

# Center for State and Local Government Excellence

## Research and Resources

When governments face revenue constraints, their residents still count on them to deliver critical services. And that takes dedicated, committed public servants.

The Center promotes excellence in state and local governments so they can attract and retain talented public servants. Its Board of Directors and staff include national leaders who have served at the highest levels of government, media, and state and local government associations.

In 2010, the Center's research has been covered by National Public Radio, the *Wall Street Journal*, Bloomberg News, CNBC, Fox Business, and many other outlets and trade media. State legislators, local governments, and federal and Congressional entities rely on Center research and cite it regularly in their own studies.

**All Center publications and tools are available free of charge at [www.slge.org](http://www.slge.org).**

### Research on pensions

Over the past three years, the Center has partnered with the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College (CRR) to produce highly respected research on local and state government retirement plans. Publications include:

#### **The Funding of State and Local Pensions: 2009-2013**

An analysis of the effects the 2008 economic downturn has had on state and local government pension plan funding, along with future projections.

#### **Pension Obligation Bonds: Financial Crisis Exposes Risks**

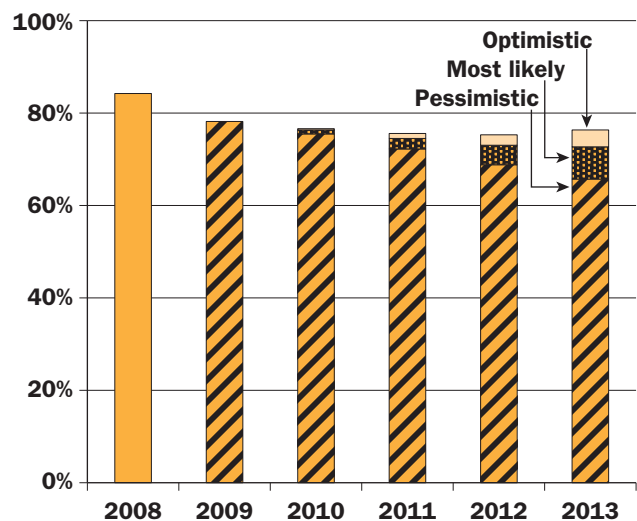
State and local governments that issue POBs are often fiscally stressed and not well positioned to handle the investment risk.

#### **Valuing Liabilities in State and Local Plans**

Researchers examine the debate between economists and actuaries over what discount rate should be used to value pension liabilities in the public sector.

*The Center gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the ICMA Retirement Corporation to undertake these retirement research projects.*

**Projected State and Local Funding Ratios Under Three Scenarios, 2009–2013**



### About the Center for State and Local Government Excellence

The Center for State and Local Government Excellence helps state and local governments become knowledgeable and competitive employers so they can attract and retain a talented and committed workforce. The Center identifies best practices and conducts research on competitive employment practices, workforce development, pensions, retiree health security, and financial planning. The Center also brings state and local leaders together with respected researchers and features the latest demographic data on the aging work force, research studies, and news on health care, recruitment, and succession planning on its web site, [www.slge.org](http://www.slge.org). Elizabeth K. Kellar, President and CEO; Joshua M. Franzel, PhD, Vice President, Research

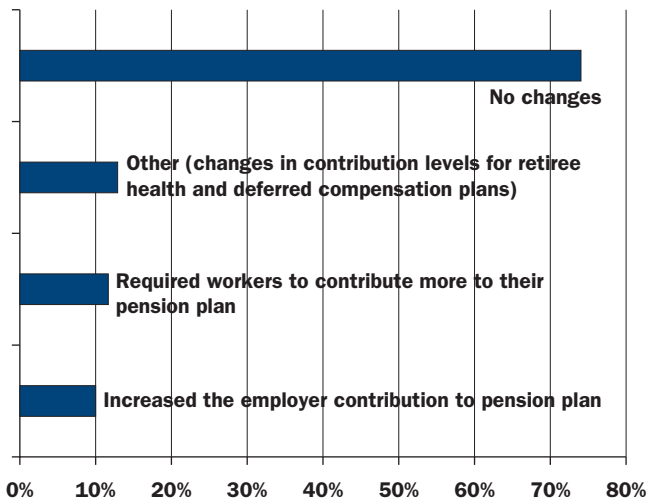
## Research on workforce issues

### The Great Recession and the State and Local Government Workforce

A 2010 online survey of government managers conducted in partnership with the International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA-HR) and the National Association of State Personnel Executives. Hiring freezes, pay freezes, layoffs, furloughs, and changes in benefits top the list of ways that local and state governments are cutting costs.

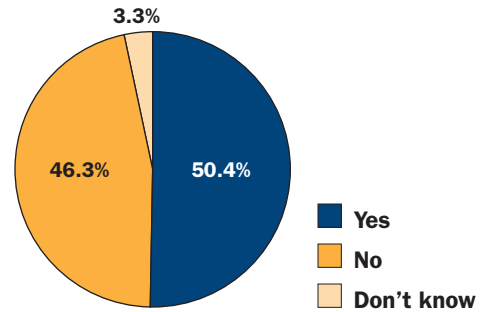
### Retirement Plan Changes

If your government has made **changes to the retirement plans**, has your government taken any of the following actions to address pension funding for current workers?



### Health Care Plan Changes

Has your government made any **changes to the health care plans** you offer to your employees and retirees since the beginning of the recession?



### Out of Balance? Comparing Public and Private Sector Compensation Over 20 Years.

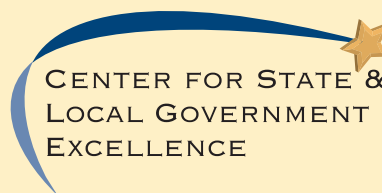
Joint project of the Center and the National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS). An analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data finds that even when benefits are taken into account, public employees still earn less than their counterparts in the private sector.

### Research on retiree health care

The Center has partnered with researchers at North Carolina State University to examine retiree health care issues. Publications include:

### The Crisis in State and Local Government Retiree Health Benefit Plans: Myths and Realities

Examining the financial status of state retiree health plans researchers found that although there are widespread reports of a major fiscal crisis, the reality is that some states face a fiscal crisis while others do not.



Helping state and local governments become knowledgeable and competitive employers

[www.slge.org](http://www.slge.org)