a little relief.

Thank you for your time.

Sylvia C. Murakami

**From:** [larry galstian](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** 2.6% Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 7:03:23 AM

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Dear LACERS Board,

First, I am asking the Board to adopt staff's recommendations regarding the additional 2.6% discretionary COLA;

The inflation is directly impacting purchases with items like fuel, food, clothing and seeing some of the sharpest increase in prices. We are concerned with current rate of inflation, it has dramatically impacted our family budget. We are also concerned about being able to meet our monthly expenses.

The current retirement allowance has not kept pace with the inflation rate and the inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while. Therefore, it is unlikely our maximum 3.0% COLAs will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon.

Thank you for allowing us to address our comments regarding the current inflation rate and its impact on our daily living.

Best Regards  
Larry Galstian



**From:** [Sharon Carter](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA AND DISCRETIONARY INCREASE  
**Date:** Thursday, April 6, 2023 4:59:05 PM

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It has come to my attention that the LACERS Board will be voting on a 3% Cost-of-Living increase and 2.6% discretionary COLA for its members. It is imperative that this increase be approved for the following reasons:

- (1) In addition to the 3%, the Board asks the City Council and Mayor to approve an additional 2.6% discretionary COLA. This is the required process for the consideration of a discretionary COLA — which has not been requested for years due to the relatively low inflation we experienced until recently.
- (2) Inflation has impacted the members over the last couple of years and our retirement allowance has not kept pace.
- (3) Inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while, so it is unlikely our maximum 3.0% COLA will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Regards,  
Sharon Carter

**From:** [CHARLENE JOHNSON](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA Increase  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 11:43:38 AM

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I writing to ask for the Board to adopt staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA of 2.6%. Inflation has impacted me horrifically over the last couple of years. Gas, Food and Utilities alone have been impossible to keep up with and are eating away far beyond any increases we have received. My retirement allowance has not kept pace and inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while, so it is highly unlikely our maximum 3.0% COLAs will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon. I am urging you to approve this for myself and the thousands of struggling retirees that are trying to keep up during these difficult times.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Johnson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Tony Chen](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA Proposal for LACERS Board Approval  
**Date:** Thursday, April 6, 2023 7:28:59 PM

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Dear LACERS Board Members,

You will be discussing the staff COLA Proposal soon. As a LACERS retiree, I appeal to you to approve both the 3% annual COLA and the 2.6% discretionary COLA. The inflation has been running at 7% to 8%, even with a cumulative 5.6% COLA, we would still be behind the inflation curve, not to mention that the inflation has not shown any significant tail off. I am sure that you also experience the rising consumer prices in your every day life.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter.

Regards,

Tony Z. Chen

**From:** [PAMELA WELLS](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA Raise  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 1:31:39 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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### **Recommendation**

1. That the Board of Administration ("Board") adopt a 3% cost-of-living-adjustment ("COLA") increase for eligible benefits of Tier 1 and Tier 1 Enhanced Members and Beneficiaries ("Participants" hereafter) and a 2% COLA increase for eligible benefits of Tier 3 Participants as detailed in the attached schedule prepared by LACERS' consulting actuary with an effective date of July 1, 2023.
2. That the Board authorize the Board President to sign and transmit a letter to the Los Angeles City Council ("Council") requesting review of the COLA for those who receive retirement benefits from LACERS and consider granting a 2.6% discretionary COLA increase to eligible Tier 1 Participants. There are currently no Tier 3 Participants that are eligible for a discretionary COLA.

- . -

Sent from Pam's iPhone

**From:** [Mary Campos](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 10:05:49 AM

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LACERS BOARD:

I am asking you to adopt staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA. Inflation has severely impacted me the last few years, my retirement allowance has not been able to keep up with inflation. Inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while, so it is unlikely our maximum 3.0% COLAs will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon.

Sincerely,

Mary Campos

**From:** [Kim Hunter](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA 2023  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 8:11:10 AM

---

I am writing to request that the Board adopt the staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA. With inflation being/continuing to be at a high rate, this would be a great help to retirees whose income has not kept pace with high inflation. It is also clear that inflation will continue at a high rate for the foreseeable future. Thank you for your consideration.

Kim Hunter

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Alex Bernard](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 8:17:22 AM

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Dear Board,

I am requesting that the Board adopt the recommendation regarding the discretionary COLA. I have been retired nearly 20 years, and my pension has not kept pace with inflation. It would appear that inflation will be with us for some time. The discretionary COLA would help with a retirees' purchasing power. I urge you to support the discretionary COLA.

Sincerely,

Alexander Bernard

**From:** [Autumn Paysinger](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 11:12:12 AM

---

To the LACERS board,

Please add the discretionary COLA to our pension. With EVERYTHING being inflated, I, as I'm certain other retirees could definitely benefit from this increase.

Thank you,

Autumn L Paysinger

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Bill Russell](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 10:54:54 AM

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To the Board,

My wife and I have been retired from the City for over 20 years. As a result, our retirement income is based on salaries that are much lower than current ones. This means that we are greatly affected by inflation. We therefore urge you to adopt the recommendation of your staff for a discretionary COLA of 2.6%.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bill Russell  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Gloria Sosa](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:48:53 PM

---

I urge all Board members to adopt the staff's recommendation regarding the discretionary COLA. Costs for literally everything has gone up and there's a feeling of helplessness. Don't know necessarily why it's happening or when it's going to end. And unfortunately it appears inflation will continue for the foreseeable future so a 3% COLA just won't cut it. Again I urge you to adopt staffs recommendation. Thank you for your time.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Kathy Van Ness](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Thursday, April 6, 2023 6:39:13 PM

---

I urge the Board to adopt the staff recommendation regarding a discretionary COLA.

As you know, inflation has greatly affected everyone. lol For myself, I have given up travel and other luxuries so that I can maintain my house. I have economized on food and eating out. I have also cutback on entertainment spending. As retirees, we don't have the option of seeking a promotion or a higher paying job. We are dependent on COLA increases to cope with inflation.

No forecasts I've seen expect inflation to slow by much in the coming year. So our 3.0% COLAs are unlikely to keep up with inflation.

Thank you,

Kathy Van Ness

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [lolita\\_loyola](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Thursday, April 6, 2023 4:57:09 PM

---

To Whom It May Concern:

Please adopt the recommendation for discretionary COLA. Inflation has affected us and it is difficult to make ends meet. A trip to the supermarket amounts to very high cost for groceries. Thank you.

Lolita Loyola

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for i](#)

**From:** [Lupe Ortiz](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Lupe Ortiz](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 9:11:58 AM

---

Dear LACERS Board

Over the last couple of years inflation has doubled if not tripled and my family has had to make adjustments due to the high cost of groceries, electricity and gas among other things; and our retirement allowance has not kept up with the pace. Additionally, inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while, so it is unlikely that our maximum 3.0% COLAs will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon.

I, therefore, respectfully ask that the Board adopt staff's recommendation to approve the 2.6% discretionary COLA.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Terry Berg](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 2:20:04 PM

---

I am a retired City employee. I am asking that the Board adopt staff's recommendations for a 3% COLA, and to ask the City Council and Mayor to approve an additional 2.6% discretionary COLA.

