

San Mateo County Employees' Retirement Association | Spring 2025

SAMCERA

TIMES

RETIREE & BENEFICIARY NEWSLETTER



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Notice of June 9, 2025 Board of Retirement Election

This June, SamCERA will hold an election for its Retired Member board seat and its Alternate Retired Member board seat.

SamCERA's Board of Retirement is its governing body, responsible for pension administration and the investment of trust fund assets. The Board is comprised of nine members and two alternates. SamCERA's retired members elect one regular Board member and one alternate Board member.

Retired members who are interested in serving on the Board of Retirement are encouraged to run for election by filing a declaration of candidacy with the Elections Officer. **Declarations of Candidacy must be filed in person with the Registration & Elections Division no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 28, 2025.**

Please read the Election Notice on page 3 for important dates and information on how to file as a candidate. You can also learn about the Board's responsibilities and more about the election process on our website: www.samcera.org/board-retirement

2025 Cost-Of-Living Adjustment Increase

The Board of Retirement approved cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for most retirees and beneficiaries that will begin with the April 2025 retirement benefit payment.

The COLA applies to eligible retirees and beneficiaries who retire on or before April 1, 2025, and the amount of the COLA may vary depending on the retirement plan. All COLAs will be paid beginning with the April 30, 2025 benefit payment.

Retiree or Beneficiary's Plan Type	Date of Retirement	2025 COLA %	COLA BANK %
Plan 1 - General and Safety	On or before 4/1/2025	3.0%	n/a
Plan 1 - Probation	On or before 4/1/2025	3.0%	n/a
Plan 2 - All Members	On or before 4/1/2025	3.0%	n/a
Plan 3	n/a	n/a	n/a
Plan 4, 5, 6, 7 - All Members	On or before 4/1/2025	2.0%	n/a

The COLA for Plan 1 General, Safety, and Probation members is 3.0%. The COLA for Plan 2 members is 3.0%, and the COLA for Plans 4, 5, 6 and 7 is 2.0%. Plan 3 members do not receive a cost-of-living increase.

Learn more about how your COLA is calculated on our website at: www.samcera.org/cost-living-adjustment-cola.

SamCERA Times is published for members of the San Mateo County Employees' Retirement Association. SamCERA benefits are governed by the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 and the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013; therefore, any discrepancies between the law and the information in this newsletter will be resolved in accordance with the law.

The material contained in this newsletter is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.

Questions or comments? Email communications@samcera.org or call (650) 599-1231.

**SAN MATEO COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
(SamCERA)**

NOTICE OF ELECTION

**TO ELECT A RETIRED AND AN ALTERNATE RETIRED MEMBER TO
THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT**

Notice is hereby given that one **RETIRED MEMBER** is to be elected to fill the eighth position on SamCERA's Board of Retirement. An **ALTERNATE RETIRED MEMBER** will also be elected.

Retired Member and Alternate Retired Member Eligibility: Candidates must be retired SamCERA members and may only nominate themselves to one position, either the Retired Member seat or the Alternate Retired Member seat by filing a Declaration of Candidacy with the Elections Officer.

Member Terms: The Retired member and the Alternate Retired member shall serve from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028.

Required Declarations of Candidacy: Declarations of Candidacy will be available **Monday, April 14, 2025 through Monday, April 28, 2025**. Qualified Candidates may file in person at:

**Registration & Elections Division
Office of the Chief Elections Officer & Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder
County of San Mateo
40 TOWER ROAD, SAN MATEO, CA 94402**

Completed Declaration of Candidacy: This completed form must be filed in person with the Registration & Elections Division **no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 28, 2025**.

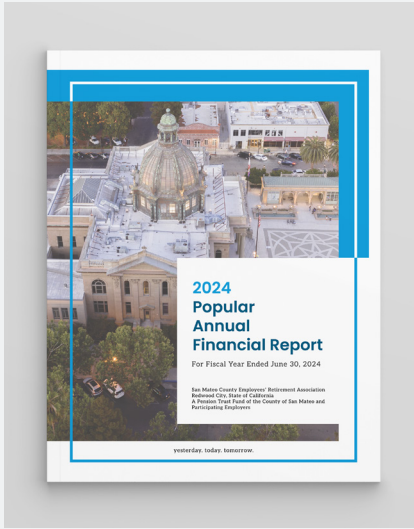
Please contact the Candidate Filing Representative by email at CandidateServices@smcacre.gov or call (650) 312-5222 if you have any questions or wish to make an appointment to file for candidacy.

The election will be held on **MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025**, and will be conducted in accordance with Article 4 of the *Regulations of the Board of Retirement*. These regulations are available at the Elections Office or SamCERA's website at: www.samcera.org.



MARK CHURCH
Chief Elections Officer &
Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder

2024 Popular Annual Financial Report



SamCERA's 2024 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) is now available to view. This report provides valuable insights into the current state of the retirement fund and an overview of SamCERA's financial activities.

The PAFR is intended to provide a snapshot and brief discussion of the financial performance of SamCERA for the year. The financial data presented in the PAFR is derived from generally accepted accounting principles and data presented in SamCERA's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for 2024, which provides in-depth financial details information regarding SamCERA position and activities.

The PAFR and complete ACFR can be found on SamCERA's website: www.samcera.org/financial-reports.

MySamCERA Member Portal & Mobile App

Manage your pension account with the easy to use MySamCERA member portal.

