

TUA NEWS RELEASE

TAXPAYERS UNITED OF AMERICA

205 W. Randolph Street • Suite 1305 • Chicago, IL 60606 • Fax: (312) 427-5139
www.taxpayersunited.org • E-mail: tobin@taxpayersunited.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2015

Contact: Jim Tobin (773) 354-2076
(312) 427-5128

McHenry County: More Than 1,000 Government Pension Millionaires

CHICAGO—Taxpayers United of America (TUA) today released the results of their updated study of the top pensioners of McHenry County, McHenry County government schools, McHenry County College, and McHenry and Crystal Lake municipalities.

“Well over 1,000 of the McHenry area government pensioners receive multi-million dollar lifetime pension payouts,” stated Jim Tobin, TUA president. “The pensioners’ average personal investment is only about 5.5% of the lifetime payouts.”

“While taxpayers struggle to make their property tax payments, working well beyond retirement age, these government pensioners enjoy lavish, gold-plated retirements beginning on average at the age of 58.”

“This is not a retirement system or a safety net for ‘the poor public servants’ who have given their lives to public service. This is theft. This is immoral and unethical theft of taxpayers’ hard-earned money to be given to the political elite to do absolutely nothing.”

“There are now 12,154 Illinois government pensions over \$100,000 and 85,893 over \$50,000 annually! Those are staggering numbers considering the taxpayers who fund these pensions get an average Social Security pension of about \$15,000 a year.”

“Retired HSD 155 government employee, **Michael E. Mills** enjoys an annual taxpayer funded pension of **\$197,517**. Over a normal lifetime, he will get about **\$6.5 million in pension payments**. His personal investment in his rich pension is about **3.8% or \$250,626**.”

“Crystal Lake Park District retiree, **Kirk R. Reimer** retired at **55** and his current annual pension is **\$117,504**.

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Click to view pensions for:

- [McHenry County College Retirees](#)
- [McHenry County Government School Retirees](#)
- [McHenry County Government School Retirees Top 100](#)
- [Crystal Lake Police Retirees](#)
- [Crystal Lake Firefighter Retirees](#)
- [McHenry Police Retirees](#)

“Although we did not support or endorse SB 1 as any kind of pension reform, as it did more harm than good, the unanimous ruling of the Illinois Supreme Court clearly illustrates the limited options available to solve the pension crisis...and the answers are not tax increases!”

“A constitutional amendment that is fair to taxpayers, as well as government employees, must be approved next year. In the meantime, if the Illinois General Assembly increased individual government employee contributions to their own gold-plated pensions by 10 percentage points, it would save taxpayers about \$150 billion over the next 35 years, or about \$4.3 billion a year, and save the State of Illinois from financial ruin. If all else fails, there is always the option of moving forward with legislation to begin the process of allowing municipalities and government schools to file for Chapter 9.”

“Taxpayers must pursue these three paths forward to avoid disastrously higher taxes in the immediate future.”

*Lifetime estimated pension payout includes 3% compounded COLA and assumes life expectancy of 85 (IRS Form 590).