

TUA NEWS RELEASE

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Oshkosh Hides Government Pension Payments

OSHKOSH—[Free and Equal](#) (F&E) and [Taxpayers United of America](#) (TUA) released estimated pension payouts for Oshkosh and Fond du Lac area government employees. Wisconsin refuses to release government pensions, ignoring citizens' right to review all payments funded by taxes.

TUA, who last year released [pension estimates for state employees and eight Wisconsin cities](#), calculated estimated pensions for government employees in the cities of Oshkosh and Fond du Lac, and Fond du Lac County, based on current salaries. Winnebago County has refused to release the salaries of its employees, further denying the public's right to review anything funded by the taxpayers.

"Wisconsin has made the most politically courageous changes in the nation, to the corrupt system that allows money to be forced from the rank and file and given to politicians in the form of campaign contributions, by limiting collective bargaining," stated Christina Tobin, Vice President of TUA and Founder of F&E.

"But it seems that some government officials are willing to protect the system by keeping it hidden from review. The costs of shielding the system from review, and ultimately reform, are devastatingly high as cities around the country are buckling under the weight of their unfunded liabilities. Pension funds are the number one budgetary problem in the country."

"While residents across Wisconsin and the country face crushing taxes, falling home values, and high unemployment, and, at least according to some, another recession, government employees continue to receive lavish pensions funded by taxpayers who will never collect more than about \$22,000 from Social Security."

Tobin continued, "For example, **Mark Rohloff**, Oshkosh City Manager, will collect an estimated annual pension of **\$87,497*** based on his actual salary of \$136,714. His estimated lifetime payout is **\$2,362,424***."

"**Philip D. Kelley**, Fond du Lac County Medical Examiner, has an estimated annual pension of **\$156,993***, based on his actual annual salary of \$245,302, with an estimated lifetime payout of **\$4,238,818***."

"University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Chancellor, **Richard H. Wells**, has a lifetime estimated payout of **\$3,756,689*** with an estimated annual pension of **\$139,137***, based on his actual annual salary of \$217,401."

"Wisconsin's government pension systems are crushing middle class Wisconsinites. [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 further increase their pension contributions, they would preserve their pension benefits. Additionally, all members should pay for 50% of their healthcare premiums. ***We need a stable system that is fair to both taxpayers and beneficiaries or pension checks will stop coming.***"
Added Tobin.

*TUA submits FOIA requests for current employee salaries and estimates pensions based on the current pension laws. Assumes retirement at age 65 after 38 years work. Assumes current salary is salary used for pension calculation. Assumes COLA of 2%/yr. Lifetime Pension Payout does not include SS payments.

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

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