Our retirement allowance has not kept pace with inflation over the last few years. This has affected me since the cost of everything from food, gas, utilities, and all other necessities has increased.

Inflation is likely to remain high for some time, so only a 3% increase will not be enough to help us keep pace with inflation, and a discretionary COLA is needed.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter for retirees.

Terry Berg

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** DISCRETIONARY COLA  
**Date:** Thursday, April 6, 2023 5:46:51 PM

---

LACERS Board Members,

My name is Thomas Thornton. I retired from the City of Los Angeles in January , 2018 after working 33 years.

I am asking the Board to adopt staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA. Inflation has impacted me over the last couple of years by the high cost of food, gas, car and homeowner insurance and other bills.

My retirement allowance has not kept pace. Inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while, so it is unlikely our maximum 3.0% COLAs will help us catch up to inflation. SO PLEASE adopt the discretionary COLA.

Sincerely

Thomas Thornton

**From:** [Yolanda Jaimez](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** DISCRETIONARY COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 3:28:13 AM

---

I am asking that the Board adopt staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary Cost of Living (COLA) 2.6% for the upcoming fiscal year. The cost of all products have substantially increased over the past several years, thus, impacting my personal budget! My retirement allowance has not kept pace! Inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while, so it is highly unlikely that the City's maximum 3.0% COLAs will help retirees' salaries catch up to inflation anytime soon.

In addition to the maximum 3.0% COLA, I am strongly requesting that the Board adopt the proposed discretionary COLA of 2.6%. It is essential for the financial well-being of all retirees!

Thank you for your consideration and adoption of the proposed COLAS.

YOLANDA E. JAIMEZ (retiree)

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

**From:** [Jan Zatorski](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** LACERS COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 12:26:17 PM

---

Dear LACERS Board:

I am writing in support of the staff recommendation regarding the discretionary COLA to be addressed at your next Board meeting. All retirees have been severely impacted by inflation and the past allowances have not kept pace. Inflation is likely to continue for some time so it is unlikely that going with only with a maximum 3.0% COLA will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon.

Again, I strongly recommend and support that you approve the additional 2.6% discretionary COLA as proposed and recommended by staff.

Thank you,

Janette Zatorski

**From:** [Cathy](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Please adopt staff's recommended discretionary 2.6% COLA!  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 10:39:00 AM

---

Hello,

I am requesting that the board ADOPT staff's recommendation for an additional 2.6% COLA.

I have been retired from the City of Los Angeles for 4.5 years. My COLA each year has not been sufficient to keep up with the rising cost of living.

I don't have any hope that the cost of living will get lower, or even stay the same as it is now. This added COLA will help retirees try to keep up with it.

Thank you,  
Cathy

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of additional 2.6% COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 10:06:20 PM

---

Over the past year, the increase in the inflation rate in the US was at 7.87%. It is currently still pretty high at 6.04%. Inflation has impacted the price of just about everything in the LA Metro area and has eroded our retirement income. We are far from living an extravagant lifestyle, but this out of control inflation has made it difficult to make ends meet.

I do appreciate that LACERS is recommending a 3.0% COLA for the upcoming fiscal year. Which will help. But will not go far enough to provide relief to LA City retirees. I support the 2.6% discretionary COLA, which the LACERS staff has recommended to the Board to ask the City Council and Mayor to approve. This will go a long way in helping LA City retirees to be on par with the current inflation.

Thank you for your time and attention.  
Erwin Gee

**From:** [Mark Calcaterra](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Request to approve discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 1:56:39 PM

---

Dear LACERS,

I am writing to request the LACERS Board adopt the staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA; especially since inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while, so it is unlikely our maximum 3.0% COLAs will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon.

Sincerely,  
Mark R. Calcaterra  
LA City Park Ranger (retired)

**From:** [Aol Customer Service](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Cc:** [i](#)  
**Subject:** The Additional 2.6% COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 10:32:43 AM

---

Hi, my name is Michelle Hollinshead, I am a retired city employee of almost 31 years and I am in your favor and am requesting the additional 2.6% COLA raise, thanks Michelle Hollinshead

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

**From:** [Lupe Rodarte](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** 2,6 1% COLA Increase  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 7:09:02 AM

---

Dear Boardmembers, this is a request to adopt the discretionary 2.6% COLA;  
I retired February 2020 after 36 years of devoted service in various City departments and have experienced an enormous hardship during the pandemic and my retirement allowance has not kept up with inflation;  
the 3.0% is not going to keep up with the constant current rise of inflation.

Boardmembers I urge you to consider approving and adopting both the discretionary 2.6% and the 3% maximum COLA.

Thank you,  
Guadalupe N Rodarte

**From:** [Jackie Middleton](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** 2.6 COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 10:08:40 AM

---

Hello board members,

I am asking the board to give our request for a 2.6 COLA increase careful consideration.

The cost of living has increased considerably, and would help us maintain our standard of living on an already fixed income.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jacqueline Middleton

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** [Burdell Hooks](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** 2.6% COLA adjustment  
**Date:** Saturday, April 8, 2023 11:04:15 PM

---

Hello, Darrett Hooks here and I am retired now for 8 years and I am requesting that the board to approve staff recommendations for the 2.6% COLA adjustment. With the rising cost of food, medicines and gas, inflation is killing us retirees and it is very difficult to keep pace with the current cost of living. Thanks for hearing my concerns.

Darrett B Hooks  
LAX Police retired



**From:** [wtcup](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** 2.6% COLA  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 6:40:56 PM

---

I'm requesting ro be included in the 2.6 % COLA increase.

Thank you.

Dorothy Wiley

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

**From:** [Dorine Thomas](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** 2.6% discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 8:01:58 AM

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Dear LACERS Board Members:

It has come to my attention that the LACERS staff is going to recommend that the BOARD request a 2.6% discretionary COLA. I would like to request the BOARD to support this recommendation and ask the City Council and Mayor's approval of said recommendation.

I am a mother of two college aged children. During the last couple of years due to the effects of the pandemic coupled with the financial effects of increasing inflation, I am experiencing a financial strain on my fixed income. During the pandemic my kids returned home, which meant an increase in utilities, food and educational expenses that were unexpected and unplanned. I also financially support my mother with living expenses, since her primary source of income is social security.

In my case, the approval of the 2.6% discretionary COLA would provide a bit of financial relief during these uncertain times and continued inflation.

Best regards,

DoRine Thomas

**From:** [Sandy Rangel](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** 2.6% discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 6:16:09 AM

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To The LACERS Board, please respond and support the adoption an additional increase of 2.6% to our COLA. We are currently challenged with higher living costs such as gas, fresh produce, and household goods and services. There is no way to keep up this pace even with the standard COLA and for years to come.

**From:** [Shaton Brown](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** 2.6% Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 3:25:37 PM

---

Good afternoon LACERS Board members,

I am submitting this email to request that the board adopt the staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA.

Inflation has hit everyone really hard over the past several years. Gas, groceries, utilities, interest, are just a few things that have increased tremendously. While all of these things have increased our allowance has not kept up. The likelihood of inflation going down is not likely in the near future so it is unlikely that our 3% COLAs will help us catch up to inflation.

