



Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff

Room 029 State Capitol, Denver, CO 80203-1784
(303) 866-3521 FAX: 866-3855 TDD: 866-3472

MEMORANDUM

Pursuant to section 24-72-202(6.5)(b), research memoranda and other final products of Legislative Council Staff research that are not related to proposed or pending legislation are considered public records and are subject to public inspection. If you think additional research is required and this memorandum is not a final product, please call the Legislative Council Librarian at (303) 866-4011 by April 12, 2010.

April 5, 2010

TO: Senator Dan Gibbs

FROM: Geoffrey Johnson, Research Associate, 303-866-4788

SUBJECT: Current Salary Levels of State and County Elected Officials

This memorandum responds to your request for current salary levels of state and county elected officials. Constitutional and statutory provisions prescribe these salary levels. Table 1 provides current salary levels for Colorado's Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, members of the General Assembly, members of the University of Colorado Board of Regents, and Colorado district attorneys, as set forth in state law.

Salaries of state elected officials and district attorneys. The Colorado Constitution prohibits the General Assembly from altering the salaries of current legislative members.¹ The General Assembly may determine the salary levels of future members. This constitutional provision also requires that members of the General Assembly receive the same travel mileage reimbursement rate that is available to other state employees. The Colorado constitution also prohibits the General Assembly from increasing or diminishing the salaries of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer during their official terms.²

¹ Article V, Section 6, Colorado Constitution

² Article IV, Section 19, Colorado Constitution

Table 1
Salaries of State Elected Officials and District Attorneys

Elected Official	Current Salary Level
Governor <i>Section 24-9-101, C.R.S.</i>	\$90,000
Lieutenant Governor <i>Section 24-9-101, C.R.S.</i>	\$68,500
Attorney General <i>Section 24-9-101, C.R.S.</i>	\$80,000
Secretary of State <i>Section 24-9-101, C.R.S.</i>	\$68,500
State Treasurer <i>Section 24-9-101, C.R.S.</i>	\$68,500
Members of the General Assembly <i>Section 2-2-307, C.R.S., and</i> <i>Section 2-2-317, C.R.S.</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$30,000</p> <p>Members may also receive a \$99 per diem when not in session for attendance at legislative meetings and conducting legislative business.</p> <p>Members residing in the Denver metropolitan area may also receive an expense allowance of up to \$45 per legislative day (\$150 for members residing outside of the Denver metropolitan area) for expenses incurred during the sessions of the general Assembly.</p>
Board of Regents of the University of Colorado <i>Policies of the University of Colorado Board of Regents, Policy 2-B</i>	Members of the Board of Regents receive no salaries. Members may receive reimbursement of authorized expenses with prior approval of the board.
Colorado District Attorneys <i>Section 20-1-301, C.R.S.</i>	District attorneys receive a salary of not less than \$110,000 for calendar year 2010.

Salaries of Colorado county officials. Salaries paid to Colorado county officers vary by office and the statutory category of a county. Table 2 provides current salary levels of county officers for terms that began after January 1, 2007. County officers serving terms that commenced prior to January 1, 2007, are compensated at lower salary levels.

The Colorado Constitution requires the General Assembly to fix the salaries of county officers.³ In fixing county officer salaries, the General Assembly must consider the following:

- county population;

³ Article XIV, Sections 8 and 15, Colorado Constitution

- the number of persons residing in unincorporated areas of the county;
- the county assessed valuation;
- county tax resources;
- motor vehicle registrations, building permits, and military installations in the county; and
- other factors reflecting variation in workload and responsibilities and of the counties.

The salaries of county officers may only be increased or decreased when the salaries of all county officers within a particular county are altered or when the compensation provided for a particular county office statewide is altered. The compensation of county officers may not be altered during the term of office for which a county officer has been elected or appointed. Colorado counties (not including the City and County of Denver and the City and County of Broomfield) are separated into six categories for purposes of fixing the salaries of county officials. As noted above, the General Assembly considers county population in determining the appropriate salary level categorization for county officials.

Salaries of county government elected officials are periodically examined by a 13-member County Elected Officials' Salary Commission.⁴ The commission is charged to study and make recommendations to the General Assembly every four years relating to:

- salaries paid to county elected officials;
- the responsibilities of each county elected official and the scope of authority of the entity in which the official serves;
- the relative level of difficulty in performing the duties of each county elected official;
- the amount of time directly or indirectly related to the performance of the duties, functions, and services of each county elected official; and
- current levels of salaries for comparable public and private employment.

The commission most recently issued a report for 2010.

⁴ Section 30-3-103, C.R.S.

Table 2
Salaries of County Officers — Terms of Office Beginning On and After January 1, 2007

Category/County	Commissioners	Sheriffs	Treasurers, Assessors, and Clerks	Coroners	Surveyors
Category I: Adams; Arapahoe; Boulder; Douglas; El Paso; Jefferson; Larimer; Pueblo; and Weld	\$87,300	\$111,100	\$87,300	\$87,300	\$5,500
Category II: Eagle; Fremont; Garfield; La Plata; Mesa; Pitkin; and Summit	\$72,500	\$87,700	\$72,500	\$44,200	\$4,400
Category III: Alamosa; Archuleta; Chaffee; Clear Creek; Delta; Gilpin, Grand; Gunnison; Las Animas; Moffat; Montezuma, Montrose; Morgan; Otero; Park; Rio Blanco; San Miguel; Routt; Logan; and Teller	\$58,500	\$76,000	\$58,500	\$33,100	\$3,300
Category IV: Custer, Elbert; Huerfano; Kit Carson; Lake; Ouray; Prowers; Rio Grande; Washington; and Yuma	\$49,700	\$66,600	\$49,700	\$22,100	\$2,200
Category V: Baca; Bent; Cheyenne; Conejos; Costilla; Crowley; Hinsdale; Lincoln; Phillips; Saguache; and San Juan	\$43,800	\$49,100	\$43,800	\$9,900	\$1,100
Category VI: Delores, Jackson, Kiowa, Mineral; and Sedgewick	\$39,700	\$46,500	\$39,700	\$9,000	\$1,000

Source: Section 30-2-102 (2.2), C.R.S.