

**AZ PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM**  
**BASELINE**  
**Interview Schedule**

**Field Dates: January 26-February 10, 2006**  
**Project #: 06103**

**N = 1043 Members**

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Thank you for your participation in completing this important survey. Completing the survey should take no longer than ten minutes.

We are conducting an important survey of members of the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System. All individual data will be kept strictly confidential and only aggregate data will be reported at the discretion of the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System. We appreciate your time today in completing this brief, but important, survey.

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1. Now are or were you employed in Arizona as... **(SELECT MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE IF APPROPRIATE)**

- 52% A police officer
- 19% A firefighter
- 17% A corrections officer
- 7% An elected government official
- 4% A Judge
  
- 6% Other (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
  
- \* NO ENTRY

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2. How many years of credited service do you have with the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS), the Corrections Officer Retirement Plan (CORP), or the Elected Officials Retirement Plan (EORP)?

- \* 0-3 years
  - 1% 4-6 years
  - 3% 6-10 years
  - 8% 10-15 years
  - 11% 15-20 years
  - 49% 20-25 years
  - 27% 25+ years
  
  - \* NO ENTRY
  
  - 23% 0-20 YEARS**
  - 77% ^ 20 YEARS+**
-

3. All things considered, how satisfied are you with the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System benefits? Would you say you are...

24% Completely satisfied, couldn't be better  
54% Very satisfied  
16% Somewhat satisfied  
  
2% Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied  
  
2% Somewhat dissatisfied  
1% Very dissatisfied  
\* Completely dissatisfied, couldn't be worse  
  
\* NO ENTRY

**94% TOTAL SATISFIED**  
**4%^ TOTAL DISSATISFIED**

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4. Compared to other states how do you think Arizona police officers, firefighters, corrections officers, judges and elected officials are doing when it comes to looking out for our state's public safety? Would you say they are doing a better or worse job compared to other states in looking out for our state's public safety?

And, do you feel STRONGLY that way?

21% STRONGLY BETTER  
45% BETTER  
7% WORSE  
1% STRONGLY WORSE  
  
10% SAME/NO DIFFERENCE  
  
16% NO ENTRY

**66% TOTAL BETTER**  
**8% TOTAL WORSE**

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5. Which of the following sources do you use when looking for information about the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System and its benefits? (**SELECT MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE IF APPROPRIATE**)

31% The Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System website  
19% The human resources department of your current or former employer  
8% Labor organizations  
40% Mailings/newsletters  
9% Friends/Family  
47% Calling the staff of the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System or the local board  
4% OTHER (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)  
9% NO ENTRY

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6. How satisfied are you with the communications from the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System? Are you...

15% Completely satisfied, couldn't be better  
52% Very satisfied  
19% Somewhat satisfied  
  
9% Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied  
  
3% Somewhat dissatisfied  
1% Very dissatisfied  
\* Completely dissatisfied, couldn't be worse  
  
\* NO ENTRY  
  
**86% TOTAL SATISFIED**  
**4% TOTAL DISSATISFIED**

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7. How do you prefer to receive information about the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System?

- 16% The Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System website
  - 6% The human resources department of your current or former employer
  - 2% Labor organizations
  - 68% Mailings/newsletters
  - \* Friends/Family
  - 5% Calling the staff of the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System or the local board
  - 2% OTHER (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
  
  - \* NO ENTRY
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Thinking now about the management of the pension fund...

8. Based on what you know and compared to other states, do you think the administrative costs for managing the pension funds are...

- 5% TOO HIGH
  - 1% TOO LOW
  - 67% JUST ABOUT RIGHT
  
  - 26% NO ENTRY
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Now, thinking about future employees who will enter the retirement system...

9. Would you favor or oppose legislation to change the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan, (such as a deferred compensation/private savings investment account - which is a like a private sector 401K) for future enrollees?

And, would you STRONGLY (favor/oppose) or only SOMEWHAT (favor/oppose) it?

- 3% STRONGLY FAVOR
  - 12% SOMEWHAT FAVOR
  - 21% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
  - 50% STRONGLY OPPOSE
  
  - 14% NO ENTRY
  
  - 15% TOTAL FAVOR**
  - 71% TOTAL OPPOSE**
-

10. Thinking more about the system...Do you think a cut in benefits or changing from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan, (such as a deferred compensation/private savings investment account - which is a like a private sector 401K) would have...

