

# The State of Retirement: Grading Americas Public Pension Plans

Thursday, May 1, 2014  
12:30–2:00 p.m.

## Speaker Biographies

**Dan Doonan** is a labor economist for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), where he has served since 2008. In that role, he is responsible for analyzing the finances of employers in support of collective bargaining efforts. In addition, Doonan serves as a retirement expert for AFSCME's affiliates, evaluating, advising, and testifying on pension issues. Before joining AFSCME, Doonan worked as the assistant director of research for the National Association of Letter Carriers. He also served as a consultant actuary for Buck consultants. Doonan's educational background includes a BS in mathematics with a minor in business administration from Elizabethtown College.

**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. His other major research thread involves state and local pension plans. 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.

**Donald Marron**, the Urban Institute's director of economic policy initiatives, is an expert on US economic policy and federal budgeting. Since joining the Urban Institute in May 2010 as director of the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, his work has focused on tax reform and America's long-run fiscal challenges. From 2002 through early 2009, he served in senior government positions, including as a member of the president's Council of Economic Advisers, acting director of the Congressional Budget Office, and executive director of Congress's Joint Economic Committee. He has also taught at the Georgetown Public Policy Institute and the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, consulted on major antitrust cases, and served as chief financial officer of a health care software startup. Marron appears frequently at conferences and on TV and radio to discuss economic policy. He also works to popularize economics through his blog ([www.dmarron.com](http://www.dmarron.com)) and writings for such publications as *CNN Money*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, and the *Washington Post*. He is the editor of *30-Second Economics*, a short book that introduces readers to 50 of the most important theories in economics.

**Stephanie A. Miner** was elected the 53rd mayor of Syracuse in 2009. Since taking office, she has worked to transform Syracuse into a 21st-century city. Milner turned around a nearly decade-long stalled school reconstruction project, which has now renovated four buildings and is looking to its second phase. She streamlined the planning and permitting process and witnessed the beginning of nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars in new construction. Milner has made fiscal reform her signature issue. As a former labor lawyer, she understands the intricacies of public union contracts and employee benefits. She has worked with leaders from across New York State to address the growing pension and health care crisis facing cities today. A graduate of Syracuse University and the University of Buffalo School of Law, Milner served eight years on the Syracuse Common Council and served on the staff of Governor Mario Cuomo.

**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.