



Wisconsin Briefs

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SALARIES OF STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS	Incumbent	Salaries for New Officers	
	Salaries*	7/1/01-6/29/02*	6/30/02-6/28/03
Governor	\$122,406	\$129,177	\$131,768
Lieutenant Governor	60,183	68,213	69,579
Secretary of State	54,610	61,323	62,549
State Treasurer	54,610	61,323	62,549
Attorney General	112,274	125,351	127,868
Superintendent of Public Instruction ..	107,432	107,432	109,587

*The salary of a constitutional officer cannot be increased during the incumbent's term of office. All officers, except the superintendent of public instruction, are currently serving 4-year terms that will expire on January 6, 2003. The superintendent's 4-year term expires on July 4, 2005. If an incumbent resigns, dies, or is removed, the person assuming the office through appointment or election (or elevation in the case of the lieutenant governor taking the office of the governor) will be paid the salary effective at the time. Projected salaries are shown in the two columns to the right.

LEGISLATORS IN THE 2001 LEGISLATURE

Salary **\$44,233**

Per Diem. In addition to salary, Section 13.123 (1), Wisconsin Statutes, and legislative Joint Rule 85 authorize legislators to claim a "per diem" allowance for each day spent in Madison on legislative business, not including Saturdays or Sundays unless the legislator is in Madison on one of those days attending a session of the legislature or a meeting of a standing committee as a member of the committee. Legislators may also be entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in attending committee meetings outside of Madison.

Legislators who do not establish a temporary residence in Madison may receive half of the per diem. Based on Section 20.916 (8), the Joint Committee on Employment Relations establishes the maximum amount of the allowance, according to the recommendation of the Secretary of Employment Relations. Approval by the full legislature is not required. The committee set the current maximum per diem of \$88 (\$44 for legislators who do not establish temporary residence) on January 4, 2001. The prior rate of \$75 (\$37.50) had been in effect since June 11, 1993.

Assembly Speaker's Stipend. Since early statehood, the Speaker of the Assembly has received a stipend in addition to salary and per diem payments. The current stipend is \$25 per month.

JUDICIAL BRANCH	Current Salaries	6/30/02-6/28/03
Supreme Court Chief Justice	\$128,017	\$130,418
Supreme Court Justice	120,017	122,418
Court of Appeals Judge	113,222	115,488
Circuit Court Judge	106,812	108,950

Note: The judicial branch includes all justices of the supreme court and all judges of the court of appeals and the various circuit courts across the state. The salaries of all justices and judges are adjusted to the prevailing schedule whenever any member of the judicial branch is sworn in following appointment or election to fill a vacancy on the bench. Current salaries are shown in bold; projected salaries are listed in right-hand column.

HOW SALARIES ARE DETERMINED

Salary Levels Set by Department of Employment Relations. Sections 20.923 and 230.12, Wisconsin Statutes, created by Chapter 90, Laws of 1973, and amended by 1983 Wisconsin Act 27, provide the current procedure for setting salaries of elected state officials.

The process requires the Secretary of the Department of Employment Relations to submit proposed changes in the compensation plan for elected officials to the legislature’s Joint Committee on Employment Relations. If approved by the committee, the plan goes into effect. The committee may modify the secretary’s proposal, if it chooses. These modifications may be disapproved by the governor within 10 calendar days, but a vote of six members of the committee can set aside the governor’s action.

Salary May Not Be Increased During Terms of Office. Article IV, Section 26 (2), Wisconsin Constitution, provides that “the compensation of a public officer may not be increased or diminished during the term of office.” Constitutional amendments have created two exceptions to this provision.

- An April 1992 constitutional amendment provides that all legislators, including those elected in special elections, will receive the same salary throughout the legislature’s biennial session. This change allows holdover senators (those in the middle of a 4-year term) to receive an adjustment when the new legislature is inaugurated, so that their salary matches that of newly elected senators.
- Since amendment in 1967, the constitution has provided that the salaries of the entire judicial branch will be adjusted to reflect the salary schedule in effect when any new justice or judge takes office.