



NRTA in the Know

July 23, 2021



Red Apple Podcast | Update on State & Federal Legislation

Be sure to listen to the latest episode of The Red Apple podcast, the only podcast that engages with educators and experts to explore a broad range of topics of interest to 50+ educators.

In Episode 4, NRTA Director Al Campos has a conversation about recent legislative developments with Adam Goldberg, NRTA's Senior Legislative Representative.

Adam provides an overview of actions in state legislature this year related to public employee pensions, as well as an update on key issues before Congress that are relevant to retired teachers.



[Listen Here](#)

National Advocacy Conference & Lobby Day | Oct. 19-22, 2021

Retired Educator Association (REA) leaders and legislative contacts are invited to attend the upcoming National Advocacy Conference and Lobby Day that will be held virtually from October 19 to 22, 2021.

This conference is an opportunity to collaborate with fellow REA leaders across the nation, AARP national and state office teams, policy experts, and your federal lawmakers.



You can register online [here](#).

Registrations must be completed by **Wednesday, September 15, 2021**.

If you have questions or need assistance, contact [Adam Goldberg](#) at 202.434.3917 or AGoldberg@aarp.org.

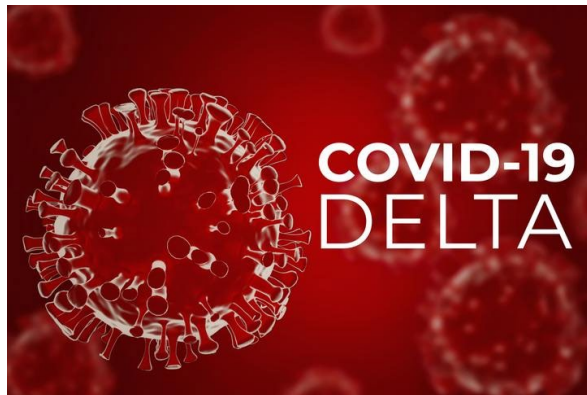
We look forward to engaging with you at this virtual event!

COVID-19 | The Latest Information

As COVID-19 remains a concern in the U.S. and around the globe, we are committed to ensuring retired educators continue to have the last information.

We hope you will read and share this latest information from AARP:

- *What You Need to Know About the Coronavirus* is available [here](#).
- *7 Things to Know About the Delta Variant* is available [here](#).
- *Should You Keep Wearing a Face Mask if You're Fully Vaccinated* is available [here](#).
- *What Full FDA Approval of the COVID-19 Vaccine Will Mean* is available [here](#).
- *5 Health Conditions That Can Compromise COVID-19 Vaccine Immunity* is available [here](#).



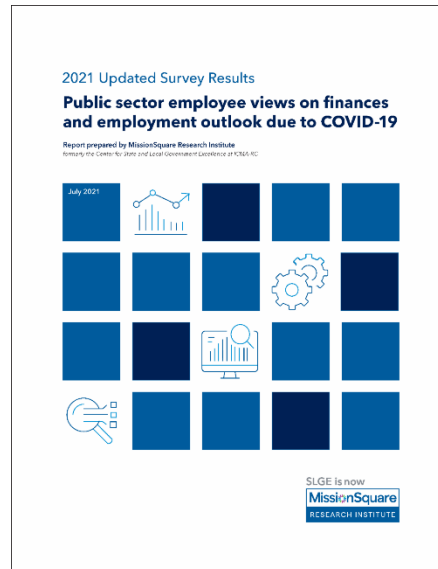
Additional COVID-19 information and resources are available at <https://www.aarp.org/coronavirus/>.

NEW Research Examines Impact of COVID-19 on State & Local Workers

As COVID-19 vaccinations continue across the U.S., the morale of state and local government employees like teachers is on the rise.

But despite improved job sentiment, 31% of the state and local workforce indicates that working during the pandemic has made them consider changing jobs. Among those considering changing jobs, 25% say they would like to leave the government sector entirely.

These findings are contained in a new research report, [2021 Updated Survey Results: Public Sector Employee Views on Finances and Employment Outlook Due to COVID-19](#), from [MissionSquare Research Institute](#) (formerly the Center for State and Local Government Excellence at ICMA-RC).



“This latest COVID impact survey has both encouraging and worrisome findings,” said [Rivka Liss-Levinson](#), Ph.D., report author and Senior Research Manager at MissionSquare Research Institute. “While the widespread availability of vaccines is putting less pressure on the state and local workforce, the long-term workforce impacts of the pandemic could be problematic given that many workers are considering exiting their job or the public sector. The data suggest that the pandemic has only exacerbated the chronic challenge of recruiting and retaining employees who deliver essential public services.”

The research also finds:

- Forty-one percent of state and local government employees say they and their families have been negatively impacted financially by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Eighty-one percent of respondents are concerned about keeping their family safe from contracting COVID-19.
- The top three ways respondents say employers could make their organization a better place to work are by issuing bonuses or raises (21%), allowing work from home/remote work and flexible hours (20%) and promoting safety by following public health guidelines and providing/enforcing the use of personal protective equipment (17%).
- Seventy percent of state and local government workers are fully vaccinated, and another 6% are partially vaccinated.

A webinar is scheduled for Thursday, July 29, 2021, at 2 p.m. ET to review the findings

and respond to questions. [Register here](#) at no charge.

Six Ways to Spot Unintentional Credit Card Purchases

A growing number of Americans are making an unsettling discovery while examining their credit card accounts.

Embedded in the list of monthly transactions are charges for things they don't remember buying or services they can't recall receiving.

Fraud experts call the ploys behind these billing surprises “dark patterns.” That term applies to tactics used by online companies, subscription services and even political fundraisers to trick consumers into triggering recurring credit card charges, making unintended purchases or giving up personal information.



Lawmakers' efforts to root out the deception are likely to take time. In the meantime, [here are tips](#) for spotting and avoiding six types of dark patterns.

More information about scams and frauds is available at [AARP's Fraud Watch Network](#).

Questions?

As always, the NRTA Team is available to answer your questions or provide counsel on issues. Below is our contact information:

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We thank you for the opportunity to collaborate with you and your members!

