# PREPARE NOW

### MAKING IT TO THE FINISH LINE



Congratulations! You are nearing the finish line in the marathon of your career. But, as any runner will tell you, you should never slow down the pace so close to the end. Each step towards this new phase of life can be equal parts exciting and scary. However, BENCOR is here to help you every step of the way until you cross the finish line of retirement and beyond.

BENCOR will provide you with retirement planning resources that make a difference, including professional guidance, investment advice and experience on topics such as the Florida Retirement System (FRS), the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) exit process, Social Security, retirement forms, and Sick Leave.

BENCOR believes that a one-on-one, trusted and personalized relationship is among the most important of issues to our clients. Our Advisors and staff make it a point to be accessible and approachable as we help you reach the finish line of retirement.

#### Again, we congratulate you!

BENCOR/MidAmerica, Inc. financial professionals are registered representatives of and offer only securities and advisory services through PlanMember Securities Corporation. A registered broker/dealer, investment advisor and member FINRA/SIPC. 6187 Carpinteria Ave. Carpinteria CA 93013. (800) 874-6910 PlanMember is not the broker/ dealer for U.S. Retirement Partners or U.S. Employee Benefits Services Group. BENCOR/MidAmerica, Inc., U.S. Retirement Partners and U.S. Employee Benefits Services Group are independently owned and operated companies and not affiliated with PlanMember Securities Corporation. PlanMember is not liable for ancillary products or services offered by this representative or any of the mentioned companies.

# ENDING YOUR RACE WITH CONFIDENCE



When you entrust BENCOR with your retirement planning and benefits, you are not signing up for a 1-800 number. We believe that your retirement deserves the face-to-face, strategic and thoughtful planning that we provide each of our clients looking for long-term goal setting and a personalized plan. Your BENCOR Advisor is prepared to help you find the right plan for your specific wants and needs in order to successfully cross the finish line into retirement.

Risk management is one of your BENCOR Advisor's main objectives. We will analyze your risk capacity, as well as risk tolerance; both critical considerations to any retirement plan.

BENCOR wants you to make the final strides toward retirement with the confidence you deserve. Much like your FRS Pension and Social Security plan, we strive to provide you with the stability you need as you approach and enter retirement. BENCOR believes that your hard-earned funds and benefits should be protected through strategic planning and a hands-on approach.

**BENCOR** is ready to help you approach the finish line of retirement with strategy, experience and resources, each step of the way.

> "The return OF your money is more important than the return ON your money." MARK TWAIN



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#### The Special Pay Plan

BENCOR's Special Pay Plan is an employer-sponsored retirement plan for fulltime employees. Under this plan, contributions of accumulated sick, vacation and other leave or incentive pay permanently avoid Social Security and Medicare taxes while deferring income tax until the funds are withdrawn. The Special Pay Plan was created to help ensure that your money remains yours after crossing the finish line of retirement. Upon retirement, your funds can be used as you choose, including the option to take a full or partial withdrawal, roll your funds into another qualified account of your choice, or roll DROP or other accounts into your Special Pay Plan. With a participating employer, you are automatically enrolled in this plan and the benefits are all yours to enjoy.

#### The DROP Program

The Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) is a voluntary retirement program available to FRS Pension Plan members who qualify for normal retirement. It allows you to delay your retirement for, oftentimes, up to 60 months from the date you first reach your normal retirement date or your eligible deferral date. Once you have entered DROP, you continue to work for an FRS employer and earn a salary while your retirement benefits accumulate in the FRS Trust Fund and earn tax-deferred interest. However, you stop earning retirement service credit due to the fact that you are considered to be retired. Upon exiting DROP, you will receive your accumulated funds and your monthly retirement benefit. You must terminate your FRS employment at that point to **avoid forfeiting your DROP benefits**.

For those that cross the finish line into retirement, the FRS offers financial security of a lifetime monthly pension **and** DROP offers the opportunity to accumulate additional savings while you are still running the race.

### You can never outlive your option!

# YOUR FOUR FRS PENSION OPTIONS

This option is the basic monthly benefit. It will provide retirees with the **MAXIMUM** monthly amount they are eligible to receive.

Monthly benefits end upon the retiree's death. The beneficiary will receive only a refund of contributions the retiree paid in excess of the amount received in benefits.

The retiree's spouse must acknowledge this selection.

