

Reform Options for State and Local Pension Plans

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Speaker Biographies

Senator Orrin Hatch is now in his seventh term as Utah's senator, and the most senior Republican in the Senate. Among his many initiatives are the Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution, the Strengthening Our Commitment to Legal Immigration and America's Security Act, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, and the Utah School Trust Lands Exchange Act. He is on the front lines of legislative battles to secure the nation's borders, stop the forced unionization of American workers and to bring fiscal restraint back to Washington by ending the reckless spending that threatens to bankrupt the nation. Senator Hatch is the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance and a member of the Judiciary Committee; the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee; and the Joint Committee on Taxation. He also has the honor of serving on the Board of Directors for the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Richard W. Johnson is a senior fellow in the Income and Benefits Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where he directs the Program on Retirement Policy. He writes and speaks frequently about income and health security at older ages. Johnson's current research focuses on older Americans' employment and retirement decisions, long-term services and supports for older adults with disabilities, and state and local pensions. He recently directed a team of researchers evaluating public pension plans in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and is examining how reforms might affect public-sector employees. Other recent studies have examined job loss at older ages, occupational change after age 50, employment prospects for age 50+ African Americans and Hispanics, and the impact of the 2007–09 recession and its aftermath on older workers and future retirement incomes. Johnson's long-term services and supports research focuses on financing options and uses DYNASIM, the Urban Institute's dynamic microsimulation model, to project demand for services under current and alternative policies. He earned his AB from Princeton University and his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, both in economics.

Kim Rueben currently directs the State and Local Finance Initiative of the Urban Institute and directs the state and local work of the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center (TPC), where she is a senior fellow. Rueben is an expert on state and local public finance and the economics of education. Her research examines state and local tax policy, fiscal institutions, and issues of education finance and teacher labor markets. In addition to her position at TPC, Rueben is an adjunct fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, where she was employed before joining the Urban Institute. She currently serves as a commissioner on the Washington DC Tax Revision Commission, on Washington DC's Revenue Advisory Board, and on the National Academy of Science Panel on the Economic and Fiscal Effects of Immigration. Rueben was an adjunct professor at the Georgetown Public Policy Institute and the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. She has also been a visiting scholar at the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank (2002–03) and has served on the executive board of the American Education Finance Association. Rueben received her BS in applied math-economics from Brown University, her MS in economics from the London School of Economics, and her PhD in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Eugene Steuerle is an Institute Fellow and the Richard B. Fischer Chair at the Urban Institute. Among past positions, he has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Analysis (1987–89), President of the National Tax Association (2001–02), codirector of the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, and chair of the 1999 Technical Panel advising Social Security on its methods and assumptions. Between 1984 and 1986 he served as economic coordinator and original organizer of the Treasury's tax reform effort; Treasury and White House officials have written that tax reform "would not have moved forward without [Steuerle's] early leadership." Steuerle is the author, coauthor, or coeditor of 16 books and over 1,000 articles, briefs, reports, and Congressional testimonies. His books include *Dead Men Ruling*; *Contemporary US Tax Policy* (now in its 2nd edition), *Nonprofits and Business* (coeditor) and *Retooling Social Security for the 21st Century* (coauthor). He serves or has served as an elected, appointed, advisory panel, or board member for the Congressional Budget Office, Comptroller General of the United States, Joint Committee on Taxation, Venture Philanthropy Partners, National Center on Philanthropy and the Law, National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, Independent Sector, Council on Foundations, National Academy of Social Insurance, and *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, among others.