

## BENEFIT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Sonoma County Employees' Retirement Association  
 433 Aviation Boulevard, Suite 100, Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
 Tel: (707) 565-8100 / Fax: (707) 565-8102 / www.scretire.org

At the time you retire, you will make an irrevocable election of one of the following benefit payment options. The various options determine the amount of your benefit during your lifetime and whether any benefits will be payable to your beneficiary upon your death. You may not change your option choice after retirement, even if your life situation changes.

Option	Member Benefit	Eligible Beneficiary	Survivor Benefit <sup>1</sup>	Beneficiary Changes Allowed?
Unmodified	Highest benefit available	Eligible spouse or state registered domestic partner <sup>2</sup>	60% continuance of member's benefit for life	No
		Minor child(ren) <sup>3</sup>	60% continuance of member's benefit until child reaches majority	No
		Any named beneficiary(ies)	Lump-sum payout of remaining contributions and interest, if any contributions remain	Yes
Option 1	Reduced benefit	Any named beneficiary(ies)	Lump-sum payout of remaining contributions and interest, if any contributions remain	Yes
Option 2	Most reduced benefit	Any named beneficiary <sup>4</sup>	100% continuance of the member's reduced benefit for lifetime of beneficiary	No
Option 3	Reduced benefit	Any named beneficiary	50% continuance of the member's reduced benefit for lifetime of beneficiary	No
Option 4	Reduced benefit	Any named beneficiary(ies)	May designate a specific percentage of lifetime continuance to be paid to each of your beneficiary(ies). Costs associated with calculating the benefit will be borne by the member.	No

<sup>1</sup>A continuance terminates upon the death of the eligible surviving spouse, state registered domestic partner, or named beneficiary. Surviving minor children are eligible for a continuance only when there is no surviving spouse or state registered domestic partner, and continue until the child is no longer eligible. Lump sum payments are only in the amount of the member's remaining contributions and interest at the time of the member's death.

<sup>2</sup>Married or state registered domestic partners for at least one year prior to your retirement date.

<sup>3</sup>Under the age of 18, or under the age of 22 if unmarried and in school full time.

<sup>4</sup>The Internal Revenue Code (IRC) limits the percent of continuance that can be paid to a non-spouse beneficiary under Option 2. The percent allowed depends on your age at retirement, and the adjusted age difference between you and your beneficiary. The difference between the IRC limit and 100% is converted to a present value lump sum at the time of your death and is paid in a lump sum to your sole beneficiary.