

Generally, the Retirement System should receive the *W-4P Withholding Election and Certificate* by the twelfth of the month that you want your withholding amount to change.

If your monthly benefit payment is currently being sent via Direct Deposit, the filing of the W-4P will not affect that process, just the amount transmitted into your account.

Any election you make will remain in effect until you change it. You may change your election at any time by using the "Tools" feature in your online MyNYSTRS account at NYSTRS.org or by requesting and filing another *W-4P Withholding Election and Certificate*.

If you do not submit a W-4P form, the System must withhold as if you are married claiming three withholding allowances.

IRS regulations on federal tax withholding for pension payments do not allow NYSTRS to withhold only a fixed dollar amount or a certain percentage. Your options for federal tax withholding on your pension are:

1. **Have no federal income tax withheld from your monthly benefit.** You would then be responsible for paying any taxes you may owe yourself directly to the IRS on a quarterly basis or when you file your tax return.

Please note: If you have too little tax withheld, you will generally owe tax when you file your tax return and may owe a penalty unless you make timely payments of estimated tax.

2. **Request that NYSTRS withhold the federal income tax based on your marital status and number of exemptions claimed.** If that does not result in enough tax being withheld, you may also request that an additional dollar amount be withheld on top of what NYSTRS calculates using federal tax tables. The tax tables are available on the Retirees page of our website (NYSTRS.org) under Taxes & Estate Planning.

We suggest you consult with a tax professional to determine which option is best for you.