6% A POSITIVE EFFECT  
73% A NEGATIVE EFFECT  
8% NO EFFECT AT ALL  
13% NO ENTRY

...on the ability of state government and Arizona counties, cities, and towns to recruit public safety personnel?

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Below are a list of the benefits offered by the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System and for each one please mark how important it is to you. If you are not familiar with the benefit just mark not familiar. If it is important would you say it is VERY important or only SOMEWHAT important to you? Please write the number corresponding to the level of importance you place on each of the following benefits in the space provided.

	<b>VERY IMPT</b>	<b>SMWT IMPT</b>	<b>NOT IMPT</b>	<b>NOT FAMILIAR</b>	<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>NO ENTRY</b>
11. The Deferred Retirement Option Plan known as DROP	13%	9%	24%	37%	10%	6%
	<b>22%</b>					
12. Disability benefits	42%	19%	11%	18%	5%	5%
	<b>61%</b>					
13. The Survivor Pension	75%	9%	3%	8%	3%	3%
	<b>84%</b>					
14. The Death Benefit	59%	15%	4%	14%	3%	4%
	<b>75%^</b>					
15. The Termination Refund	10%	15%	21%	37%	11%	7%
	<b>24%^</b>					
16. Buy back service credit	20%	24%	24%	20%	6%	6%
	<b>44%</b>					
17. Cost of living adjustment (COLA)	89%	4%	*	4%	1%	3%
	<b>93%</b>					
18. The Health Insurance Premium Subsidy	75%	9%	4%	7%	2%	3%
	<b>84%</b>					

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19. Now thinking about all of the benefits listed please mark which benefits you have already used.  
**(SELECT MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE IF APPROPRIATE)**

- 7% The Deferred Retirement Option Plan known as DROP
  - 2% Disability benefits
  - 3% The Survivor Pension
  - 1% The Termination Refund
  - 9% Buy back service credit
  - 69% Cost of living adjustment (COLA)
  - 54% The Health Insurance Premium Subsidy
  
  - 3% OTHER (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
  
  - 16% NONE OF THESE/NO ENTRY
- 

20. And, overall how satisfied are you with the programs and benefits offered by the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System? Would you say you are...

- 12% Completely satisfied, couldn't be better
  - 52% Very satisfied
  - 20% Somewhat satisfied
  
  - 2% Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
  
  - 3% Somewhat dissatisfied
  - 1% Very dissatisfied
  - \* Completely dissatisfied, couldn't be worse
  
  - 10% NO ENTRY
  
  - 84% TOTAL SATISFIED**
  - 4% TOTAL DISSATISFIED**
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Now, a few more questions for statistical purposes only.

21. In what year were you born?

--	18 - 24
--	25 - 34
1%	35 - 44
13%	45 - 54
39%	55 - 64
45%	65 AND ABOVE
28%	70+
2%	REFUSED

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22. And what is the last grade you completed in school?

*	SOME GRADE SCHOOL (GRADES 1-8)
2%	SOME HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9-11)
9%	GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL (GRADE 12)
3%	TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL SCHOOL
44%	SOME COLLEGE
29%	GRADUATED COLLEGE
12%	GRADUATE / PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL
1%	NO ENTRY
<b>11%</b>	<b>HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS</b>
<b>47%</b>	<b>SOME COLLEGE</b>
<b>41%</b>	<b>COLLEGE+</b>

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23. And, are you currently employed in the public safety field in Arizona?

10%	YES
89%	NO
1%	NO ENTRY

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24. What is your main racial or ethnic origin?

- 86% WHITE
  - 8% HISPANIC, SPANISH OR MEXICAN AMERICAN
  - 1% NATIVE AMERICAN OR AMERICAN INDIAN
  - 1% BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN
  - \* ASIAN
  
  - 1% OTHER (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
  
  - 2% NO ENTRY
- 

25. Gender

- 92% MALE
  - 7% FEMALE
  
  - 1% NO ENTRY
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