



Salaries of Wisconsin State Elected Officials, 2025



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How salaries are determined

The process for setting the salaries of elected state officials begins with the administrator of the Division of Personnel Management in the Department of Administration submitting proposed changes to the state compensation plan, which includes the salaries of elected state officials, to the Joint Committee on Employment Relations. The state compensation plan is typically submitted after enactment of the biennial budget act, usually in the summer of each odd-numbered year. If approved by the committee, the plan goes into effect. The committee may modify the administrator's proposal, but these modifications are subject to the governor's veto and may be disapproved by the governor within 10 calendar days; a vote of six members of the committee may set aside the governor's action. On October 17, 2023, the Joint Committee on Employment Relations approved the 2023–25 state compensation plan.

Wis. Stat. §§ 20.923 and 230.12 (3) (a) and (b) provide the procedure for establishing the pay levels of elected state officials. Prior to 2015, the administration of the compensation plan was performed by the Office of State Employment Relations. The office was eliminated by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, and its powers and duties were transferred to the Division of Personnel Management.

Wis. Const. art. IV, § 26 (2), 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:

1. An April 1992 constitutional amendment provided that all legislators, including those elected in special elections, must receive the same salary throughout the legislature's biennial session. This allows holdover senators in the middle of a four-year term to receive an adjustment when the new legislature is inaugurated, so their salary matches that of newly elected senators and representatives to the assembly.
2. Since 1967, the constitution has provided that the salaries of the entire judicial branch are adjusted to reflect the salary schedule in effect when any new justice or judge takes office.

Constitutional officers in the executive branch

Constitutional officers in the executive branch may not receive a pay raise during their terms of office. All elected officers in the executive branch, except the state superintendent of public instruction, began serving four-year terms in January 2023. Thus, they will receive the salaries in effect at that time until the expiration of their terms in January 2027. The state superintendent of public instruction began serving a four-year term in 2021; a newly elected state superintendent will take office in 2025. If an incumbent resigns, dies, or is removed, the officer assuming the office through appointment or elec-

tion—or succession if the lieutenant governor assumes the office of the governor—will receive the salary provided in the compensation plan that is applicable at the time he or she takes office. The salaries of all constitutional officers were increased by approximately 6 percent from the previous term.

Salaries for officers in the executive branch who assume office in 2025 are as follows:

Salaries of constitutional officers in the executive branch, 2025

Officer	Incumbent salary (\$)	Salary (\$)
Governor	165,568	175,802
Lieutenant governor	87,423	92,789
Secretary of state	78,583	83,367
State treasurer	78,583	83,367
Attorney general	160,680	170,581
State superintendent of public instruction	132,351	146,183

Members of the 2025 Wisconsin Legislature

The salary of all legislators serving in the 2025 Wisconsin Legislature is \$60,924, which increased by approximately 6 percent from the previous biennium. The speaker of the assembly receives an additional stipend of \$25 per month.

Wis. Stat. § 13.123 (1) and Joint Rule 85 authorize legislators to claim a per diem allowance for food and lodging expenses for each day spent in Madison on legislative business except Saturdays or Sundays. If a legislator is in Madison on a Saturday or Sunday attending a session of the legislature or a meeting of a standing committee as a member of the committee, the per diem amount may be claimed for that day. Members may also receive reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in attending committee meetings outside of Madison.

2001 Wisconsin Act 16 set the legislative per diem at 90 percent of the rate established by the U.S. General Services Administration for travel by federal employees to Madison. However, under Wis. Const. art. IV, § 8, which provides that each house of the legislature may determine the rules of its own proceedings, the organization committee of each house sets the actual maximum per diem rates that may be claimed by members.

Judicial branch

The salaries of all justices and judges are adjusted to match the amounts listed in the sched-

ule in the state compensation plan whenever any member of the judicial branch takes office. The following judicial branch salaries are applicable beginning on June 30, 2024:

Judicial branch salaries, applicable June 30, 2024

Position	Salary (\$)
Supreme court justice	196,082
Court of appeals judge	184,983
Circuit court judge	174,512

District attorneys

The compensation plan also sets the salaries of district attorneys, who are elected in each prosecutorial district but are paid by the state. The salaries vary depending on the population of the prosecutorial unit and currently range from \$145,288 in prosecutorial units with populations above 750,000 to \$162,469 in prosecutorial units with populations between 75,000 and 750,000. As with the salaries of constitutional officers, the salaries of district attorneys may not be increased during their four-year terms of office. However, a district attorney who takes office by special election or appointment will receive the updated rate of pay provided in the compensation plan.¹ ■

1. Div. of Personnel Management, Wis. Dept. of Administration, *State of Wisconsin Compensation Plan: 2023–2025* (Madison, WI: Division of Personnel Management), <http://dpm.wi.gov>.