Note: If you select Option 2,3 or 4, the monthly amount you receive is reduced so that the expected total payments to both you and your beneficiary or joint annuitant are about the same as the total you alone would be expected to receive under Option 1.



This option is a reduced monthly **LIFETIME** benefit.

If the retiree dies within 10 years after the retirement date (including DROP participation), the same monthly benefit will be paid to the designated beneficiary for the balance of the 10-year period.

If the retiree dies after that 10-year period there is no continuing benefit to the beneficiary.

The retiree's spouse must acknowledge this selection.

# 3

This option is a reduced monthly **LIFETIME** benefit.

Upon the retiree's death, the surviving joint annuitant will receive identical monthly benefits.

Note: The benefits paid to a non-spousal joint annuitant under the age of 25 will be the Option 1 benefit amount and will cease when age 25 is reached, unless disabled and incapable of self-support.

No further benefits are payable after both the retiree and the joint annuitant are deceased.



This is an **ADJUSTED** monthly benefit.

Benefit is payable while both the retiree and the joint annuitant are living.

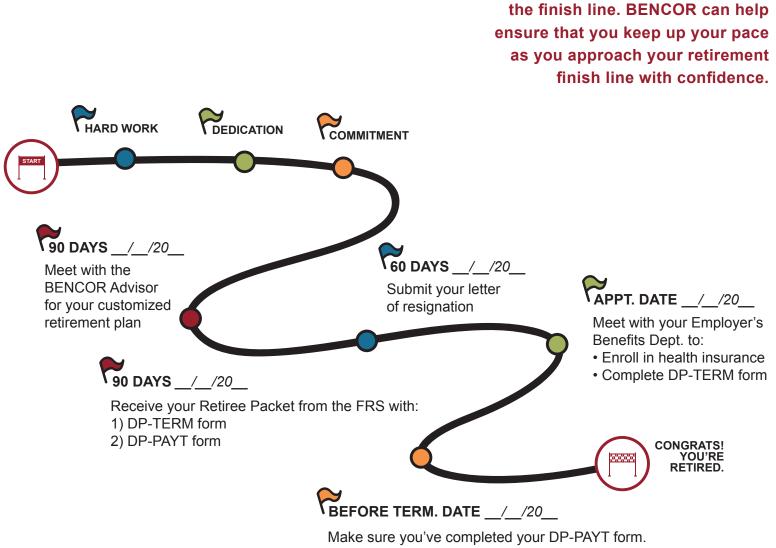
- Upon the death of either the retiree or the joint annuitant, the monthly benefit payable to the survivor is reduced to <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> of the monthly benefit received when both were living.
- Note: The benefits paid to a non-spousal joint annuitant under the age of 25 will be the Option 1 benefit amount and will cease when age 25 is reached, unless disabled and incapable of self-support.

No further benefits are payable after both the retiree and the joint annuitant are deceased.

#### **BENCOR TACTICAL TIP:**

Other than Option 1, these plans are similar to the purchase of insurance on a pension. The biggest difference is that this decision is a permanent one. Regardless of circumstances, including the unforeseen death of a beneficiary, your decision is permanent. Life insurance is a viable alternative to avoid this risk. Consult a BENCOR Advisor to assist you in understanding these options before making your decision.

# MILE MARKERS TO RETIREMENT SUCCESS



Take action if you decide not to retire under the pension plan!

You're only a sprint away from

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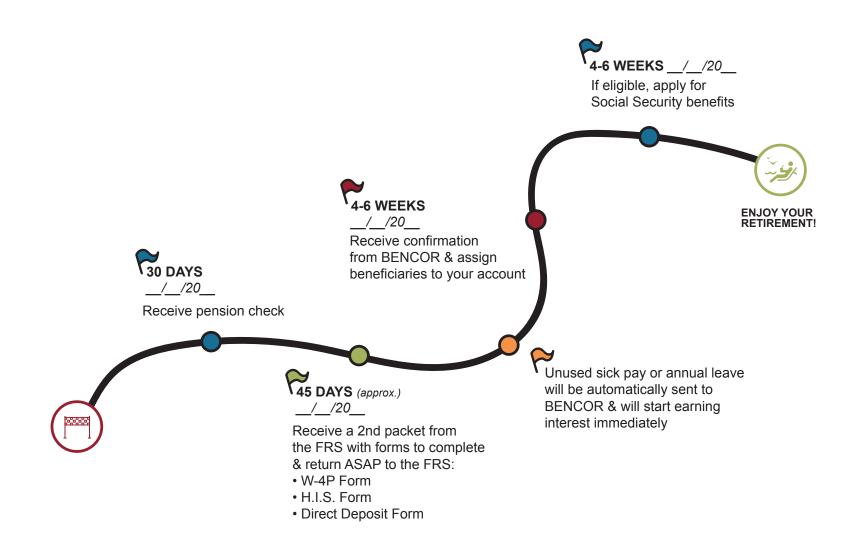
**DP-TERM FORM:** This form verifies your DROP termination date and requires your notarized signature as well as the signature of your employer. This form notifies the state to send your pension check to you instead of depositing it in the FRS Trust Fund now that you have completed your DROP term.