Your consideration in adopting the discretionary 2.6% COLA is greatly appreciated.

Best regards,

Shaton Brown

**From:** [LL Allen](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** 2023 COLA approval  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 10:51:35 AM

---

LACERS staff is recommending a 3.0% COLA for the upcoming year. They are also recommending the Board ask City Council and the Mayor to approve an additional 2.6% discretionary COLA. As a retiree, I urge the Board to adopt the recommendation. The inflation rate is likely to remain high and the maximum 3.0% COLA is unlikely to help us catch up to inflation anytime soon. The goal of most City employees is to retire comfortably. With the current rate of inflation, it is becoming necessary to seek employment again. The approval of the discretionary COLA is necessary to help avoid this.

Thank you for your time.

Linda L. Allen

**From:** [YOLANDA HUANG](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** 2023 COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 10:35:27 PM

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Honorable LACERS Board,

Please approve the staff's recommendations related to the 2023 COLA which is the 3% COLA for the upcoming fiscal year and that the Board ask the City Council and the Mayor to approve the additional 2.6% discretionary COLA.

My husband and I have devoted 32 years and 30 years of dedicated service to the City respectively. We have provided exemplary service to our departments and to the public that we serve. Recent economic changes have brought significant impact on our ability to meet our obligations. Merely getting 3% COLA increases yearly isn't not enough for most of the retirees like us who are still paying for our mortgage and other expenses. As prices for goods go up in disproportionate manner as our COLA, more of us retirees will have greater difficulty.

I hope that you will consider our financial situation when you consider your vote for this item in your agenda.

Sincerely,  
Yolanda Huang

**From:** [Howard Huang](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** 2023-2024 COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 10:41:50 PM

---

Honorable LACERS Board,

Please approve the staff's recommendations related to the 2023 COLA which is the 3% COLA for the upcoming fiscal year and that the Board ask the City Council and the Mayor to approve the additional 2.6% discretionary COLA.

My wife and I have devoted 30 years and 32 years of dedicated service to the City respectively. We have provided great service to our departments and to the public that we serve. Recent economic changes have brought significant impact on our ability to meet our obligations. Merely getting 3% COLA increases yearly isn't not enough for most of the retirees like us who are still paying for our mortgage and other expenses. As prices for goods go up in higher percentages than our COLA, more of us retirees will have greater difficulty. We are left with more uncertainty about our future which we thought was adequate after our retirement.

I hope that you will consider our financial situation when you consider your vote for this item in your agenda.

Sincerely,  
Howard Huang

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Additional 2.6 % COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 9:25:23 PM

---

With the sharp rise in inflation in these post covid times, it is imperative that the additional 2.6% COLA become a reality asap!!!Please work for us that put our hearts and hard work in for many years for the citizens of Los Angeles,

Sincerely,  
Karen Bottancino  
retired LAPD

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Cc:** [SHAVAN BROWN](#)  
**Subject:** ADDITIONAL 2.6% COLA  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 7:33:29 AM

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My name is Shavan Brown, employee ID number [REDACTED]. This is email is to notify you of my request of the additional 2.6% COLA for civilians.

Thanks

**From:** [mary\\_ross](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Adopting the recommendation regarding the discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 7:42:53 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam

As a member of LACERS, I am requesting the Board to adopt staff's recommendations regarding discretionary COLA. Inflation is at an all time high and is not likely to stabilize anytime soon. As a retiree and being a senior I do not want to be homeless or have to try and find employment. The discretionary COLA increase would be extremely helpful .

Your consideration in this matter would be extremely helpful, thank you in advance.

Respectfully

MaryF.Ross

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Approval of Additional Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 6:00:16 PM

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To: LACERS Board Members

As a retiree, I am recommending the Board adopt staff's recommendation to the City Council and Mayor regarding the approval of an additional 2.6% discretionary COLA.

We have been severely impacted by inflation over the last couple of years and my retirement allowance has not kept pace. This inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while, so it is unlikely our maximum 3.0% COLAs will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Geraldine M. Rodriguez

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Approval of Additional Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 6:03:20 PM

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To: LACERS Board Members

As a retiree, I am recommending the Board adopt staff's recommendation to the City Council and Mayor regarding the approval of an additional 2.6% discretionary COLA.

We have been severely impacted by inflation over the last couple of years and my retirement allowance has not kept pace. This inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while, so it is unlikely our maximum 3.0% COLAs will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert L. Rodriguez

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

**From:** [Janet Taga](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** APPROVAL OF DISCRETIONARY COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 1:44:42 PM

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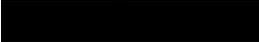
Your adoption of the staff's recommendation of the discretionary 2.6% COLA for retirees is greatly encouraged and would be appreciated.

Inflation over the last few years has greatly impacted our lives. The cost of food, health, gasoline, utilities, among other costs, have skyrocketed and the 3% COLA has not kept pace with these increases. With inflation likely to continue and remain relatively high for the next few years and costs not likely to return to the rates prior to inflation, the maximum 3.0% COLA will unlikely help us catch up to the rising costs anytime soon.

Please adopt the recommendation of staff to adopt the 2.6% Discretionary COLA.

Thank you!

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Janet Taga  


**From:** [R.Michel](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** APPROVE DISCRETIONARY COLA-public comments  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 10:51:08 AM

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Hello there.

I am asking the Board to recommend to the City Council and the Mayor, the recommendation of the **2.6% Discretionary COLA (which has not been requested for years, due to the relatively low inflation rate which has now drastically changed!)** in addition to the 3% COLA for the upcoming fiscal year.

Inflation has impacted my life tremendously. Over the last couple of years my retirement allowance has not kept pace with high inflation, and as we enter another year it is going to remain high. Covid took a tremendous toll on my entire family household including the loss of jobs of my adult children which then led them to move back in with us for assistance. Costs for food, housing, gas, etc has reached an all time high so it is unlikely our maximum 3% COLAs will help catch up to inflation anytime soon.

The discretionary COLA of 2.6% in addition to the 3% COLA would help make up for the deficit our family has experienced these last several years.

Please move this forward with a strong recommendation from the Board to the Mayor and City Council.

Thank you.

Rosie Michel  
Retiree  
Civil Servant for 38 years

**From:** [Maritza Campodonico](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.board@lacers.org](mailto:LACERS.board@lacers.org)  
**Subject:** COLA & Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Saturday, April 8, 2023 6:06:17 AM

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I would ask the Board to please adopt staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA; as you all know inflation has impacted us over the last couple of years and our retirement allowance has not kept pace. As we all can see the inflation most likely is going to remain high if not grow higher and our maximum 3% COLA won't be enough to help us catch up with the growing inflation.

Sincerely yours,

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Maritza Campodonico](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA & Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Saturday, April 8, 2023 3:32:29 PM

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lease adopt staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA; as you all know inflation has impacted us over the last couple of years and our retirement allowance has not kept pace. As we all Can see the inflation most likely is going to remain high if not grow higher and our maximum 3% COLA won't be enough to help us catch up with the growing inflation.

