

TUA NEWS RELEASE

TAXPAYERS UNITED OF AMERICA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 22, 2015

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Easy Budget Relief - Downsize State Police

Chicago—Taxpayers United of America (TUA) today released its analysis of the impact of the Illinois State Police on the state’s budget.

“Illinois has the most bloated state police force in the region,” stated president of TUA, Jim Tobin.

“According to the most recent BLS Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, Illinois has 2,105 sworn officers, by far the most in the Midwest. Trailing Illinois are Michigan with 1,732; Ohio 1,560; Indiana 1,350; Missouri 1,028; Iowa 669; Minnesota 530; and Wisconsin with 492.”

“The vast majority of these sworn officers do nothing but generate revenue for their own overly-generous salaries and pensions by issuing expensive traffic tickets with unreasonable fines while the rest run illegal road blocks and checkpoints for local police. Many Illinois State Police even work the precincts for powerful politicians,” added Tobin.

“According to the Illinois State Police Merit Board, trooper trainees get a starting annual salary of \$32,076 while in the training academy and jump to a whopping starting salary of \$57,708!”

“It’s ludicrous that we would hire so many ticket writers, but then to pay them so lavishly really shows the lack of common sense and concern for the taxpayers’ money and the state budget.”

“Time magazine reports that the national average salary, for all police officers, is \$56,980 and yet here in Illinois we start state police pay well above the national average.”

“Our most recent study of the ISP pensions revealed that all of the top 200 state police pensions were over \$102,000! And that rich pension starts around the age of 52 and comes with fully paid Cadillac-healthcare.”

“Here are some numbers all of us can understand and why the pension system is bankrupt: [John Lofton, of the Ill. State Police, retired at a ripe old age of 58](#). His annual pension is a stunning \$134,026, which will accumulate to about \$4.2 million over a normal lifetime. Not a bad return for a 3.6% personal investment!”

“[Timothy Becker’s annual pension is \\$120,672](#). Over a normal lifetime, his total payout will exceed \$7.3 million because he retired at only 50 years of age. His personal investment in his estimated lifetime payout is only 2.8%.”

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“We could save billions by putting the Illinois State Police in line, both in numbers and in pay, with the majority of state police departments.”

“And of course, we need to end the defined benefit pension system for ISP and all state employees,” concluded Tobin.