



California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA

# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## First-Round of CalSavers Notices Being Sent to Employers; “Gig” Workers Also Eligible

*State-facilitated automatic enrollment retirement program to help millions of Californians without access to a workplace retirement plan save for the future*

**SACRAMENTO** – The first round of notices about how to participate in the state’s pioneering new retirement savings program, [CalSavers](#), is being sent to employers this week.

“The sooner employers register, the sooner their workers can begin saving for their futures,” said State Treasurer Ma, chair of the California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Investment Board.

[More than seven million](#) Californians are currently on their own when it comes to saving for retirement. Many employers that don’t offer a plan report struggling with administrative responsibilities, fiduciary responsibility, and additional costs that come with providing an employer-sponsored plan.

“CalSavers addresses these challenges head-on by bringing a portable retirement savings option to workers who don’t currently have one through their employer,” said CalSavers Executive Director Katie Selenski. “The program is simple to operate and has no fees for employers and no cost to taxpayers.”

Studies show people are [15 times](#) more likely to save for retirement if they have the tools to do so through their employer. By law, every California employer with five or more California-based employees who doesn’t offer an employer-sponsored retirement plan will be required to

register for CalSavers by deadlines rolling out over the next three years according to employer size.

Employers with more than 100 employees who do not already offer a retirement plan will have until June 30, 2020 to register. Employers with more than 50 employees will be required to register by June 30, 2021, and those with five or more employees by June 30, 2022.

Employers are only responsible for providing the CalSavers program with their employee roster and then remitting employee payroll contributions each pay period.

“We take care of informing employees and interacting with them about their accounts,” Selenski said. “This is a pioneering program that levels the playing field and gives workers a way to save for a dignified future.”

Eligible employers of any size are encouraged to register at any time starting now, regardless of their registration deadline, at [www.calsavers.com](http://www.calsavers.com).

Once enrolled, employees can choose their own contribution rate, up to the federal annual maximum of \$6,000 for those under age 50 and \$7,000 for those over age 50—the same as any IRA—with deductions automatically made from each paycheck.

Participating employees are automatically enrolled at a savings rate of five percent per paycheck; however, individuals can choose their own savings rate and investments or opt out at any time. Participant fees are low and expected to shrink further as the program grows to scale. Accounts stay with employees, even if they change jobs.

### **“Gig” Worker Opt-in Portal Open Today**

Starting today, self-employed individuals, “gig” workers, and people who work for non-mandated employers may also sign up for a CalSavers account by directly linking their bank account at [www.calsavers.com](http://www.calsavers.com).

“Portability is increasingly important in today’s economy and everyone should have a consistent way to save regardless of the ups and down of work,” said Treasurer Ma.

## **About the CalSavers Retirement Savings Program**

The CalSavers Retirement Savings Program (“CalSavers”) is an automatic enrollment payroll deduction IRA overseen by the [California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Investment Board](#) (“Board”). CalSavers is operated as a public-private partnership, with oversight by a nine-member public board chaired by the State Treasurer and management by a small staff based in Sacramento. For more information about CalSavers, visit [www.calsavers.com](http://www.calsavers.com), email [CalSavers@sto.ca.gov](mailto:CalSavers@sto.ca.gov), or follow the program on Twitter at [@CalSavers](https://twitter.com/CalSavers).

### **For media inquiries, please contact:**

CalSavers Executive Director Katie Selenski at (916) 205-7847 or [kselenski@treasurer.ca.gov](mailto:kselenski@treasurer.ca.gov), or Communications Director Mark DeSio at (916) 651-6088.

### **For video and b-roll of the CalSavers launch go to:**

<https://youtu.be/qxPK64owxSl>

(This 2.5-minute video includes, in order of appearance: 1) California State Treasurer Fiona Ma; 2) former California State Senate President pro tempore and SB 1234 author Kevin De León; 3) Yvonne Walker, President at SEIU Local 1000 & California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Investment Board Member ; 4) Mark Herbert, California Director, Small Business Majority; 5) Katie Selenski, Executive Director, CalSavers.)

*Fiona Ma is California’s 34th State Treasurer. She was elected on November 6, 2018 with more votes (7,825,587) than any other candidate for treasurer in the state’s history. She is the first woman of color and the first woman Certified Public Accountant (CPA) elected to the position. The State Treasurer’s Office was created in the California Constitution in 1849. It provides financing for schools, roads, housing, recycling and waste management, hospitals, public facilities, and other crucial infrastructure projects that better the lives of residents. California is the world’s fifth-largest economy and Treasurer Ma is the state’s primary banker. Her office processes more than \$2 trillion in payments within a typical year. She provides transparency and oversight for the government’s investment portfolio and accounts, as well as for the state’s surplus funds. Treasurer Ma oversees an investment portfolio of more than \$90 billion, more than \$23 billion of which are local government funds. She serves as agent for sale for all State bonds, and is trustee on more than \$90 billion of outstanding debt.*

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