

## LETTER: Texas should boost former employees' pension

Larry Berotte

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As a TxDOT retiree who worked for the state for 38 years, I rely on two checks to make ends meet: social security and Texas Employees Retirement System (ERS) pension.

Every year I receive a cost of living adjustment from Social Security.

And every year, I wonder when I will get a similar boost from ERS. I worked for the state as a paint and body mechanic at a lower salary than I would have gotten in the private sector because I loved my job and helping people.

But the Texas Legislature hasn't provided any boost to retirees like me since 2001, even though gas, groceries, and utilities keep going up in price. This year the state has a \$33 billion surplus and a chance to change that. It has the money to give us a 13th monthly check — just like the ones retired state teachers deserve and are getting.

The 13th check could help retirees cover our bills, pay for sudden expenses, and keep up with inflation.

If the federal government can give me a boost each year, why can't our state legislators?

Larry Berotte