



Taxpayers Association Offers Public Pension Certification Program

SAN DIEGO (Aug. 2, 2016)---The Pension Certification Program is back.

The [San Diego County Taxpayers Association's](#) (SDCTA) non-partisan, educational seminar covering the management and financing of public employee retirement programs will be offered on Thursday, Aug. 18.

The day-long program features four expert instructors who will illuminate various aspects of the full range of public retirement systems. The fact-based curriculum has been developed for an audience of political candidates, elected officials, journalists, public sector managers and taxpayers in general.

"With a major election just three months away, it's critical that we have a public discourse informed by facts, not myths or rumors," said Haney Hong, SDCTA's President and CEO. "That's why it's so important to us to offer this program now."

This edition of the Pension Certification Program is particularly timely, as there are hundreds of candidates across the region seeking elective office who may potentially have oversight over public employee retirement systems, Hong said. The course teaches participants about the types of public employee retirement systems, the obligations of public officials when negotiating benefits with labor unions, and the actuarial calculations that define how much taxpayers owe to retirees.

Past graduates of the program include San Diego Port Commissioner Rafael Castellanos, County Supervisor Dave Roberts, San Diego City Councilmembers Scott Sherman and Mark Kersey and Carlsbad Mayor Matt Hall.

"I thought I had a pretty good understanding of pensions going into the program, but I was surprised at how much I learned," said Coronado City Council Candidate Whitney Benzian.

A similarly diverse group has already registered for the upcoming program, including San Diego City Council Candidate Barbara Bry, Chula Vista Deputy Mayor Steve Miesen and Chula Vista City Council Candidate Jason Paguio.

The program will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on August 18 at the Procopio offices in Downtown San Diego. Participants will be treated to a graduation reception with San Diego Councilmembers Chris Cate and Scott Sherman at the University Club from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Members of the Taxpayers Association can participate in the course for \$120. Prospective members may participate for \$160. The course fee includes lunch and an evening reception.

To register, please send your name, email address and phone number to Rosey Williams at rwilliams@sdcta.org.

The San Diego County Taxpayers Association is a non-profit, non-partisan organization, dedicated to promoting accountable, cost-effective and efficient government and opposing unnecessary new taxes and fees. Founded in 1945, SDCTA has spent the past 70 years saving the region's taxpayers millions of dollars, as well as generating information to help educate the public.