Sincerely yours,

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Vanessa Kjeller](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA 2023 - Adoption of Staff Recommendations  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 1:19:36 PM

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Good afternoon -

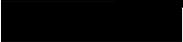
I am writing you today to ask the BOARD to adopt the staff's recommendations to adopt the discretionary 2.6% for this year in addition the 3.0% COLA.

My reason for this request is because of inflation and the increase of interest rates. It has created pension shrinkage by a large margin. Gas, groceries and also utility Gas to keep my house warm has tripled. I am also learning that the interest rates will remain high at least until the year 2025 an they could even go higher than they are currently.

When I first retired in 2020, my pay check would reach the entire 4 weeks, slowly it started not reaching that far and now only reaches me 3 weeks. This 3 week stretch is not for any Trips, vacations, nor spending any money on non-necessary items or purchasing luxury items.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter, if you need any additional information from me, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Respectively,

Vanessa   


**From:** [Fernando franco](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA adjustment  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 4:29:04 AM

---

Good morning please consider adding the 2.6 % to the 3% COLA as inflation is at an all time high.

The prices on everything has gone up so hopefully the board will also consider the higher COLA adjustment.

Thank You.

Sincerely

Fernando Franco

**From:** [Lisa Smock](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA and Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Sunday, April 9, 2023 7:44:58 PM

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Greetings,

I am a retired LA City employee and I am grateful for my pension, but inflation and the high cost of living because of it has put a strain on our retiree's budgets and living standards. I would like the Board to adopt staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA. Inflation has impacted me over the last few years, and that is noticeable when grocery shopping, purchasing gasoline, and other purchases. The retirement allowance has not kept pace, and I find my financial decisions are tougher to make because of it. Inflation is likely to remain high, and this will impact me further in my financial wellbeing, as the maximum COLA of 3% will not keep up anytime soon.

Please follow the Staff's recommendations and push for the Discretionary COLA, it will help us make it through a difficult financial period.

Thank you,  
Lisa J Smock

**From:** [Olivia Riter](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA for 2023  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 5:49:40 PM

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Dear LACERS Board members:

I write you this email correspondence today as I understand that you will soon be reviewing and voting on the retirement members' annual cost of living adjustment (COLA).

As all of us know, we are in a time of high inflation following a world-wide pandemic. In my case specifically, I am a retired single woman who still has a college-age dependent daughter. We both survive only my LACERS pension, for which I am very grateful. I cannot work another job due to my health. This year, the COLA is even more important because, as you know, our LACERS healthcare costs (employee contribution) increased significantly this year. This increase in healthcare costs, combined with the rapid, high and wide-spread inflation, has placed a strain on my finances, as I'm sure it has on many other City of Los Angeles retirees. Because of this, I respectfully ask that you, the LACERS Board members, adopt the 3.0% COLA that the LACERS staff is recommending, AND also, that you please ask the City Council and Mayor to approve an additional 2.6% discretionary COLA.

Based on economists' predictions, inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while, and frankly, our COLA's in the past years have not kept up with the rate of inflation in our country, and the world. Unfortunately, our healthcare costs will only continue to rise, as with everything else. At this pace of continued high inflation, it is unlikely our maximum 3.0% COLAs will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely, and with gratitude for all you do,

Olivia G. Riter

LACERS retired member

**From:** [Yvette Burney](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA for Retirees  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 10:26:56 PM

---

Inflation is hurting everyone and retirees are struggling like everyone else. The cost of housing, food, gas and energy plus some unexpected medical bills have had a significant impact on me personally. My retirement allowance has not kept pace with the high inflation over the last few years. By many projections, inflation is not expected to subside anytime soon and retirees will continue to fall behind if we can't get some help.

It is my understanding that the LACERS Board will consider the annual COLA adjustment for retirees and I am writing to request you adopt the staff recommendations regarding the 3% COLA as well as encourage the Mayor and Council to approve an additional 2.6% discretionary COLA so retirees can keep better pace with inflation.

Respectfully,

Yvette Burney  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Michael Story](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA Increase  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 7:34:24 PM

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Please Please consider an increase for retired members. As inflation continues to be a Big factor in our daily lives, we continue to struggle.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Marjo110](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA RAISE 2023  
**Date:** Saturday, April 8, 2023 10:37:49 AM

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My name is Mary Jo McCord, with the cost of living out-of-control I'm in favor of the COLA raise in July. Appreciate your support  
[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

**From:** [Beverly Johnson](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Cola  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 9:35:38 AM

---

Morning

I am requesting an additional 2.6% cola for this year due to high inflation cost. I have been unable to keep up with these high prices food,gas, electric now the gas company triple their prices. It's outrageous. This inflation makes it very difficult to live and I hope and pray for this request is granted because of it.

Thank you in advance

Beverly Austin Johnson

**From:** [Camille Brausam](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 6:47:40 PM

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I'm requesting that the Board adopt staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA of 2.6%. Over the past two years inflation has risen extremely high where our 3.0% yearly COLA is not even close to the inflation amount.

**From:** [Janice Guevara](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 8:21:14 AM

---

I recommend asking the Board to

- 1) Adopt staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COALA
- 2) Inform the Board that current inflation rates have had a negative impact on LACERS members
- 3) Inflation is likely to remain high so adjusting the COLA is necessary

Thanks for your support and consideration

Janice Guevara  
City of Los Angeles Retiree

**From:** [Nancy & Vrej Hammoudian](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 10:36:43 PM

---

LACERS.board@lacers.org.

I would recommend (1) asking the Board to adopt staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA; (2) let the Board know how inflation has impacted you over the last couple of years and that your retirement allowance has not kept pace; and (3) remind the Board that inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while, so it is unlikely our maximum 3.0% COLAs will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon.

Please help us

Thank you

NancyHammoudian

Retiree

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Pam Jedlicka](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 7:25:27 PM

---

Patricia Jedlicka here - retired civilian LAPD. I am requesting the Board support the one time COLA increase of 2.6 % above & beyond the recommended 3%. I know this would really help me out as we wobble towards normalizing the economic outlook post-pandemic. thanks for your time & what you do for LACERS retirees.

Patricia Jedlicka  
LAPD 1987-2003

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [SEANEAN COLSON-DURDEN](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA  
**Date:** Saturday, April 8, 2023 10:30:50 AM

---

To Whom This May Concern:

I am hereby submitting my request for you, the board, to adopt the staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA.

As I am sure you all are aware, inflation has not moved to any degree for quite some time. It has impacted everyone to some degree and those of us who are retired have had no choice but to SACRIFICE beyond the norm just in order to handle life's daily needs. Some have been living from check to check for the past couple years and to be quite honest, as for myself, after having a great career with the City of Los Angeles and all I have put into the city, I do believe all of my city employees deserve to at least be at more of a level of certainty as far as our funds are concerned.

Seeing as how inflation is likely to remain for a while, I am asking that you as the board, consider the discretionary COLA in order so that we can play a bit of "catch up" and be in a more comfortable position as we all maintain this precious thing called life.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and all you do!

**From:** [Michael Vitkiewicz](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLAs  
**Date:** Saturday, April 8, 2023 1:03:08 PM

---

To the Honorable LACERS Board Members:

Please approve both the 3% annual COLA and the discretionary 2.6% COLA. While these two will not protect me from the inflation over the past year or the projections for FY 2023, they will help, especially adding the discretionary COLA to the 3 percent “regular” COLA.

