

TUA NEWS RELEASE

TAXPAYERS UNITED OF AMERICA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Suburban Gov. Pensions Suck the Life Out of Taxpayers

CHICAGO—**Taxpayers United of America (TUA)** today released the results of their study of the government pensions for Villa Park, Lombard, Elmhurst, and Hillside municipal retirees, as well as local government schools.

“These suburban Chicago government retirees are really making out like bandits at the taxpayers’ expense,” said Jim Tobin, founder and president of TUA. “The per capita average income for these four municipalities is a modest \$32,416. Eighty-five percent of the government pensioners in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), the individual police and fire pension funds, and the Teachers’ Retirement System (TRS) are getting pensions greater than the per capita average income of the constituents they are ‘serving.’ Seventy percent of the retirees in this group receive more than \$50,000 per year and a stunning thirteen percent of this group collect pension in excess of \$100,000! This is retirement pay, not salaries. The pittance that these retirees paid toward their own retirement is a laughable 5.5%.”

“Taxpayers have far exceeded their fair share for these ridiculous pensions. Not only did we make our tax payments on time when the services were rendered, we are now expected to pay again because of reckless accounting by the fund managers and typical bureaucrat behavior of playing a shell game with taxpayer money. There is plenty of blame to go around and yet taxpayers are always the ones to bail out the government,” added Tobin.

“This government employee pension system is theft of taxpayer wealth in order to redistribute it to the government elite. The average Social Security ‘pension’ that taxpayers enjoyed was \$16,080 in 2015. The maximum Social Security ‘pension’ is about \$28,000 and you would have to have earned more than \$100,000 a year to realize that amount.”

“For taxpayers to achieve the kind of affluent retirement that is forced out of our wallets into the wallets of this protected class, we would need about [\\$1,000,000](#) in our retirement nest egg. TRS members, on average, contributed only \$100,485!”

“But let’s not forget who started this Ponzi-scheme in the first place: Chicago Machine Boss Madigan has been the primary driver of the pension cabal in Illinois. The \$111 billion pension shortfall is largely due to his cronyism with unions, as demonstrated by his decades-long support of the government pension system in which he was instrumental in codifying it into law,” said Tobin.

“The government pensions are unsustainable. Illinoisans are enduring cuts to services, the defunding of programs, and having their earnings confiscated. Tax dollars continue to be diverted from services required by today’s taxpayers into the pension funds for government employees, whose services were rendered long ago,” said Tobin.

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“Local governments are continuously seeking to raise property taxes, sales taxes, and fees and licenses, but never tell taxpayers that nearly 80% of local taxes go to fund salaries and benefits of government employees.”

“Retired at the ripe old age of 58, Glen Ellyn CCSD 89 employee, **Lawrence M. Baskin** enjoys an annual taxpayer funded pension of **\$244,622**. Over a normal lifetime, he will get about **\$7.3 million in pension payments**. His personal investment in this rich payout is about **3.7% or \$267,490** – barely more than his current annual pension.”

“**Thomas P. Borchert** retired from the **Elmhurst municipal government** with a current annual pension of **\$176,742**. That will accumulate to about **\$4.4 million of redistributed taxpayer wealth**. His personal contribution **of only \$169,127**, or **4%** of a stunning multi-million dollar retirement payout is less than his current annual pension!”

“**Robert W. Niemann** retired from the Villa Park municipal government with a generous annual pension of **\$127,016**. Retiring at only **59**, he will receive about **\$3.7 million** in lifetime pension payments. His personal investment in his own retirement? About **3%** or **\$115,713** – **again, barely less than his current annual pension!**”

Click to view pensions for:

- [Villa Park Municipal Government Retirees](#)
- [Elmhurst Municipal Government Retirees](#)
- [Lombard Municipal Government Retirees](#)
- [Hillside Municipal Government Retirees](#)
- [Elmhurst Police Retirees](#)
- [Elmhurst Fire Retirees](#)
- [Lombard Police Retirees](#)
- [Lombard Fire Retirees](#)
- [Hillside Police Retirees](#)
- [Hillside Fire Retirees](#)
- [Villa Park, Elmhurst, Lombard, and Hillside Government School Retirees](#)

“The choice is clear: without sweeping, meaningful pension reform, taxpayers throughout Illinois will have to choose between fully funding the pension systems to pay for past services rendered, or pay for the services we need today,” concluded Tobin.

*Lifetime estimated pension payout includes 3% compounded COLA and assumes life expectancy of 85 (IRS Form 590).
Data Source: Freedom of Information Act requests to IMRF, TRS, and municipal police and fire pension funds.