DP-PAYT FORM: This form allows you to select a payout method for your DROP money (lump sum, direct rollover, or partial lump sum) and must be SIGNED IN FRONT OF A NOTARY. If you select Direct Rollover or Partial Lump Sum, this form will need to be sent to and signed by the custodian (company you would like to rollover your DROP money to) and then sent to the FRS.

**NOTE:** You have 60 days from your termination date to make your selection. If you miss the deadline, you'll receive a Lump Sum Distribution by default, which results in the most taxes.



Once the race is run, it is time to start preparing for life's next big adventure: your life after retirement.



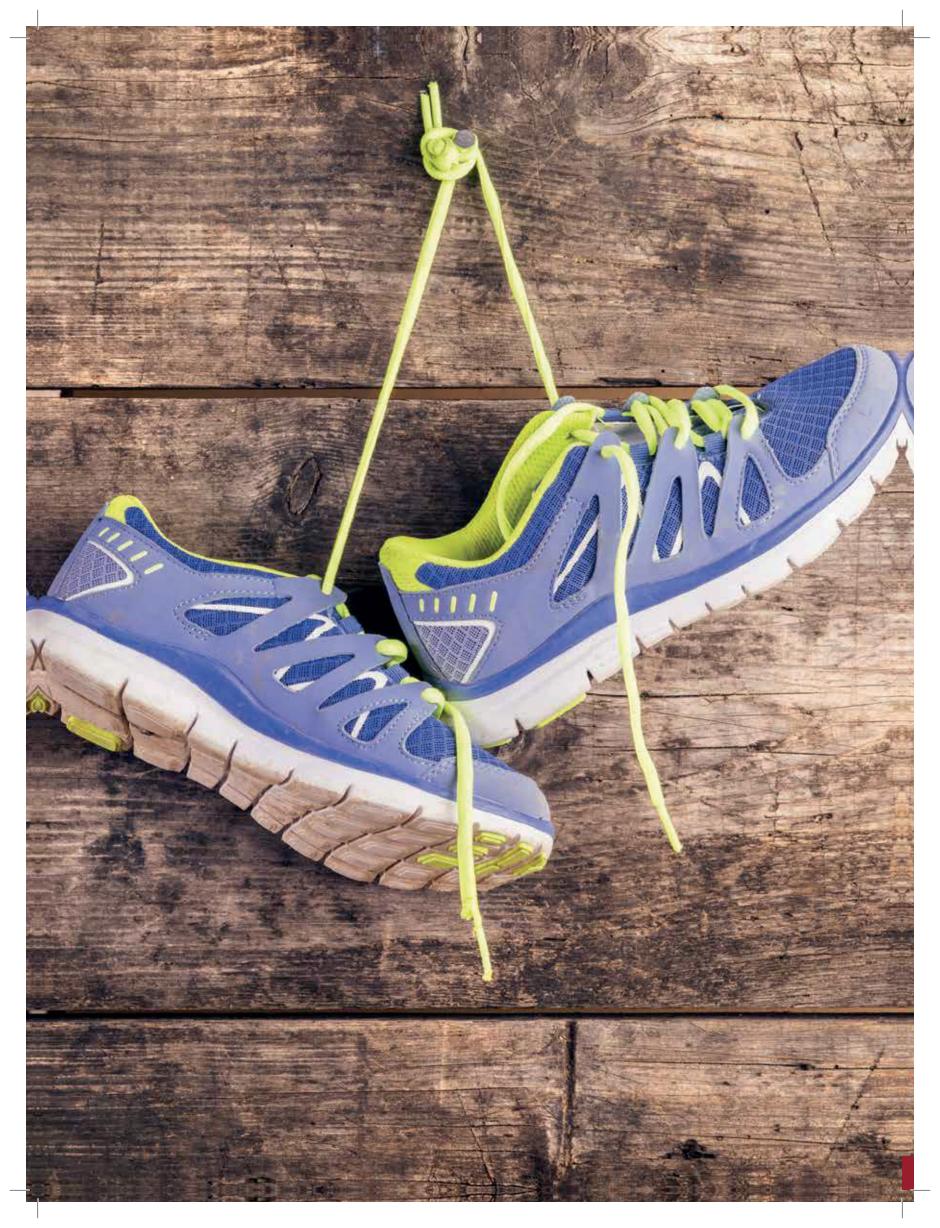
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30 Days After Retirement: You will receive your first pension check. Keep in mind that you could have no paycheck for the first month you are retired, depending on when your retirement date falls within the FRS payroll process. BENCOR encourages you to make accommodations to prepare for this period of time.