I retired after 33 years with the City and I find now that I pay much more for health care than ever, including all the years I helped to make Los Angeles a better place.

Therefore, please:

1. ADOPT staff recommendations regarding the 2.6 percent discretionary COLA,

and;

2. NOTE that the allowed LACERS retirement amount alone does not keep up with inflation.

This has been the case for me since I retired in December 2020. I want to stay alive and in my home. I must use all of my LACERS funding to do so. But the funding I receive does not allow me to buy (even used) the tools needed for the things I had planned to do in “retirement.”

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mike Vitkiewicz  
Former City Employee (Retired) and  
Business Improvement District / Special Assessments Unit / Department of Neighborhood  
Empowerment team member

**From:** [GINGER](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 8:06:03 PM

---

I would recommend asking the Board to adopt the staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA; Inflation has impacted all of us over the last couple of years and my retirement allowance has not kept pace; Inflation is likely to remain high for a while so it is unlikely our maximum 3.0 COLA

**From:** [Yvonne Thompson](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 6:09:31 PM

---

Hello,

My name is Yvonne Thompson. This May will mark a year since my service to the great City of Los Angeles has ended and I officially retired.

A lot has happened since I retired. One significant event, I have become a caregiver for my mom.

Every penny counts and to hear that the Board or the Mayor could say no to a 3.0 percent COLA and. 2.6 additional discretionary COLA is disheartening.

I served the City as a Police Service Representative III for most of my career and proudly promoted to a Senior Police Service Rep I for the last 5.

I was honored to serve the people of Los Angeles for 33 years.

I don't think it's asking to much for the City to make sure that in retirement we are not forgotten. With inflation on the rise and no relief to be seen, please don't forget those of us that have ended our careers. We deserve a bit of relief as well.

Sincerely,  
Yvonne Thompson

**From:** [Shelly Del Rosario](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Comment for Board Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 9:17:06 PM

---

I am sending this email to let the Board know that I am requesting the Board to adopt the additional discretionary 2.6% COLA.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shelly Del Rosario

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Cost of Living Adjustment  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 8:26:13 PM

---

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to urge the Board members to authorize the Board President to sign and transmit a letter to the Los Angeles City Council requesting review of the COLA for those who receive retirement benefits from LACERS and consider granting a 2.6% discretionary COLA increase to eligible Tier 1 Participants.

Inflation has impacted many retirees, me included, in ways that would have been unthought of only a few years ago. The combined effects of increased costs due to the recent Pandemic brought on by supply chain issues and energy prices have far outstripped the annual increases as calculated by the LACERS actuary. Our retirement allowances have not kept pace.

The purchasing power of our retirement pension dollars has markedly decreased over the last couple of years.. Inflation is predicted to remain above pre-Pandemic levels for the foreseeable future. The annual maximum 3.0% COLAs alone will not help us catch up to inflation.

Please help LACERS retirees continue to live with dignity and with economic security.

Sincerely,

Lawrence O'Neill  
Vermont, USA

**From:** [MARK BLUNK](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR JULY 2023 AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTIONS  
**Date:** Sunday, April 9, 2023 1:09:29 AM

---

Honorable Board Members,

The staff is submitting a report that provides for a discretionary COLA increase due to unusually high Consumer Price Increases beyond the 3 percent cap for Tier 1 retirees. Given that the CPI rate was 7.4 percent, and the members are directly impacted by such increases while in retirement, the staff proposal is very reasonable and consistent with the plan provisions for a larger COLA whenever the CPI is extreme.

Certainly 7.4 percent CPI increases have impacted every retired member and reduced the value of their pensions. Retirees have limited resources and find it impossible to makeup for these reductions in real value on their own, really dealing with increasing costs for Medicare premiums and many other necessities in their lives. The staff has proposed a greater COLA which will have a very significant impact on their lives. Your careful consideration is requested and I would ask that you imagine stepping into the shoes of a retiree receiving a pension while living in an excessive inflationary period.

The discretionary COLA was specifically designed because the City wanted to assure there was a mechanism to address the fact that there would be possible periods of excessive inflation. These discretionary increases are specifically provided to assure there is a way maintain the financial security of LACERS retirees.

Please vote to approve all of the staff recommendations, including the discretionary increase to address the excessive real increases in costs of living.

Thank you,

Mark Blunk  
Retiree of LACERS and a Board Member of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Incorporated (RLACEI)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Tiffany BurkeWilliams](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA Request  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 4:17:55 PM

---

Due to the recent historically high inflation rates, I believe the Board should consider LACERS staff recommendation to ask the City Council and Mayor to approve an additional 2.6% discretionary COLA for the upcoming fiscal year.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Tiffany Burke-Williams, Retired

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Tiffany BurkeWilliams [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Mon, Apr 10, 2023, 4:07 PM  
**Subject:**  
**To:** <[LACERS.board@lacers.org](mailto:LACERS.board@lacers.org)>

Due to the recent historically high inflation rates, I believe the Board should consider LACERS staff recommendation to ask the City Council and Mayor to approve an additional 2.6% discretionary COLA for the upcoming fiscal year.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Tiffany Burke-Williams, Retired

**From:** [Anita McKinney](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 9:51:05 PM

---

Dear LACERS Board,

Since the rising cost of fuel for our vehicles, gas used for cooking and heating, the rising costs of food and other everyday essentials, our retirement allowance has not kept pace with the rising cost of inflation. Since inflation is likely to remain high it is unlikely that our maximum 3.0% COLA's will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon. I am requesting that the Board ask the City Council and Mayor Bass to approve an additional 2.6% discretionary COLA in order to help us in these trying times. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration with this request.

Sincerely,

*Anita McKinney*

*Retired City of Los Angeles Department of Airports 2015*

**From:** [Ann Seales](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 3:46:37 PM

---

Hello,

I am submitting the following for public comment:

My name is Ann Seales, and I retired in August of 2022.

I am requesting the Board to adopt staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA of 2.6%.

As we are all aware inflation has consistently risen over the last few years at a rate which is significantly higher than the approved 3% rate that LACERS is traditionally allowed to approve.

While the 3% is welcomed, it does not match the increased rate of expenses that we now incur in our day to day life.

This inflation appears to remain relatively high for a while given the economic conditions. Therefore, it is unlikely our maximum 3.0% COLAs will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon.

Thank you for your consideration

Ann Seales

**From:** [Diane Weber](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Saturday, April 8, 2023 10:31:44 AM

---

I understand that there is discussion of requesting a discretionary COLA of 2.6% on top of the max 3% COLA for retirees this year. Considering the CPI has gone up 7.4% over last year based on the average for LA, why are they only suggesting for an additional 2.6% instead of 4.4% discretionary COLA? Anything will help, but it seems to be a miscalculation of your own formula for the COLA. Just something to think about.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Weber

Sent from my Galaxy

**From:** [Geri Vasquez](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Saturday, April 8, 2023 11:09:10 PM

---

Dear LACERS Board Members,

Please adopt the staff's recommendations of a discretionary COLA, in addition to the 3% max COLA. It would really help me to catch up and to keep up with my living expenses, as my cost of living has been so impacted by inflation and these COVID times (EVERYTHING just costs more!). Things keep getting so tight and I don't see it getting any better soon. Please help.

