



STATE OF UTAH
ELECTED OFFICIAL AND JUDICIAL COMPENSATION COMMISSION

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2008 Report of the Elected Official and Judicial Compensation Commission

Utah law (UCA §67-8-5) requires the Elected Official and Judicial Compensation Commission to make recommendations for the salaries of Utah’s judges and the five statewide elected officials. These recommendations are to be communicated to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, and the Legislature by November 1, prior to the general session of the Legislature that convenes in each odd-numbered year. The Commission met on Wednesday, October 29, 2008 to finalize our recommendations.

Judicial Salaries

In November 2006, the Commission recommended that, “The salary for District Court Judge be increased by eleven percent for FY 2008 and then by 7 percent in the two following years...Other judges’ salaries would be adjusted according to their percentage relationship to the District Court level as provided by law.” The Legislature effectively supported and funded the first two years of this multiyear recommendation with a ten percent increase in FY 2008 followed by a five percent increase in FY 2009.

The following table delineates the judicial salaries for FY 2009:

Judicial Salaries FY 2009		
Judge	Salary	Number of Judges
District Court Judge	\$132,150	71
Juvenile Court Judge (100%)	\$132,150	28
Appellate Court Judge (105%)	\$138,750	7
Supreme Court Justice (110%)	\$145,350	5

Based on a survey of salaries in other Western States (appended to this report), we believe that Utah is now competitively positioned with other Western States for judicial salaries. As such, the basic objectives of the Commission’s multiyear salary adjustment recommendations have been substantially met.

The Commission is very aware that the current state budget situation will impact salary increases for FY 2010. The Commission therefore recommends that the current judicial salary levels be maintained as currently authorized. However, the Commission feels that it is imperative that judicial salaries be increased at least equal to whatever percent increase the Legislature may choose to grant to other State employees for FY 2010. The significant increases required in the past few years resulted partially from the fact that judicial salaries did not receive any increase for extended periods. As such, these incremental adjustments will hopefully help mitigate the need for much larger future increases. For the long term, the Commission believes that it is in the State’s best interests to continue a competitive salary offering to attract the best and most qualified candidates to the bench.

Elected Officials

In 2006, the Commission also recommended and the Legislature adopted a new formula for determining the salaries of Utah's statewide elected officials. Now the salaries are based on the salary of the Governor with the other officials receiving a salary equal to 95% of the Governor's salary.

The following table delineates the statewide elected officials' salaries for FY 2009:

Elected Officials Salaries FY 2009	
Official	Salary
Governor	\$109,900
Lt. Governor (95%)	\$104,400
Attorney General (95%)	\$104,400
State Auditor (95%)	\$104,400
State Treasurer (95%)	\$104,400

For a number of reasons, the Commission recommends that the existing salary structure be maintained. However, for the same reasons as outlined for judicial salaries, the Commission feels that regular salary adjustments equal to those granted other state employees is appropriate. Our elected official salary survey of other Western States is appended to this report.

The Commission and its staff are very happy to respond to any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

The Utah Elected Official and Judicial Compensation Commission

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Appendix I: Judicial Salary Survey Information

Western States Comparison					
Position	High	Low	Average	Utah	Percent Different from Average
Judiciary					
Chief Justice	\$ 219,716	\$ 114,731	\$ 146,032	\$ 145,350	-0.5%
Associate Chief Justice	\$ 209,521	\$ 114,731	\$ 142,599	\$ 145,350	1.9%
District Court Judge	\$ 196,428	\$ 108,236	\$ 130,920	\$ 132,150	0.9%
Juvenile Court Judge	\$ 171,648	\$ 87,192	\$ 126,218	\$ 132,150	4.5%

Rocky Mountain States Comparison					
Position	High	Low	Average	Utah	Percent Different from Average
Judiciary					
Chief Justice	\$ 160,000	\$ 123,265	\$ 138,357	\$ 145,350	4.8%
Associate Chief Justice	\$ 155,000	\$ 121,256	\$ 135,664	\$ 145,350	6.7%
District Court Judge	\$ 145,000	\$ 109,434	\$ 124,694	\$ 132,150	5.6%
Juvenile Court Judge	\$ 145,000	\$ 109,434	\$ 127,217	\$ 132,150	3.7%

Appendix II: Statewide Elected Official Salary Survey Information

Western States Comparison					
Position	High	Low	Average	Utah	Percent Different from Average
Elected Officials					
Governor	\$ 212,179	\$ 90,000	\$ 121,495	\$ 109,900	-10.6%
Lt. Governor	\$ 159,134	\$ 7,200	\$ 84,886	\$ 104,400	18.7%
Attorney General	\$ 184,301	\$ 80,000	\$ 113,368	\$ 104,400	-8.6%
State Auditor	\$ 198,000	\$ 76,080	\$ 110,966	\$ 104,400	-6.3%
State Treasurer	\$ 169,743	\$ 65,079	\$ 93,175	\$ 104,400	10.8%

Rocky Mountain States Comparison					
Position	High	Low	Average	Utah	Percent Different from Average
Elected Officials					
Governor	\$ 141,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 108,618	\$ 109,900	1.2%
Lt. Governor	\$ 104,400	\$ 68,500	\$ 76,750	\$ 104,400	26.5%
Attorney General	\$ 137,150	\$ 80,000	\$ 104,063	\$ 104,400	0.3%
State Auditor	\$ 126,540	\$ 85,326	\$ 105,174	\$ 104,400	-0.7%
State Treasurer	\$ 97,000	\$ 68,500	\$ 83,138	\$ 104,400	20.4%