

# TUA NEWS RELEASE

## TAXPAYERS UNITED OF AMERICA

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## NO MORE DIALOGUE - SOLUTION IS HERE

SAN FRANCISCO— It's time to get the special interest money out of the electoral process. Free and Equal (F&E) and Taxpayers United of America (TUA) released lifetime pension payouts for San Francisco area government retirees.

[Taxpayers United of America](#) and Free and Equal today revealed government employee pensions for the San Francisco and Alameda area. California is the 13<sup>th</sup> state in a nationwide tour for the two organizations.

"The highest lifetime pension payout in 13 states thus far comes from Alameda County at \$17.8 million. How much money are bureaucrats willing to bilk taxpayers for before they take action?" asked [Christina Tobin](#), TUA Vice President and Founder and Chair of [Free And Equal](#).

"We are here to tell politicians that we are uniting reformers across the spectrum to throw anyone out of office who who makes deals with special interest and we are building the nationwide tool to support the movement. We will be releasing our Nationwide Database for Pension and Electoral reform in the coming days."

"While residents across the bay area face crushing taxes, falling home values, and high unemployment, Governor Brown maintains favor with the union leaders by seeking a deal to cut government employee pay by 5%, increase taxes, and leave the pension problem untouched. This is the kind of deal that got us into this mess and yet here Brown is, making his own deal, selling out constituents to save face with union bosses who support him."

Tobin continued, "For example, **Gary Thuman**, retired Alameda County employee, collects an annual pension of **\$396,102**. His estimated lifetime payout is **\$17,824,590\***."

"**Heather Fong**, retired San Francisco government employee, has an annual pension of **\$280,350**, with an estimated lifetime payout of **\$11,858,810\***."

"Retired San Francisco government teacher, **Mae G. Chan**, has a lifetime estimated payout of **\$9,634,319\*** based on an actual annual pension of **\$240,557**."

"California's government pension systems are crushing middle class Californians. [Replacing defined benefit pensions for all new government hires with social security and 401\(k\)s would eventually eliminate unfunded government pensions](#). If current government employees would just increase their pension contributions, they would preserve their pension benefits. ***We need a stable system that is fair to both taxpayers and beneficiaries or pension checks will stop coming.***" Added Tobin, who attended [Thursday's Pacific Research Event](#) that examined public pensions.

\*TUA submits FOIA requests for actual pensions. Since personal information is not available, lifetime pension payouts are estimated based on retirement at 55, life expectancy of 85 (IRS Form 590), and 3% COLA.

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*Founded in 1976, TUA is one of the largest taxpayer organizations in America.*

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