

Retirement Planning

for Public Employees

A Strong Valley Wealth and Pension Guide



STRONG VALLEY
WEALTH & PENSION

Retirement Planning for Public Employees

Strong Valley Wealth & Pension can help you with your questions when it comes to your pension, when to retire, and how to get the most out of your defined benefits plan.

You've worked a long time to get a steady stream of payments when you retire from public service. It's important to have a plan to address all of the options available to you. Every situation is unique, and this guide is designed to provide basic information. We highly encourage you to connect with a Strong Valley advisor to get detailed information you'll need to make the wisest decisions for your specific retirement goals.

Questions You're Likely Facing

What's the difference between a Defined Contribution and Defined Benefit Plan?

When should I retire?

How much should I contribute to my 403(b) or 457(b) plan?

What annuitization options should I choose?

Should I choose a residual option for my spouse?

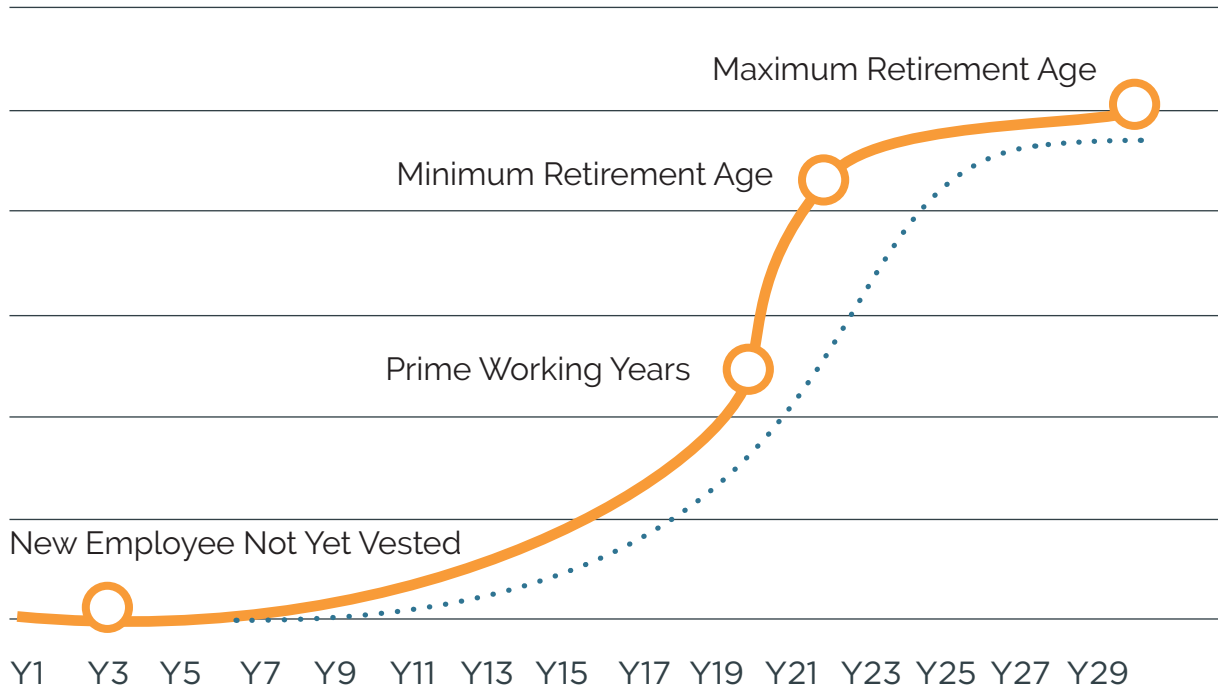
Can I "buy" time to increase my multiplier before I retire?

How do I maximize my pension income and benefits after retirement?

To help you answer these questions, it's important to understand some of the key principles behind the typical public employee pension plan.

Example Pension S-Curve

(Hypthetical)



Understanding Where You're At on the 'S-Curve' of your Pension Plan

Most public employee pension plans are designed to reward those employees that make their job a career and require a minimum number of years to be eligible for a pension. Once vested, the amount of the pension typically increases significantly over a 20-to-30-year span. Then, as retirement age approaches, the benefit increase begins to significantly taper off or flatten.

Pensions are a great benefit, since they payout a steady income stream over your entire lifetime after retirement, and possibly even into your spouse's lifetime.

However, put bluntly, organizations must balance incentivize newer less-expensive workers to stay, while also decreasing the incentive to stay as your salary expense and resulting pension increases with seniority and years of service.

Working with a Strong Valley financial advisor you can go beyond your benefits formula, explore various pre- and post- retirement scenarios, answer your questions, and create an action plan aligned with your personal retirement goals.

Why Meet with a Strong Valley Wealth & Pension Advisor?

We focus on long-term relationships – our advice goes beyond benefits formulas, and we help clients at every step of life's financial journey.

As independent advisors we provide financial advice that places your goals and interests over institutional plans and policies.

We provide access to tools and resources that provide greater confidence and peace of mind when it comes to your retirement plan.

Retirement isn't the end of a career; it is the starting point and the gateway to new opportunities. Every client's retirement goals are different. Some want to travel the world, invest more time with hobbies, spend more time with their family, give back to their community or specific causes, or perhaps even start a second career.

When we meet, understanding your specific goals for pre- and post-retirement lifestyle will be important. We will also need to get an accurate picture where you are today so we can develop a plan to help you arrive where you want tomorrow.

Below are some checklist items to consider when meeting with your Strong Valley financial advisor:

- A copy of your current retirement plan statement
- A list of any other retirement accounts you may have
- Information about your current income and projected income in retirement
- A list of your current debts and expenses
- Information about your desired retirement lifestyle and goals
- Any information about your beneficiaries and your wishes for their benefits
- A list of questions you may have about your retirement plan and options
- Information about your current estate plan and if you have a will or trust
- Information about any employer-sponsored benefits you have access to
- A list of any other assets you may have, such as real estate or investments

Whatever your retirement goals, Strong Valley is committed to helping you achieve them.

CALL TODAY AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A STRONG VALLEY ADVISOR WHO CAN GIVE YOU INDIVIDUALIZED ADVICE CONCERNING YOUR ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME DECISION.

It's important to meet with a Strong Valley advisor as early in the retirement planning process as possible as some benefits decisions have critical deadlines or may not be possible to change once made.

Schedule an Appointment Online

www.StrongValley.com/Schedule



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Investment advice offered through Strong Valley Wealth & Pension, a registered investment advisor.