

*jean ficht*

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#11]

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How stupid! I taught 40 years and barely made 40000 when I retired. This included a 60 plus hour work week. You all should be ashamed to use tax dollars for this increase for only a part time job. I could understand a raise of 2 or 3 percent but a raise of this size is absurd. I know that all teachers and state employees would like to have a nice raise also!

*Jeremy Derkovitz*

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#12]

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First, I find it horrible that many of you are thinking of voting in a pay raise that would make your part time pay equal to many teachers' full time salaries at the end of their long careers. At the same time, you can't seem to figure out how to make teacher's pay affordable, want to increase the size of their classrooms, giving them more work, and want to change up testing in the middle of the year. So far, this has to be the most anti education legislature that I have seen in my 11 years of living in Arkansas, and I have been very proud of what this state accomplished since I moved here from Nevada. But it looks like we may be moving backwards now. I am ok with taking away PARCC if you have some plan in place... but don't set up schools for failure, because you have so many parents and legislators that don't understand common core. As for the rest, perhaps we should start treating our educators with the respect they deserve. After all, what role is more important than educator of your children, shaper of young minds, molder of the future?

*Jon Wilkerson*

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#10]

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Lots of negative comments should be made concerning these pay increases. The first of which is the role of the majority party and the many claims of fiscal responsibility made by republican candidates during election cycle. These raises run counter to your values and are certainly not what your constituents had in mind when casting their ballots. Furthermore, your constituents are not receiving those types of raises and have not seen wages rise well for years. You all should consider prioritizing the wages of those who elected you before rewarding yourselves, especially those of you who have just begun as freshmen or others who have accomplished nothing due to self imposed gridlock or spending precious legislative time on pet projects that eventually mean little to nothing for most Arkansans. My family strongly opposes all of these proposed pay increases.

*Julie Kohl*

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#14]

HYPERLINK "mailto:willowtreecreek@gmail.com"willowtreecreek@gmail.com

My concern is regarding The Independent Citizens Commission ("Commission") is proposal to adjust the salary for Arkansas's Constitutional Officers of the Executive Department, members of the General Assembly, Justice and Judges.

These salary increases are ridiculous and frivolous. I am a public school teacher in Arkansas and I make less, after 12 years of service, than a member of a general assembly will make for 30 days worth of work. Additional public school teachers are being forced to purchase high priced, high deductible, low benefit insurance because money cannot be found in the state budget to alleviate this problem.

I have not seen a raise to my salary in several years and most schools in my area are on hiring freezes and desperately trying to absorb positions so they can continue to pay the current staff at the current rate.

Something is not right with this proposal. Additionally, where is this money supposed to come from? If hear officers of the state were really about helping the state of Arkansas then they would look at ways to help protect our schools and reward teachers for their hard work. They would focus on fixing the problem with public school insurance. They would not be greedy and nearly DOUBLING their own salaries.

*Kitty Wilson*

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#18]

HYPERLINK "mailto:kssw47@hotmail.com" kssw47@hotmail.com  
Why should these PART time be allowed to double their salaries. Do not have a problem with the Governor increase in salary , but I do with Lt and others.

*lorie elmore*

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#19]

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Wow is all I can say and I hope you know that your actions have left many of us the voters with a bad taste in our mouths. As stated in the article by Chris Wessel he nailed it I agree with everything he said and shame on you guys for the fat over indulging pay hike. What was the first thing Asa did when he came into office let's see a hiring freeze and pay freeze? My advice is you guys need to rethink this and you could have saved us all of the wasted money for your two "month findings" I want to know How do I get your job? I believe I COULD AND WOULD have saved Arkansas lots if I got your job and I could and would find ways to help the middle class unlike making the rich richer. I could only wish to see a salary of 141,400 a year. I also will make sure friends and vote everywhere that I know get this article to read and this e-mail address to voice to you guys how unhappy we the people are. I for one am very unhappy about my tax dollars going to this 148% raise while I might see 1 and 1/2% this year.

*Paula Bettis*

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#13]

HYPERLINK "mailto:mrs.paula.bettis@gmail.com"mrs.paula.bettis@gmail.com  
Please reconsider such substantial raises for legislators. While they do deserve to recoup some costs in being public service, this proposal has them making more than most Arkansans, doing what is perceived to be a part time job. Transparency, please.

*Pauline M. Johnson*

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#16]

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The current recommendation on increasing elected officials salaries are totally unacceptable. In addition, it is a insult to the citizenary of this State who struggle immensively in meeting their basic needs.

I'm of the opinion that if elected officials seek salaries in comparison to the private sector, that's where they should be.

Also one of the attempts to compare Arkansas' Legislative pay to surrounding states. I ask, what State other th Mississippi one can realistically compare to Arkansas' financial base.

A lifetime resident of Arkansas.

Respectfully Yours

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#17]

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I have been unable to verify the dates of the Comment Period, on the issue of pay increases for elected officials. This data is crucial, but appears to be obscured. Please post in a way that is readily visible.

Thank You

*Rhonda Mears*

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#9]

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Today I read the article by Chris Wessel in The Jonesboro Sun. I wonder how anyone can justify the amount of raises you are proposing. This is totally unfair to all state employees. Some of the amounts are more than I get in a year! The new governor wants to give tax cuts to some of us poor working people. I guess I wonder how Arkansas is planning to pay for all of these raises, tax cuts (small cuts) and the healthcare.

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#15]

From: Wufoo  
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 6:33:11 AM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  
To: Jay Bruce  
Subject: Independent Citizens Commission [#15]

Email [HYPERLINK](#)

I believe that ALL senators and representatives along with State legislators are paid salaries beyond their mea  
It is not fair that so many of the people living in Arkansas are living at the poverty level. Yet nothing is being do  
to help them. How can you even feel good about yourselves knowing there are people out there struggling just  
eat every day, but YOUR need a salary increase? What about the poor wait staff at restaurants that make \$2.3  
an hour?? What about teachers who are shaping the minds of our future and many have to take on second job  
just to be able to afford the insurance you have mandated on us. And where in any other place or any other  
profession in the world do you get to keep getting paid once you have retired from your legislative position? Th  
again please!!! You are not making decisions that are fair to the people of this State you have been put in office  
represent,

*Fred Goldthorpe*

salary increase

I am against increasing the salary of legislators, judges and constitutional officers. There never seems to be a shortage of candidates for political office. The people seeking public office knew the position's salary when they launched their campaign. I doubt a salary increase for the state politicians would result in a commensurate increase in the value of their product.

Thank you,  
Fred Goldthorpe, Retired State Employee

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