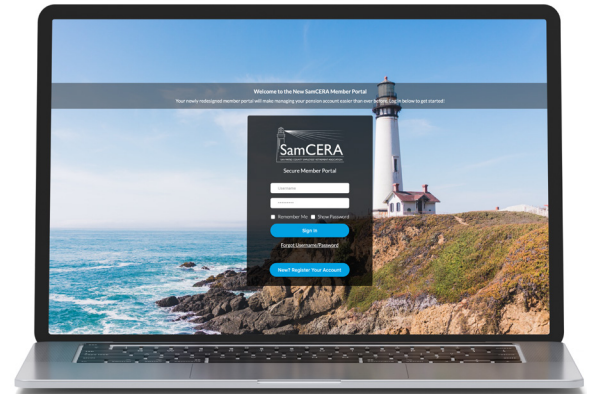
Getting started

On a computer or laptop: Log in to the member portal at www.mysamcera.org.

On a mobile device or tablet: When using a mobile device, download the MySamCERA mobile app. Available for both iPhone and Android.

Please note: New users will need their SamCERA ID to create an account.

Visit SamCERA's website for more information and quick reference guides: <https://www.samcera.org/mysamcera>.



Log in to your member account online at www.mysamcera.org.

Easy, Online Access To Your Benefit Statements

Monthly benefit statements are available to view and print online at your convenience. These statements provide the amount deposited in your account each month, along with any itemized deductions. You will receive an email notification when a new statement is available on the MySamCERA member portal. Once logged in, click on the **Your Plan**, and then click on **Upload/View Documents** to view and print your statements.

COMING SOON - Enhanced Security for Your MySamCERA Account!

We're strengthening the security of your MySamCERA account with two important updates. First, stronger password requirements will soon be in place. If you're resetting your password or creating a new account, your password will need to be between 16-64 characters and include at least 1 numeric character, 1 uppercase letter, and 1 lowercase letter.

Additionally, we'll be introducing Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) to provide an extra layer of protection to your account. This means you may need to verify your identity with a code sent to your phone or email when logging in. To ensure a smooth experience, please take a moment to update your phone number and email address in MySamCERA so you can receive verification codes without any issues. Stay tuned for more information!





Join Us For An Online Financial Education Class

Free, online financial education classes are available for you and your spouse/partner. Each course provides you with a 40+ page workbook which includes content, exercises, and additional resources and websites to further your education on the topic.

Upcoming :

Demystifying Federal Income Taxes

Tuesday - March 18, 2025
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Money Moves to Manage Inflation

Tuesday, April 22, 2025
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Getting Out of Debt

Wednesday - March 19, 2025
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Creating a Budget for Success

Thursday - April 24, 2025
9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Learn more about these classes and others being offered at www.samcera.org/classes.

To register for a class, please email: communications@samcera.org

Did you know? A pension verification letter confirms your retirement benefits, such as your monthly benefit amount and retirement status. Some members may need this for loan applications, lease agreements, and other situations that require income verification.

Requesting a pension verification letter is easier than ever in the MySamCERA member portal and mobile app. After logging in, click on “Your Plan” in the navigation menu, then click on “Pension Verification.”

To request a new pension income verification letter, click on the “Request Pension Verification” button on the next screen. You can also view and download past pension income verification letters on this screen.

If you would like a pension income verification letter mailed to you, please contact SamCERA.

Your 2024 Tax Forms Are Available On MySamCERA

1099-R Annual Tax Reporting Statements were mailed in January and are available online now.

1099-R tax forms have been mailed to the addresses we have on record for retirees and beneficiaries who receive a taxable benefit. This form contains essential tax information including reportable income, taxable income, federal taxes withheld, and California state taxes withheld, if applicable.

Access Your 1099-R Online

Follow these steps to view and print your 1099-R online:

- Log in to MySamCERA on a computer or laptop.
- Click on Your Plan on the left navigation menu.
- Select 1099R Tax Information.
- Select a 1099R from the list to view and print.

Keep your Address Up to Date!

It's important that we have your current address on file for you to receive important information from us, such as your 1099-R. You can update your contact information by completing an address change form available on the SamCERA website at www.samcera.org/forms.

Update Your Tax Withholdings Anytime

You can change your tax withholding election anytime throughout the year by completing a new Tax Withholding form (available at www.samcera.org/forms).

Requests to increase or decrease your withholding that are received by the 15th of the month are effective in that same month. Requests received after the 15th become effective the following month.

Find more information online at www.samcera.org/tax-information.

If you need assistance determining which withholding election is best for you, consult with a professional tax advisor. SamCERA does not provide tax advice.



100 Marine Parkway, Suite 125
Redwood City, CA 94065

2025 Retiree Pay Dates

Benefits are paid at the end of the month (last business day) for the current month's benefits.

Statements are available to view and print on the MySamCERA member portal.

Learn more at www.mysamcera.org.

Benefit Month	Direct Deposit Date
March	March 31
April	April 30
May	May 30
June	June 30
July	July 31
August	August 29
September	September 30
October	October 31
November	November 28
December	December 31

2025 Holiday Closures

Cesar Chavez Day - March 31, 2025

Memorial Day - May 26, 2025

Juneteenth - June 19, 2025

Independence Day - July 4, 2025

Labor Day - September 1, 2025

Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day - October 13, 2025

Veterans Day - November 11, 2025

Thanksgiving Day - November 27, 2025

Day After Thanksgiving - November 28, 2025

Christmas Day - December 25, 2025

CONTACT SAMCERA

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Address

100 Marine Parkway, Suite 125
Redwood City, CA 94065

Phone

650-599-1234 or 800-339-0761

Email

samcera@samcera.org

Website & Member Portal

www.samcera.org
www.mysamcera.org