

# IRTA Talking Points for PAC Committee



## The Value of PAC

- PAC is the tool available to retired teachers to influence election outcomes
- PAC supports state elected officials who support retired teachers and their benefits
- PAC does not favor Republicans or Democrats, but focuses on candidates' commitment to retired teachers

## The Need for PAC

- PAC is needed to support candidates who support IRTA. With thousands of bills filed each year, PAC helps IRTA members manage their risk of losing benefits.
- PAC builds a two-way street between legislators and the IRTA. It allows us to help those legislators who help us.
- PAC, when combined with grass roots activity and member engagement allows IRTA to have meaningful relationships with key decision makers.

## Challenges Faced by IRTA

- Healthcare Underfunding
- Tier 2 Inequities
- Taxing retirement income, including TRS pensions
  - A perennial suggestion to make the tax system "fair" yet really does not generate meaningful revenue.
- Constitutional amendment to change the "Pension Protection Clause"
  - Advocates for an amendment wanting protections only for "earned" benefits. The state would be able to change the structure of benefits "not yet earned."
- Long-term funded status of TRS Total Liability - \$135.6 billion (up 3.2%)
  - Unfunded liability - \$80.7 billion (up 3.2%)
  - Funded ratio – 40.5%

## Investing in Retired Educators is also Investing in the Illinois Economy

- 117,000 TRS annuitants (retired) live in Illinois
- 4.4 billion in benefits
- Total economic impact 6.4 billion.
- Jobs supported – 44,088 with a payroll of 1.8 billion