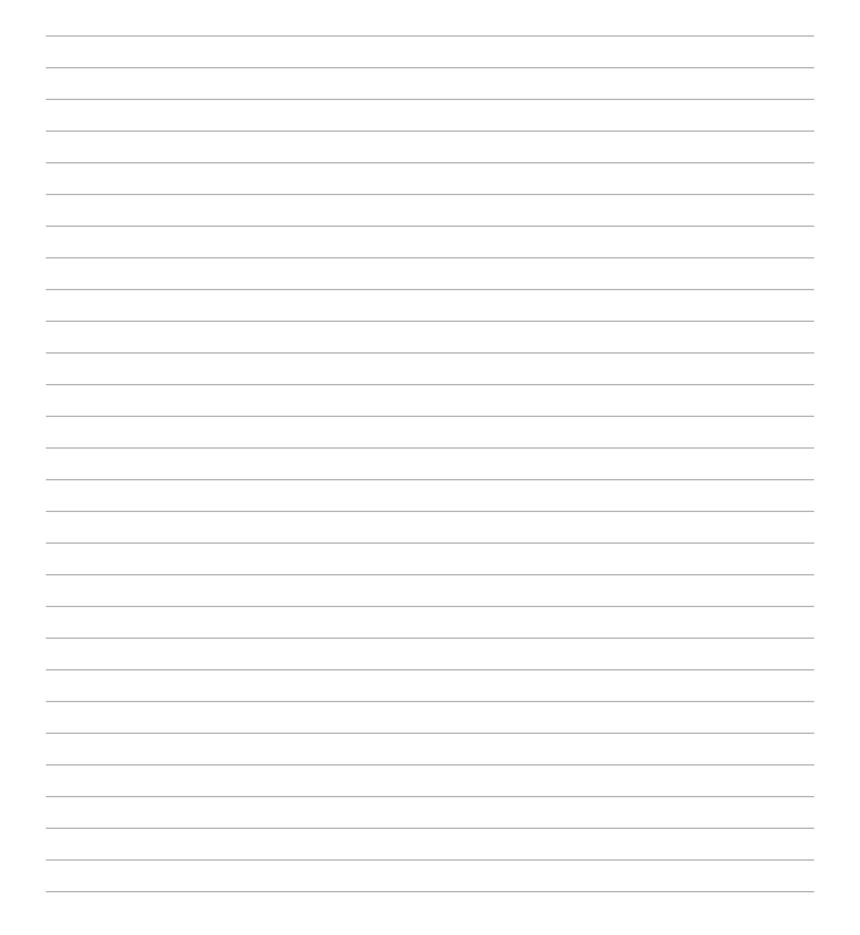
**W-4P FORM:** This form allows you to change your withholdings for tax purposes. Taxes will be deducted from your pension check based on this form.

HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDY (H.I.S.) FORM: This form will notify the FRS that you have proof of insurance and qualify for \$5 for each year of service you had prior to your DROP entry. These funds will then be included in your pension check.

**DIRECT DEPOSIT FORM:** Your first check was mailed to you; however, the FRS now requires you to set up direct deposit as they will not continue to mail your monthly pension check.



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