Thank you.

Geri Vasquez  
City of Los Angeles Retiree

**From:** [la-rangel](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** DISCRETIONARY COLA  
**Date:** Saturday, April 8, 2023 10:15:19 AM

---

## LACERS BOARD

I recommend (1) asking the Board to adopt staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA; (2) inflation has been at an all time high over the last couple of years and my retirement has not kept pace; and (3) lastly inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while, so it is unlikely our maximum 3.0% COLAs will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon. The inflationary cola will not catch up with the inflation rate but it will certainly help...thank you for taking this into consideration...

Laura Rangel

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 9:53:19 AM

---

Good morning:

As a retired city employee 2 years ago with 40 years of service, I'm asking the board to please pass and adopt Staff's recommendation regarding the discretionary COLA. Inflation has greatly impacted my last couple of years being retired and my retirement allowance has not kept pace. In addition, inflation is likely to remain high for a while, so it is unlikely that our maximum 3% COLA's will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon.

Thank you very much and please consider padding this.

Marc Israel

**From:** [Marc Shanley](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary cola  
**Date:** Saturday, April 8, 2023 9:13:41 PM

---

As a retiree I am requesting the board consider a discretionary cola due to astronomical current cost of living.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Paula Moore](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Saturday, April 8, 2023 9:49:11 AM

---

I am asking the Board to adopt the staff's recommended 2.6% discretionary COLA. In the past one and a half years, it has become extremely difficult to stay afloat due to the rising cost of everything. While the inflation would still outweigh any COLA adopted by the Board, this would be a great start and help to me and many others.

Thank you for allowing our voices to be heard, and your attention to this matter  
Thank you for what you do.

Humbly  
Paula Moore

**From:** [Ralph V.](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 8:39:55 PM

---

My name is Ralph Valencia. I retired from the City of Los Angeles in February 2018.

I am asking the Board to adopt the staff's recommendation regarding a discretionary COLA of 2.6%.

This past several years inflation has impacted my family. The cost of food, gas, and utilities has risen while my pension has not risen with the rate of inflation.

Inflation in the next couple of years is expected to rise even higher. It is unlikely a 3% COLA will be sufficient to meet my family's financial needs.

Thank you for your time.

Ralph George Valencia  
Sergeant 2  
Los Angeles Airport Police, Retired.

**From:** [Debra Verin](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA-Request APPROVAL  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 10:13:30 AM

---

Greetings!

The purpose of my communication is to request that the Board approve the discretionary COLA recommended. As you know, the economy is troubled with high gas prices, food and interest rates. History has taught us that inflation affects the economy and it is doing these times that we need help with the cost of inflation. Its unfortunately but I suspect that prices of goods will continue to rise.

While, I would like to see an even more increase, I am requesting that the Board approves what has been recommended.

As a Board member, I am counting on you to help Retirees who have faithful served the City of Los Angeles.

Thank you for your time, consideration and determination to be the voice of Retirees.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

**From:** [Susan and DJ Smetana](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 9:20:58 AM

---

To Whom it may concern,

We are both City of Los Angeles retirees who want to ask that; (1) The Board adopts staffs recommendations regarding the 2.6% discretionary COLA; (2) With inflation being at an all time high, high gas prices, high grocery bills, just a high cost of living period, our retirement allowance has not kept pace with this inflation. After working many long and fulfilling years for the City of Los Angeles we want to be able to continue enjoying our retirement without the worry of our retirement allowances not keeping pace with inflation; (3) Inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while, so it is unlikely our 3.0% COLAS will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon.

Sincerely,

Susan and Dareld Smetana

**From:** [Toni Mc Donald](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 8:38:19 PM

---

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern regarding our current cost of living discussions.

Inflation has definitely impacted me and my retirement allowance is lagging behind. Inflation, seemingly, will continue at a high rate and I believe LACERS 3.0% COLAs will not provide a cushion in the near future.

Respectfully, I am requesting the Board to adopt Staff's discretionary COLA recommendations.

In Unity,

Toni Mc Donald

**From:** [annette leon](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Adopting the recommendation regarding the discretionary COLA.  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 7:31:08 PM

---

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Fri, Apr 7, 2023 at 9:12 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: Adopting the recommendation regarding the discretionary COLA.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Fri, Apr 7, 2023 at 9:11 PM  
**Subject:** Adopting the recommendation regarding the discretionary COLA.

Dear Sir/Madam

As a member of Lacers, I am requesting the Board to adopt staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA.

Inflation is at an all time high. The cost of housing, home owner insurance, car insurance, utilities, gas and food has all almost doubled in the last two years.

Inflation is likely to remain high for quite some time. This discretionary COLA increase would be extremely helpful.

Your consideration on this matter is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully

Annette Leon-Chatman

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [adrienne russell](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** increase COLA DISCRETIONARY 2.6%  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 6:31:30 PM

---

Please increase the COLA to 2.6% discretionary COLA, Inflation has affected me and my family over the last couple of years and retirement has not kept pace. Board, please keep in mind that inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while, so it is unlikely our maximum 3.0% COLA'S will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon. Thank you for your consideration.



**Adrienne Russell** [REDACTED]



Sender notified by  
[Mailtrack](#)

**From:** [Michael Crist](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** LACERS 2023 Regular & Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 12:06:35 PM

---

To the Honorable LACERS Board:

As you may be aware, recent inflation has been unprecedented. Our retirement allowances have not kept pace with this inflation which will likely remain high for the foreseeable future. With current CPI at 4.2%, the 3% cap on our annual COLA will most likely NOT be enough to help us, retirees, catch up with this inflation.

I, therefore, strongly urge the Board to adopt both of staff's recommendations 1) to grant the 3% regular COLA increase and, 2) to grant the 2.6% discretionary COLA increase.

I hope that this Board will take the necessary actions on behalf of us, LACERS members.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,  
Helen Crist

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Michael Crist](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** LACERS 2023 Regular & Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 12:06:35 PM

---

To the Honorable LACERS Board:

As you may be aware, recent inflation has been unprecedented. Our retirement allowances have not kept pace with this inflation which will likely remain high for the foreseeable future. With current CPI at 4.2%, the 3% cap on our annual COLA will most likely NOT be enough to help us, retirees, catch up with this inflation.

I, therefore, strongly urge the Board to adopt both of staff's recommendations 1) to grant the 3% regular COLA increase and, 2) to grant the 2.6% discretionary COLA increase.

I hope that this Board will take the necessary actions on behalf of us, LACERS members.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,  
Helen Crist

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Cc:** [John & Lil Neuman](#)  
**Subject:** LACERS COLA/BANK FOR 2023  
**Date:** Saturday, April 8, 2023 11:55:08 AM  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]  
**Importance:** High

---

LACERS Board,

It has been brought to my attention from a fellow retiree that the LACERS Staff/Board is considering a 3% COLA for 2023 along with a DCOLA of 2.6% for a total CPI in 2022 for the LA area of 5.6%. I would appreciate it if someone could share with me what exactly a DCOLA is? More importantly, if the above info is correct, I would very much like to know where the 5.6% CPI calculation came from as it varies drastically from my own calculations?

