

VTA's Plan to Protect Our Social Security

Employee Town Hall Meetings
September 2020



Town Hall Meeting Overview and Presenters

- Introduction Sandra Weymouth
- Welcome Cindy Chavez, VTA Board Chair
- Partnerships Union Leadership
- Overview/Process Raj Srinath, Deputy GM/CFO
and Evelynn Tran, General Counsel
- Questions & Answers All

Welcome and Call to Action

**Cindy Chavez,
VTA Board Chairperson**



Partnering for Success

Union Leadership



What is the Section 218 Agreement?

- Required for public agency employees participating in a retirement plan such as CalPERS or VTA/ATU Pension Plan to have Social Security coverage
- VTA does NOT have a Section 218 Agreement
- Approving Section 218 agreement keeps in place your Social Security Benefits

SECTION 218
AGREEMENT
PRESERVES SOCIAL
SECURITY BENEFITS*

**relating to the time employed at VTA*

How did we get here?

- CalPERS is the Social Security Administrator for the State of California
- CalPERS Audit
- No evidence of Agreement going back to the 1970s
- VTA is one of a large number of agencies in California without a Section 218 Agreement

Majority “YES” Vote Gets Us There

- A simple majority (50% plus 1 votes) is needed from both VTA/ATU Pension Plan active employees and CalPERS Plan active employees

VTA/ATU Pension Plan active employees: 1,481*  simple majority = **741**

CalPERS Pension Plan active employees: 628*  simple majority = **315**

Collective Bargaining Unit	Active Employees*
AFSCME	229
Extra-Help Retiree	1
Non-Represented	128
SEIU	239
TAEA	31
TOTAL:	628

* Numbers are as of September 4, 2020

Roadmap to Resolution

VTA's Plan to **PROTECT** our Social Security



Voting Process



- At least 90-days' notice given to employees of election date
- Ballots can be cast by mail AND in-person
- VTA can set out ballot boxes over a specific number of days for employees to drop off ballots
- No online voting option is currently available
- Ballots must be counted by VTA in CalPERS' presence on a specified date
- CalPERS is in the process of establishing a COVID-19 referendum procedure
 - COVID-19 procedure has not been finalized

Key Takeaways

- VTA must enter into a Section 218 Agreement for each pension plan so that past, current and future employees receive Social Security benefits
- In order to do so, a referendum (vote) is required of all active VTA employees in each pension plan
- Vote must pass by a majority of all employees in each pension plan
- Board and Union leaderships' commitment to make sure employees are informed and engaged
- Issue can easily be addressed with your help

Additional Information & Staying Informed

Stay Informed

- Mailers, emails, robocalls
- Union leadership and management available
- Email: SocialSecurity.Section218@vta.org
- The Hub: <https://sccvta.sharepoint.com/>
- VTA website: <https://www.vta.org/section-218>
- VTA Section 218 Agreement telephone hotline: (408) 546-7400
- CalPERS website: <http://bit.ly/CalPERSSection218Agreement>

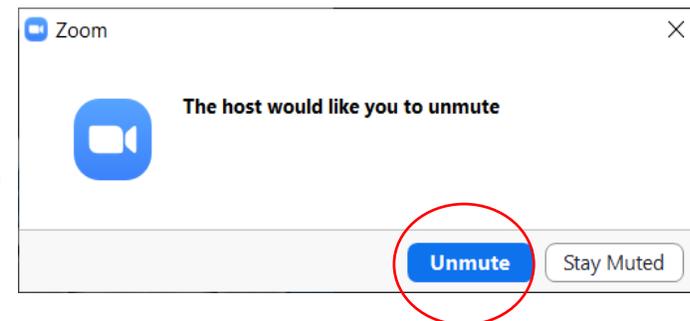
Questions and Answers (Q&A)

- Your opportunity to provide input/comment or ask questions
- To do so, please:

Use Raise Hand  feature in Zoom

Or press *9 on your smart phone

- Facilitator will call and unmute you.



Closing

- Thank you for attending and providing input!
- Remember:

- YES – protects Social Security participation and preserves benefits that you and VTA have contributed to
- NO – places our Social Security benefits in jeopardy