

STATE GOVERNMENT COMPENSATION BY BRANCH

Executive branch salaries continue to increase but the pace at which they increase is slowing

- ▶ The average salary for a governor is \$131,115. Maine has the lowest salary of \$70,000, while California is the highest at \$212,179. Three active governors choose to forgo their salaries. New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine accepts only \$1 of his \$175,000 salary; California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger waives his \$212,179 salary; and Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen returns his \$164,292 salary to the state.
- ▶ Of the other elected constitutional officers, the position of attorney general has the highest average salary of \$118,619. On average, treasurers are paid \$106,078, secretaries of state make \$103,530 and lieutenant governors are paid \$88,499. The nonelected executive branch position with the highest average salary is the higher education head with an average of \$217,909.
- ▶ The average salary for governor increased by nearly 5.5 percent from 2007 to 2009, compared to an increase of almost 8.5 percent from 2004 to 2007. The average salary for attorney general increased by 4.5 percent from 2007 to 2009, compared to an increase of nearly 11.5 percent from 2004 to 2007.



Legislative branch salary types and amounts vary widely

- ▶ Forty-one states compensate legislators with an annual salary; eight states (AL, KS, KY, MT, NV, ND, UT and WY) pay legislators a per diem salary; and New Mexico does not pay legislators a salary, but it does pay legislators a vouchered per diem. Currently, annual legislative salaries range from \$200 in New Hampshire (where legislators serve only part time) up to \$116,208 in California. All but five states (CT, NH, NJ, OH and RI) also receive a per diem in addition to their salaries.
- ▶ Legislators in leadership positions often receive extra compensation. Seventy-two percent of senate and 90 percent of house presiding officers receive extra compensation. Fifty percent of senate and 47 percent of house majority leaders receive extra compensation. Forty-eight percent of senate and 50 percent of house minority leaders receive extra compensation.
- ▶ Between 1975 and 2005, the legislative salaries in 28 states decreased, while salaries increased in the remaining 22 states in real 2005 dollars.¹

Pay for judges is also increasing, though the annual percentage change is decreasing

- ▶ In state supreme courts, the average salary is \$154,825 for a chief justice and \$151,328 for an associate justice. While the annual percent increase in salaries has continued to decline since 2006, the average annual percentage change in salaries from 2003 to 2008 was 3.1 percent for chief justices and 3.2 percent for associate justices.² In a majority of states, chief justice positions are compensated at a higher rate than associate justices.² In nine states (FL, GA, IL, IN, MI, NE, WA, WV and WY) there are no salary differences between the two roles.

Unless otherwise noted, all information is based on figures and comparisons of data found in Tables 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 4.11 and 5.4 in various editions of The Book of the States, (Lexington, Ky.: The Council of State Governments, 2004-2009).

¹ Keon S. Chi, State Legislator Compensation: A Trend Analysis, (Lexington, Ky.: The Council of State Governments, 2007), vii.

² National Center for State Courts, Survey of Judicial Salaries, Vol. 34, No. 1, (2009).

SALARY COMPARISONS

State	Governor	Legislators		Chief Justice	Associate Justice
	salaries	Per diem salary	Annual salary	salaries	salaries
Alabama	112,895	10 C (a).....	
Alaska	125,000	...	24,012	180,048	179,520
Arizona	95,000	...	24,000	145,294	142,341
Arkansas	87,352	...	15,060	151,049	139,821
California	212,179 (b)	...	116,208	228,856	218,237
Colorado	90,000	...	30,000	142,708	139,660
Connecticut	\$150,000	...	\$28,000	\$176,000	\$162,520
Delaware	171,000	...	42,750	194,750	185,050
Florida	132,932	...	30,336	161,200	161,200
Georgia	139,339	...	17,342	167,210	167,210
Hawaii	123,480	...	48,708	164,976	159,072
Idaho	108,727	...	16,116	121,006	119,506
Illinois	177,500	...	67,836	196,322	196,322
Indiana	95,000	...	22,616	151,328	151,328
Iowa	130,000	...	2,500	170,850	163,200
Kansas	110,707	88.66 C	...	139,310	135,905
Kentucky	142,498	186.73 C	...	139,164	134,160
Louisiana	130,000	...	16,800 plus add. 6,000 yr. (U) expense allowance	143,815	136,967
Maine	70,000	...	13,526 for first regular session; 9,874 for second regular session	138,294	119,594
Maryland	150,000	...	43,500	181,352	162,352
Massachusetts	140,535	...	58,237.15	151,239	145,984
Michigan	177,000	...	79,650	164,610	164,610
Minnesota	120,303	...	31,140.90	160,579	145,981
Mississippi	122,160	...	10,000	115,390	112,530
Missouri	133,821	...	35,915	139,534	137,034
Montana	100,121	82.64 L	...	107,404	106,185
Nebraska	105,000	...	12,000	135,881	135,881
Nevada	141,000	137.90/day, max of 60 days of session for hold-over senators, 146.90/day for all other legislators (c).....	
New Hampshire	113,834	...	200	143,580	139,258
New Jersey	175,000 (d)	...	49,000	183,182	176,488
New Mexico	110,000	125,691	123,691
New York	179,000	...	79,500	156,000	151,200
North Carolina	139,590	...	13,951	140,932	137,249
North Dakota	100,030	135 C	...	121,513	118,121
Ohio	144,269	...	60,584	150,850	141,600
Oklahoma	147,000	...	38,400	147,000	137,655
Oregon	93,600	...	21,612	128,556	125,688
Pennsylvania	174,914	...	78,315	186,649	181,371
Rhode Island	117,817	...	13,089	167,644	152,403
South Carolina	106,078	...	10,400	144,029	137,171
South Dakota	115,331	...	12,000	120,173	118,173
Tennessee	164,292 (e)	...	19,009	164,292	159,288
Texas	150,000	...	7,200	152,500	150,000
Utah	109,900	130 C	...	147,350	145,350
Vermont	142,542	...	625.36/wk. during session; 118 per day for special sessions or interim cmte. mtg.	135,421	129,245
Virginia	175,000	...	Senate: 18,000 House: 17,640	178,043	166,999
Washington	166,891	...	42,106	155,557	155,557
West Virginia	95,000	...	20,000	121,000	121,000
Wisconsin	137,092	...	49,943	148,165	140,165
Wyoming	105,000	150 L	...	126,500	126,500

Key: C - Calendar day L - Legislative day U - Unvouchered

(a) Salary range for chief justice is between \$156,946-\$196,183. Salary range for associate justice is between \$155,446-\$193,683

(b) Gov. Schwarzenegger waives his salary.

(c) Salary range is between \$140,000-\$171,000.

(d) Gov. Corzine accepts \$1 in salary.

(e) Gov. Bredesen returns his salary to the state.

Source: Information compiled from Tables 3.9, 4.11 and 5.4 in *The Book of the States* (Lexington, Ky.: The Council of State Governments, 2009).