Realty World Selzer Realty Ukiah

Serving areas of Mendocino, Lake, and Sonoma County since 1976



Mendocino Co. retirement will keep Bay Area inflation model

By Adam Randall, udjar@ukiahdj.com, @udjadam on Twitter

POSTED: 03/18/15, 7:00 PM PDT UPD

UPDATED: ON 03/18/2015

0 COMMENTS

Concerned current and former Mendocino County employees were present Wednesday morning as the employees' retirement association board opted to stick with a 2.5 percent cost of living adjustment for pensions, based on a Bay Area inflation model.

Previously, board member and 4th District Supervisor Dan Gjerde questioned whether or not using a Bay Area inflation adjustment for an expensive living area like San Francisco was an accurate reflection of Mendocino County's economy. Because of that, a "West Region" Consumer Price Index was proposed for consideration, which bases its inflation rate on states like Alaska, Arizona and Montana, for example.

Based on numbers, a change from the Bay Area CPI to the West Region CPI could have resulted in a decrease of retirement inflation dollars for employees, and would have less financial impact on county retirement in the future.

Mendocino County has historically used the Bay Area CPI for employee retirement-eligible cost of living adjustment since 1971, county documents state.

"Again, these are urbanized areas," Gjerde said of the Bay Area CPI-U. "Silicon Valley and San Francisco barely felt the recession that we did in Mendocino County. To compare ourselves to them is really making a poor choice. I don't know why they picked it in 1971, and I won't support it in 2015."

Gjerde added that Mendocino County doesn't have the Silicon Valley or San Francisco market driving the economy.

Data from the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics states that the West Region CPI-U recorded in December for the previous 12 months was 1.3 percent, while the annual San Francisco area CPI-U recorded in December was 2.7 percent. However, the Labor Department determined the latest January CPI-U for the western region to be 0.7 percent.

Prior to voting, James Wilbanks, county retirement administrator, suggested the board "use the lens on which measure gives the best rate of inflation for Mendocino County."

"I think it's healthy for the board to have a discussion on this topic," Wilbanks said. "Let's make a decision and stick with it going forward."

Some of the former and current employees in attendance spoke out in fear of losing retirement funding if the board were to consider an alternative cost of living adjustment, or COLA. Employees also believed a Bay Area evaluation was appropriate to consider the high cost of living for a California coastal community like Mendocino County.

However, an SEIU union representative present said no change could have been made at the Wednesday meeting anyway citing, "two closed contracts were already in place" between the union and county.

Medical Medical Definition Pharmacy CUSTOM DRUG COMPOUNDES CUSTOM DR

888-838-1444 www.myersapothecary.com







Sheriff: 'I wanted to throw up' watching video Washington Post Video



Ronda Rousey Loses Title Fight in Stunner *Newser*

MORE FROM THE WEB

Man's body found with throat slashed Washington Post Video

10 Most Fuel-Efficient SUVs Kelley Blue Book

Ex-Microsoft Exec Looks to Turn Wall Street on its Head Yahoo! Finance

Ever Googled Yourself? A Popular Website Reveals More... Instant Checkmate

Can Underwood Hide from The Rumors Any Longer? *Wonderwall*

The Mega Razor Corporations Are Panicking. Here's Why. *Dollar Shave Club*



Think Your FICO Score Is Just About Credit? Think Again *Transamerica*



The 1800's Girl With the Tattooed Face *Ancestry*

These Are the 2016 Truck Models to Watch *Kelley Blue Book*



Celebs you didn't know passed away: #17 is Shocking *Your Daily Dish*

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE

Go with the flow on marijuana Thief drives van into Ukiah store The 'weird, wonderful' world of 'Trading Time' Former Mendocino County DA Meredith Lintott apologizes... Suspected gang related shooting Wednesday morning in... From the archives: lcicles on the pear trees the...

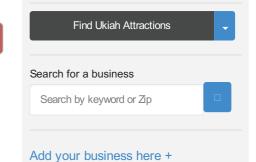
Recommended by Outbrain



Ukiah Local Guide

Featured Businesses

Rural Communities Housing Development Selzer Realty Coyote Valley Shodakai Casino Friedman's Home Improvement Ukiah Self Storage



TOP STORIES

undefined

undefined

undefined

The Lifestyle Challenge: Losing weight while gaining life

This Week's Circulars



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

View comments





