

Dueling Pension Actuaries

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International Foundation
OF EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS 

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Session Description

- In a series of short debates, we will discuss considerations and perspectives on various retirement plan topics.

Arguments presented by the speakers do not necessarily represent the views of the speaker or their employer.



Statements for Debate

1. Plans should consider increasing discount rates in the current investment environment.
2. Plans should have the same assumptions for both funding and withdrawal liability.
3. Plans should use the most recent mortality tables and mortality improvement scales.
4. Variable plans are too complicated and weaken the defined benefit (DB) promise.
5. Asset Methods—Too smooth or not to smooth, that is the question.
6. Benefit improvements should only be made for a DB plan that is 100% funded.



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Key Takeaways

- It's important to recognize there are usually no absolutes or one-size-fits-all solutions when it comes to actuarial topics.
- The best approach is consistent and open communication between the Trustees and Plan Professionals.

Key Takeaways

- Want additional information?
Sessions are available at this conference!
 - I04: Working With Your Investment Professionals
 - I05: Stick to Your Plan: Let your Investment Policy Statements Be your Guide
 - I18: Liability-Driven Investments—Risk Management for Pension Plans
 - P02: Understanding Pension Plan Withdrawal Liability
 - P03: Advanced Withdrawal Liability Topics

Key Takeaways

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 - P04: Pension Plan Actuarial Basics for the Nonactuary
 - P06: Investment Consultant and Pension Actuary Conversation
 - P10: The Impact of Noninvestment Risks on Your Pension Plan
 - P12: Understanding Alternative Pension Plan Designs

Key Takeaways

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 - P13: Variable Annuity Pension Plan—
Choose Your Own Adventure
 - P14: Variable Annuity Pension Plan—
Lessons Learned
 - P15: A Survey of the Retirement Landscape
 - P20: My Pension Plan Is Well-Funded—
Now What?

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