



INDEPENDENT CITIZENS COMMISSION

Initial Review and Recommendations for Prosecuting Attorneys

April 30, 2015

(501) 682-1866

Email: info@citizenscommission.ar.gov

www.citizenscommission.ar.gov

The Independent Citizens Commission of Arkansas

- **Larry Ross, Chairman**
Sherwood, AR
Appointed by Governor Mike Beebe
- **Chuck Banks, Vice Chairman**
Little Rock, AR
Appointed by Chief Justice Jim Hannah
- **Mitch Berry**
Little Rock, AR
Appointed by Speaker of the House of Representatives Davy Carter
- **Barbara Graves**
Little Rock, AR
Appointed by Governor Mike Beebe
- **Stuart Hill**
Searcy, AR
Appointed by President Pro Tempore of the Senate Jonathan Dismang
- **Brenda James**
Little Rock, AR
Appointed by President Pro Tempore of the Senate Jonathan Dismang
- **Stephen Tipton**
Cabot, AR
Appointed by Speaker of the House of Representatives Davy Carter

Charges of the Commission

The Independent Citizens Commission, pursuant to Amendment 94, was charged with setting salaries of elected constitutional officers of the executive department, members of the General Assembly, justices, and judges.

- Pursuant to Act 55 of 2015, the General Assembly added to the commission responsibilities the review and adjustment of salaries of the Constitutional Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.

Amendment 94 specifies that when considering whether or not to adjust a salary for a position listed above, the Commission shall include in its considerations the overall economic conditions of the state of Arkansas at the time.

If the Commission proposes to adjust a salary, the Commission shall provide notice to the public of the proposed salary adjustment, make available to the public any data reviewed by the Commission and used to determine the adjustment, and afford the public a reasonable opportunity to provide public comment on the proposed salary adjustment.

Upon satisfying the public notice requirements of Act 559 of 2015, the Commission may file any final salary adjustments with the Auditor of State. The adjustment to a salary shall be effective (10) days after it is filed with the Auditor of State.

Initial Review

One of the specific charges of Act 559 of 2015 is for the Commission to begin a review of the salary of the Prosecuting Attorney within thirty (30) days after the effective date of the Act and complete the review no later than thirty (30) days after commencing the review.

The Independent Citizens Commission held its first meeting pursuant to Act 559 of 2015 on April 16, 2015 at the Arkansas State Capital. It met again on April 30, 2015 and reviewed data submitted by interesting person and heard additional testimony. All data reviewed by the Commission in determining these proposed salary adjustments is available on the Commission website: www.citizenscommission.ar.gov.

Current Salary

The current salary for Prosecuting Attorney is determined by Division.

Twenty-five (25) Division A Prosecuting Attorneys are compensated at a rate \$123,162.

Three (3) Division B Prosecuting Attorneys are compensated at a rate of \$103,058.00.

Comparative Group Study

The Commission reviewed data from the Arkansas General Assembly's Bureau of Legislative

Research regarding the position, salary and benefits of Prosecuting Attorney or their counterpart from the following states.

- Iowa
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Oklahoma
- Tennessee
- Texas

The data presented was comprehensive including data on how many prosecutors are elected in each state, full time or part-time status with concurring salaries; benefits received; who the prosecutors are employed by and job duties. All data presented and reviewed by the Commission can be found on the Commission website: www.citizenscommission.ar.gov.

Other Considerations

The Commission not only compared the salaries in the comparison group of states. The Commission also looked at several other factors and criteria during the initial review. These other considerations included but were not limited to:

- Qualification and skill necessary for the office
- The overall level of responsibility implicit in the office
- The total compensation of each position including benefits other than salaries
- Any other factors the Commission considered to be reasonable and appropriate to their charge
- The overall public interest of the citizens of Arkansas

The Commission reviewed the salary data from the comparison group states, along with the considerations mentioned above (including the overall economic conditions of Arkansas) and heard presentations from the Arkansas Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and Scott Trotter, Attorney at Law. After due consideration and discussion, the Commission voted to propose the following salary adjustments as a result of this initial review:

PROPOSED SALARY ADJUSTMENTS

Prosecuting Attorney	Current Salary	Proposed Adjustments
Division A	\$123,162	\$152,000.00
Division B	\$103,058	\$129,200.00

ADDENDUM

The Initial Review, recommendations and proposed salary adjustments contained in this document are the result of extensive review by the Independent Citizens Commission of large amounts of information and data. All of the data reviewed by the Independent Citizens Commission along with the minutes and recordings of all meetings have been made available for download on the Commission's website:

www.citizenscommission.ar.gov

In addition, all of the data on the website is available for public inspection and copying at the Office of the Auditor of State. Advance notice is requested for on-site public review of the data at the Office of the State Auditor. Please send requests for inspection in advance to:

Independent Citizens Commission
c/o Office of State Auditor
State Capital
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(501)682-1866
info@citizenscommission.ar.gov

A public hearing on the proposed salary adjustments contained in this initial review will be held on **May 13, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Arkansas State Capitol, Room 151, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203.

