

# Signature

NEWSLETTER



## NC 401(k) and NC 457 Plans Snapshot

(as of December 31, 2024)



**319k+**

over 319,000 unique participants



**\$17 billion**

total assets in NC 401(k)  
and NC 457 Plans



**\$297**

average monthly deferral



**Nearly 75%**

the percentage of participants  
using GoalMaker<sup>1</sup>



**40%**

the percentage of participants who  
have registered their online account  
and are eligible for the Empower  
Security Guarantee



**68%\***

the percentage of workers with an  
NC 401(k) and/or NC 457 account  
who are on track to be retirement  
ready (80% income replacement)

\*Based on the State of NC's MARS statement. Data as of December 2023. MARS is released once a year for those members with error-free data and at least one year of consecutive contributing service as of December 31.



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### In this issue...

In this *Signature Newsletter*, be sure to discover how your online account experience has been enhanced. Also, ensure that your account is protected by the Empower Security Guarantee,<sup>2</sup> which is available when you register your account.

## Website enhancements

Recent updates to enhance the security and the user experience have been made to your online account.

### Faster security notifications

Text message notifications now inform you faster, which will help to keep you protected. As a reminder, these notifications are sent to you to verify that **you** have made changes to your account. The following actions will trigger a notification:

- Change to username or password
- Update of personal information
- Bank account change
- Request of a loan or withdrawal
- New registration or account aggregation



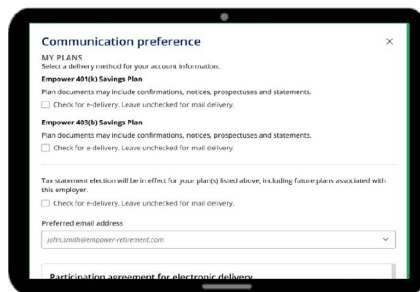
You will receive a separate text for each change submitted.

### Electronic delivery of tax statements

Elect to receive your annual tax statements electronically by visiting your account online:

1. Click on *Settings* under *Profile and settings*
2. Go to *Document Communication Preferences*
3. Click *e-Delivery for tax statements*

You may also request electronic delivery of tax statements when taking a withdrawal.



FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

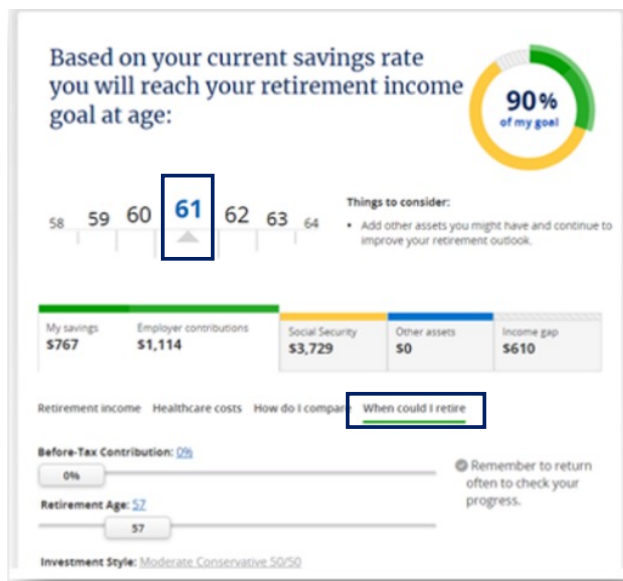
### Dashboard updates give you key insights and actionable next steps\*

The Plans' dashboard has a more streamlined design, giving you easier access to key account features — as well as information on your projected retirement age. This makes your online retirement planning more convenient than ever.

#### NEW: Projected retirement age

For those **under age 50**, check out the *When could I retire?* tab to see your potential retirement age, based on your current savings rate and chosen retirement income goal.

\* IMPORTANT: The projections or other information generated on the website by the investment analysis tool regarding the likelihood of various investment outcomes are hypothetical in nature, do not reflect actual investment results, and are not guarantees of future results. The results may vary with each use and over time.