When I retired from the city almost 4 years ago I had reached out to LACERS to ascertain how to calculate the CPI for LA that the COLA/Bank is based on. I was told at the time that the calculation is based on the annual average % change in LA (year ending vs prior year).

Based on that info, I show that the average CPI for LA for 2022 (used for the 2023 COLA) should be 7.4%. See calculation methodology below along with the formula used that I had received from LACERS. I have also attached the CPI numbers for the LA area from the BLS website. Using the formula below, I have been able to replicate the COLA's approved by LACERS each of the past 3 years. Hopefully, LACERS has also calculated the same 7.4% for last year's CPI?

Thank you,  
John M Neuman  
Retired Police Administrator  
[REDACTED]

COLA Calculation:

The data is available on the BLS website. You can access the LA data at bls.gov by clicking on these links in succession on the website:

- >Subjects
- >Consumer Price Index (under Inflation & Prices)
- >CPI Data
- >Databases (under Data Overview)
- >Top Picks for All Urban Consumers (Current Series)
- >Check the box for Los Angeles, All items

>Retrieve data

This should bring up the page with LA CPI historical numbers. We use the annual averages indicated here.

Calculate % Change from prior year to current year ended:  
((New-Old)/Old).

As an Example for calculating the 2023 COLA:

2021 Avg CPI for LA: 289.244

2022 Avg CPI for LA: 310.782

$21.538/289.244 = 0.07446308$  Or 7.4%.

**From:** [pilarkat](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 2:09:51 PM

---

Sent from my Galaxy

I'm a retiree trying to catch up with inflation.

I urge the Board to please adopt the staff's recommendations:

- 1) to grant the 3% regular COLA increase and
- 2) to grant the 2.6% discretionary COLA increase.

I hope the Board will take the necessary actions on behalf of us, LACERS members.

Thanks for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,  
Pricilla P Katt

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Please Adopt Staff's Recommendation for 3 percent COLA plus an Additional Discretionary 2.6 percent due to High Inflationary Cost of Living  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 7:43:53 PM

---

Dear Board Members,

Please adopt the staff's recommendations regarding the 3 percent COLA and please ask the Mayor and City Council to approve an additional 2.6 percent discretionary COLA.

Inflation has negatively impacted me financially and other in the last couple of years with respect to high food cost, high energy costs, high housing costs and high interest rates and the raises in my retirement allowance have not kept up with the pace of inflation which was as high as 9 percent last year.

I would like to indicate to the Board that inflation will likely remain relatively high for a while and it is currently at around 6 percent year over year. Increases of the maximum 3.0 percent COLAs will not help us catch up to the level of inflation experienced in 2022 and 2023 anytime soon. In addition, the Federal Reserve Board is continuing to raise interest rates in 2023 with the hope of reigning in inflation which so far has proved to be stubbornly difficult to bring under control.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards

Isabel Rosas Curci

**From:** [Steven Montagna](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Cost of Living Increase for Retirees - LACERS Meeting 4-11-23, Item VIII-A  
**Date:** Sunday, April 9, 2023 1:22:09 PM

---

Dear LACERS Board,

I am writing in reference to Item VIII-A for your Board meeting to be held April 11, 2023, regarding cost of living increases for LACERS retirees effective July 1, 2023. The report recommends that the Board authorize the Board President "to sign and transmit a letter to the Los Angeles City Council ("Council") requesting review of the COLA for those who receive retirement benefits from LACERS and consider granting a 2.6% discretionary COLA increase to eligible Tier 1 Participants."

As a LACERS retiree and in support of other retirees, I urge the Board to adopt the staff recommendation to recommend to the City Council adoption of the 2.6% discretionary increase. Retired participants are particularly vulnerable to dramatic and unexpected inflationary changes such as those which occurred this past year. Many of these retirees, particularly those who have substantial medical needs or long-term care expenses, may be facing significant financial challenges in protecting their fundamental needs for housing and healthcare. I am personally aware of one of these members so affected.

Although I understand it is rare for these discretionary increases to be granted, it is also clear that the economic and inflationary impacts of the last few years are unprecedented, due in no small part to downstream effects from the COVID pandemic, policy decisions on the part of federal officials and the Federal Reserve, and commodity/supply shortfalls. All of these factors contributed to a sharp increase in inflation which was unexpected and which has been, for many of the most vulnerable individuals, devastating in its impact.

A compassionate and forthright response is called for to what is no doubt for many a financial emergency. I urge the LACERS Board to lend its support to this recommendation.

Respectfully,  
Steven Montagna

①

### LACERS SPEAKER REQUEST CARD

Meeting Date: 4/11/23

NAME: RUTH FERREY

SUBJECT/AGENDA ITEM: VIII A - CCA

GROUP AFFILIATION (if any): RLACEI

#### Board Use Only

- Addressed the Board
- Withdrawn
- Written Response Only

LACERS SPEAKER REQUEST CARD

3

Meeting Date: 4/11/23

NAME: TOM MOUTES

SUBJECT/AGENDA ITEM: VIII A (COUN)

GROUP AFFILIATION (if any): PROTECT LACERS

Board Use Only

- Addressed the Board
- Withdrawn
- Written Response Only

**From:** [Jill Woo](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for LACERS Board Meeting scheduled on 5/11/21  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 5:45:33 PM

---

## Dear Lacers Board,

I just wanted to submit my public comment regarding Board item # VI. A.—The Health Savings Account issue. I just wanted the Board to know that I support the staff's well thought out analysis and recommendation regarding item #VI. A —the Health Savings Account Issue.

Thank you,

Jill Woo  
LAPD Communications Retiree  


**From:** [Susan V. Villegas](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 10:03:32 AM

---

Susan Villegas

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Susan V. Villegas" [REDACTED]  
**Date:** April 10, 2023 at 9:30:13 AM PDT  
**To:** [lacers.board@lacity.org](mailto:lacers.board@lacity.org)  
**Subject: Public Comment: Discretionary COLA**

Please adopt staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA. Inflation has impacted me over the last couple of years and my retirement allowance has not kept pace. Inflation is likely to remain high for awhile, so it's unlikely our maximum 3% COLAs will help us catch up to the inflation anytime soon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Villegas

**From:** [Paul Russo](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 1:07:47 PM

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Good afternoon, this is for public comment for your upcoming Board Meeting.

I am asking the Board:

- 1) to adopt staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA
- 2) inflation has impacted me over the last couple of years and retirement allowances have not kept pace
- 3) inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while, so it's unlikely our maximum 3% COLA will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon.

Thank you,  
~Paul Russo

**From:** [Julie Cuttrell](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments, Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 6:48:43 PM

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As a retired LA City employee, I respectfully request that the Board adopt staff's recommendation on the discretionary COLA, and that the matter be forwarded to the City Council with the strongest recommendations for approval.

While the typical formula has sufficiently, if not entirely, kept up with inflation at least since my retirement in 2010, the 3% COLA in 2023 will in no way match the dramatic costs of living that we have been experiencing for many months, and surely will continue to experience in the months, and quite possibly years, to come.

