

Glen Pate

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#36]

HYPERLINK "mailto:gpate@allegiance.tv"gpate@allegiance.tv

I have read with great interest your proposal for pay increases and would like to say that I believe representatives of the people deserve fair pay for their services. I believe, however, your proposal goes a bit too far. I don't believe it was the intent of the Founders to have servants of the people earning more money than the people they serve.

Finally, what is the total cost to the taxpayers of Arkansas?

Thank you for providing this forum!

John Emmons

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#37]

HYPERLINK "mailto:john-emmons@att.net"john-emmons@att.net

I agree wholeheartedly with the recommendations to significantly raise the salaries of the state representatives and senators. In fact, I was amazed that the salaries are set so very low as they are at present when in fact I know that these jobs are much more than part-time to do a good job representing the citizens in the various districts. Couple that with the fact that people in their districts do not recognize that the jobs are part-time and call with problems at any time they desire. I heard a young man in a store ranting about these jobs leads to people making millions to which I corrected him and explained the truth of the matter. Disclaimer: I do not intend to run for one of these offices in the future, nor am I making these comments because of anyone that I know who is currently in one of the positions. I do know that there are some whose businesses suffer greatly because they cannot put in the time to manage those businesses properly. The only people who apparently can even do this public service for us are those who have a self-sustaining business or someone propping them up financially which is not what we want to occur. As a private citizen of Arkansas, I highly recommend that the salaries of the state representatives and senators be increased dramatically as proposed by the commission that reviewed the matter. If any state representative or senator does not agree with this raise, then someone needs to investigate their finances because someone is getting money illegally under the table.

Bill Chandler

When did the State win the \$500 million lottery?

Are you people losing it. Where in the world did the State come up with this kind of money. i thought that when we elected some Republicans that maybe thee would be some common sense in Little Rock. I believe you pec have proved that wrong right off the bat. These people are suppose to be part-time not become millionaires ov night and to serve the tax payers.

You have pulled the wool over the tax payers this go around, but that will change I promise you all.

Worst bunch of liers than the democrats.

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brad63ned@cox.net

salaries of statelegislators

To whom it may concern,

We are concerned that the huge raise that is proposed to give the state legislators is way over balanced. We think that a range of 5-10% would be in line with reasonableness. These people have a good per diem and tra expenses. The proposal would make them higher paid than educators in most school districts. Thank you for your consideration Brad and Nedra Angell, 12827 S. Zion Rd. Lowell AR 72745

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Bruno Showers

Re: Legislator salaries

Dear Commission,

In a state with a balanced budget amendment, we all know that an increase in program funding for one program means we need an increase in revenue or a decrease in funding some where else. What I want to know is what additional services we can expect from our legislature if they receive more pay, and how we plan on paying for

Best,
Bruno Showers
Development Program Coordinator

Arkansas Public Policy Panel
office: 501-376-7913 ext. 11
cell: 501-628-1747

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Carl Davis

pay raises

I agree with Senator Ingram in regard to pay raise for the legislator . We never have had nor do we need full-time legislators! Carl Davis

eso.england

No to Legislative Pay increase

I would like to express my concern for the proposed increase for Legislatures' pay. While I do agree the Governor, Attorney General, and other Constitutional Offices should receive a pay increase, I do not believe Arkansas Legislatures should receive a nearly 50 percent pay increase for a part-time job. The Arkansas Constitution outlines our General Assembly is a part-time position and thus should be compensated accordingly. The recommended increase you are proposing is more than what most Arkansans make working a full-time job trying to take care of a family. The median household income in Arkansas according to the U.S. Census Bureau is \$40,768 2009-2013.

This recommended salary increase is also more than the base starting salary for our teachers in Arkansas. These are the men and women who educate our children and prepare them for the future. These are the future leaders of our state. Should a part-time legislature make more than a full-time teacher? Perhaps the reason why we are not getting more qualified legislatures is because we are not training up our future generations?

Also maybe you should consider the salary study for the private sector and you will find the average salary for professional full-time job is not \$80,000. I work 50 plus hours a week to barely make \$87,000 and I am in a professional field.

Legislatures should represent the people they are elected to serve. They should not make more than the hard working Arkansans that work a full-time job.

Thank you
Elizabeth England

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE Smartphone

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Thank you
Elizabeth England

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE Smartphone

Fonda Hawthorne

I am against State Legislator's Salary Increase

Dear Commission,

I would like to voice my opinion on giving our State Legislator's a salary increase. Our legislator's were aware of the salary when they filed to run for office. Most of the Legislator's do not get elected because of the salary they get elected to serve the citizens of Arkansas. The money that would be used to increase salaries could be used for more important issues like prisons, Pre-K, senior citizens, health care, etc.

I sincerely hope that the Commission will listen to the citizens of Arkansas before they decide to increase Legislator's salaries.

Sincerely,
Fonda Hawthorne
398 LR 64
Ashdown, AR 71822

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Jack Swink

Full time legislature

In this day of high technology, we do not need more full time legislatures, we need more transparency. Placing of bills onto the internet by staffers and less lobbyists and allow the citizens the actual freedom to interact and vote.

Jack Swink

Fort Smith

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HYPERLINK "<http://www.avast.com/>"www.avast.com

Jack Swink

Fort Smith

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martha holland

Legislative Salary Increases

To the Citizen's Commission. There are three voting adults in our household, and we are against the idea of legislative salary increases. We believe that each representative knew that this was a part time obligation, not meant to be the main source of income, and fully aware of the salary involved, which we believe to be sufficient. We ask that the commission leave it as is.

Thank you.

Martha Holland

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Thank you.

Martha Holland

siuc2001

Legislative Pay

Dear Citizen's Commission:

I am writing today with a concern about an upcoming issue before you: legislative pay. I understand the recent passage of Amendment 94 calls for legislators to receive an increased salary. I have no issue or challenge to incremental pay increase for legislators. However, I do have an objection to legislators' per diem.

I am a State employee as well as a taxpayer. As a State employee, I must follow the GSA table for reimbursement amounts. As a State employee, I am not allowed to claim per diem for meals unless I spend the night. As a State employee, I am only allowed to claim the exact amount of my expenses and I must produce receipts when I claim per diem. As a State employee, I am not allowed to claim per diem on meals when the purpose of my travel (meeting, conference, etc.) provides a meal. Looking at the list of "Scheduled Activities" on the daily calendar, there are breakfasts, lunches, and dinners on a near daily basis for legislators. As a State employee, I am not allowed to claim per diem on alcohol. There should be a required sign-in sheet at each of these "Scheduled Activities" and if a legislator attends, they should not be allowed to claim the per diem.

As a taxpayer, I agree with the above rules I am required to follow. I think rules, accountability, and receipts keep State employees honest and good stewards of tax dollars. Therefore, I am HIGHLY OFFENDED that our legislators are claiming a daily per diem on travel, lodging, mileage, and meals when they are in fact not traveling, not lodging, and are not out ANY expense.

Theft. This behavior amounts to nothing less than theft. When legislators are NOT out any expense but are claiming a per diem they are in fact stealing from the taxpayer. This is my objection. Therefore, when you meet to discuss legislative pay, please adopt new rules requiring legislators to submit original receipts for their meals, lodging, and a mileage log showing the distance traveled. Also, please only reimburse them for actual out-of-pocket expenses.

I believe my request is not only reasonable, but should not even need to be requested. We are at a time when public trust of our elected officials is at a historic low. The public is at a point where they think "Why bother being engaged in the process? Our elected officials are only out for themselves." Please give the public a reason to believe otherwise.

Sincerely,
Jason Henry
501-304-2400