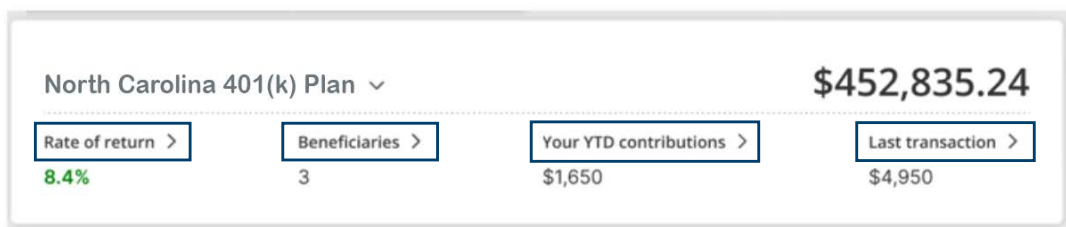
FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY



### NEW: Easy quick links

These links allow you to easily access detailed information from the dashboard:

- Account's rate of return
- Beneficiaries
- YTD contributions
- Last transaction



FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY



## 2025 expanded eligibility for the NC 401(k) Plan

The NC 401(k) Plan has expanded its eligibility requirements. Beginning January 1, for the first time, both full-time *and* part-time public servants can now participate in the NC 401(k) Plan.

### Important reminder: Register your account

The security and protection of your NC 401(k) and NC 457 Plans' account is a top priority. That is why our recordkeeper offers its Empower Security Guarantee.<sup>3</sup> It is easy to sign up. **All you have to do is register your account online.**

If you have not logged in to your account since the Plans moved to Empower in February 2024, then your account is not protected by the Empower Security Guarantee.

#### How to register

- Visit [myNCPlans.com](https://www.ncplans.com)
- Choose *Register* under *Register or Access my Account*
- Select *I do not have a PIN*
- Enter your personal information and then hit *Continue*
- Enter verification code from Empower
- Create a username and password
- Select *Sign In*

If using a mobile device, you will be directed to download our mobile app first.

*Need assistance?* Call **866-NCPlans (866-627-5267)**. Representatives are available Monday–Friday between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. Eastern time, and Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Eastern time.

For more information about account security, including the Empower Security Guarantee, visit <https://www.empower.com/about-empower/security>.



## Investment basics: The North Carolina Large Cap Core Fund<sup>4</sup>

The North Carolina Large Cap Core Fund (Fund) is an investment option within the Plans.

### Investment objective

The Fund offers Plan participants an investment option that is primarily actively managed and is targeted at the large-cap sector of the U.S. equity market. The investment objective of the Fund is long-term capital appreciation while pursuing both value and growth investment styles. There can be no assurance the objective of the Fund will be met.

### Investor profile & benchmark

This Fund may be attractive to those looking for an investment option that invests in large-cap equities with both growth and value characteristics.

The performance of the Fund is benchmarked to the Russell 1000<sup>®</sup> Index.<sup>5</sup>

### Investment management

The Fund's assets are divided among five complementary, but independent, managers:

- Hotchkis & Wiley (actively managed Large Cap Value)
- Macquarie (actively managed Large Cap Value)
- Sands Capital (actively managed Large Cap Growth)
- Loomis Sayles & Company (actively managed Large Cap Growth)
- BlackRock / Russell 1000<sup>®</sup> Index Fund (passively managed Large Cap Blend)

To view the fund fact sheets for the Plans' investments, visit [myNCPlans.com](https://myNCPlans.com) and click on *Information for Employees* and then *Investment Information*.



## PIA: Participants in action



### 32,168

participants have increased their contributions



### 59,288

attended group meetings



### 24,361

NC 401(k)/NC 457 Plans' Retirement Plan Counselor meetings with individuals

\*YTD data as of 12/31/2024.

<sup>1</sup> Asset allocation models are pre-established asset allocation strategies composed of a plan's core investment options. The models are not securities. Allocations to a model will be invested in the various underlying investment options composing each model, as made available by the plan and according to the model's allocation methodology.

<sup>2</sup> Exclusions apply. For complete details, visit <https://www.empower.com/about-empower/security>.

<sup>3</sup> The Empower Security Guarantee applies only to accounts maintained by Empower and does not extend to accounts held or managed by third parties, such as self-directed brokerage accounts held at other institutions. Empower may seek restitution from the person(s) who committed the unauthorized activity and may require you to assign certain rights or sign a release form as a condition in receiving reimbursement under the Empower Security Guarantee. For accounts in employer-sponsored plans, reimbursement is generally subject to plan sponsor review and approval and may be subject to additional conditions based on any related agreement between Empower and your employer. Empower will determine the type and amount of any reimbursement in its sole discretion. This protection does not cover any legal fees, expenses, or tax consequences or any indirect, consequential, or non-monetary damages. Empower reserves the right to reduce the amount of any reimbursement by amounts you are entitled to receive from other sources for the same loss, such as identity theft insurance.

<sup>4</sup> *Carefully consider the investment option's objectives, risks, fees and expenses. Contact the Plans at 866-NCPlans (866-627-5267) for a prospectus, summary prospectus for SEC-registered products or disclosure document for unregistered products, if available, containing this information. Read each carefully before investing.*

### It is possible to lose money when investing in securities.

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