



Wisconsin Briefs

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SALARIES OF STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS Effective January 2003

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

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| Governor | \$131,768 |
| Lieutenant Governor | 69,579 |
| Secretary of State | 62,549 |
| State Treasurer | 62,549 |
| Attorney General | 127,868 |
| Superintendent of Public Instruction | 107,432 |

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 in January 2007. 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.

LEGISLATORS IN THE 2003-2004 SESSION

Salary \$45,569

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. In addition to salary and per diem payments, the Speaker of the Assembly also receives a stipend, which is currently \$25 per month.

JUDICIAL BRANCH

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|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Supreme Court Chief Justice | \$130,418 |
| Supreme Court Justice | 122,418 |
| Court of Appeals Judge | 115,488 |
| Circuit Court Judge | 108,950 |

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 in the state compensation plan whenever **any** member of the judicial branch takes office. The current schedule covers the period June 30, 2002 through June 28, 2003. Because Judge Kendall Kelley of the Brown County Circuit Court took office on July 22, 2002, all justices and judges began receiving the respective salaries listed above at that time. They will continue to receive those salaries until any justice or judge assumes office after June 28, 2003, at which time all salaries will be adjusted to the amounts specified in the next compensation plan.

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. The biennial compensation plan is typically submitted in June of odd-numbered years. 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.