I am solely responsible for my expenses, and have pared a number of things from my budget in recent months in reaction to ever-increasing costs of goods and services. The cost of natural gas alone during the worst of Winter proved to be a startling dose of reality. I am fortunate to still be able to pay my bills, and I'm grateful to have the benefits my career bestowed. I have no illusion of getting ahead, but by the same token, I do have an expectation of keeping up. A mere 3% COLA will not be representative of keeping up.

Gratefully submitted for your consideration,  
Julie T. Cuttrell

**From:** [Elizabeth Kazay](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Re vote god the 2.6  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 11:58:06 AM

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Sent from my iPhone I want the City Council to have a big discussion on the increase for the cola of 2.6% on Tuesday agenda Thanks. from Elizabeth Kazay Retiree sent on April 10, 2023! Please respond in reference of receiving this message!!

**From:** [Tracy Page](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Board Recommendations regarding COLA  
**Date:** Saturday, April 8, 2023 1:22:46 PM

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Hello,

I retired from City Service in 2021 after almost 31 years of service, my husband was a 32 year City Employee. As a couple with over 60 years of combined city service, I recommend the following to the LACERS Board:

(1) Adopt the staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA; (2) both being retired City employees, inflation impacts us the same and was a major part of our decision to move out of California to try and stretch our retirement dollars (3) Inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while, so it is unlikely our maximum 3.0% COLAs will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon.

*Thank you for your continued service,*

*Tracy C Page*

**From:** [Willis Yip](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Request Board to ask City Council & Mayor to approve an additional 2.6% discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Saturday, April 8, 2023 10:44:59 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

As a LACERS member, I am requesting that the Board to ask the City Council and Mayor to approve an additional 2.6% discretionary COLA.

In summary these are what I would like to request:

- (1) asking the Board to adopt staff's recommendations regarding the discretionary COLA;
- (2) informing the Board to know how inflation has impacted my life terribly over the last couple of years and that my retirement allowance has not kept pace;
- (3) reminding the Board that inflation is likely to remain relatively high for a while, so it is unlikely our maximum 3.0% COLAs will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon.

Your immediate Action is needed for all of our LACERS members. Thank you.

Willis Yip  
LACERS member

**From:** [Doris Panaligan](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Request for 3% Regular COLA Increase & 2.6% Discretionary COLA Increase  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 1:31:25 PM

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Honorable LACERS Board:

We are in the the midst of an inflation crisis & it's affecting the lives of many people, including us LA retirees.

As a retiree from the City of Los Angeles, I'm concerned with the effect of this inflation on our daily high cost of living.

Our monthly retirement allowances have not been keeping up with the current inflation that we are experiencing.

The 3% cap on our annual COLA will most probably be not enough to help us, retirees keep up with the high rate of inflation, with our CPI at 4.2%.

I respectfully request the Board to consider adopting the staff's recommendations to  
(1) grant the 3% regular COLA increase &  
(2) grant the 2.6% discretionary COLA increase.

Thank you for your kind consideration & attention to this matter, on behalf of us retirees & LACERS members.

Respectfully,  
Doris Panaligan



**From:** [Terry Wesdy](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Request for the Board to Adopt Additional 2.6% discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 7:26:16 AM

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To all LACERS Board members,

I am recommending that the Board adopt the discretionary COLA for the following reasons:

1. Inflation has impacted me in every facet of life.

- A special assessment has been imposed on every homeowner within my Homeowner's Association for fire insurance. The association's premium has gone up 400% within the last year. The Association's fire insurance was \$38,000 a year and the premiums have gone up to over \$400,000 per year. That is an additional \$2,800 a year per homeowner within our complex

- Because of higher inflation and the minimum wage rising, our regular Association fees have gone up as well. I used to pay \$190 monthly and now it has risen to \$250. In total that is an additional \$290 out of my pocket every month. That is more than the 3% Cola that was approved and received last fiscal year.

- The above increases are in addition to my condominium homeowner's insurance that I must carry that has also increased.

- Not to mention the increase of my car insurance

- Least we forget Utility bill increases, groceries, "GAS"

We are all hurting financially and Inflation is likely to remain relatively high for quite some time and it is unlikely that our maximum 3.% COLA's will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon. For this reason and the reasons I have stated, I strongly recommend that the Board adopt an additional 2.6% discretionary COLA.

Thank-you,  
Theodore Wesdy

**From:** [Terry Wesdy](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Request for the Board to Adopt an Additional 2.6% Discretionary COLA  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 7:44:05 AM

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To all LACERS Board members,

My husband has sent a request for the Board to adopt an additional 2.6% discretionary COLA for the upcoming fiscal year in a separate email. I too am writing to you to adopt this discretionary COLA.

Fortunately we do have two retirement incomes. However, we are finding high inflation to be taxing on our monthly budget and if prices continue to rise we will no longer be able to pay our bills and obligations with just the COLA that caps off at 3%.

Therefore I am recommending that the Board adopt an additional 2.6% discretionary COLA for the following reasons:

1. Inflation has impacted my husband and myself in every facet of life.

- A special assessment has been imposed on every homeowner within my Homeowner's Association for fire insurance. The association's premium has gone up 400% within the last year. The Association's fire insurance was \$38,000 a year and the premiums have gone up to \$400,000 per year. That is an additional \$2,800 a year per homeowner within our complex

- Because of higher inflation and the minimum wage rising, our regular Association fees have gone up as well. I used to pay \$190 monthly and now it has risen to \$250. In total that is an additional \$290 out of my pocket. That is more than the 3% Cola that was approved and received last fiscal year.

- The above increases are in addition to our condominium homeowner's insurance that we must carry that has risen.

- Not to mention the increase of our car insurance

- Least we forget Utility bill increases, groceries, "GAS"

We are all hurting financially and Inflation is likely to remain relatively high for quite some time and it is unlikely that our maximum 3.% COLA's will help us catch up to inflation anytime soon. For this reason and the reasons I have stated, I strongly recommend that the Board adopt an additional 2.6% discretionary COLA.

Thank-you,  
Terry Wesdy

**From:** [jackie.alexander](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Retirement COLA Increase  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 7:28:44 AM

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Good Morning,

My name is Jackie Alexander. Due to the higher cost of living in all areas of life, I would like to join in with asking your consideration for an increase in our annual COLA. The purpose of the COLA is to ensure that the power of our retirement income benefits is not eroded by inflation. And, without an increase of the 3% + 2.6% to be considered, that will no longer be the case. I am aware of the Section 4.1023 of the City Administrative Code allows the City Council to provide a discretionary COLA that goes beyond the 3% annual cap. As we know, inflation has been a major issue across the world without in relief in site. Since, you have the power to stand up for US, I am asking that you let this be the time that you adopt the discretionary COLA to enable to live. Many people are leaving California due to everything being so expensive. Please prayerfully consider.

Regards,

Jackie Alexander - LA Sanitation and Environment Retiree

**From:** [Paulette Stanton](#)  
**To:** [LACERS.Board](#)  
**Subject:** Vote for cola increase  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 4:24:38 PM

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Sending my email of -   
Please count me in