

KEITH M. INGRAM
MINORITY LEADER

SENATOR
24TH DISTRICT
OFFICE: 870-735-9580
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WEST MEMPHIS, ARKANSAS 72303-1028



**THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS**

CHAIR
LEGISLATIVE FACILITIES

VICE-CHAIR
CITY, COUNTY & LOCAL AFFAIRS

MEMBER
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
JOINT AUDIT
JOINT BUDGET
PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & LABOR
EFFICIENCY

June 23, 2017

Mr. Chuck Banks
Vice Chairman - Independent Citizens Commission of Arkansas
5300 Hawthorne Road
Little Rock, AR 72207

Dear Chuck:

It is my understanding that the Salary Commission is considering a 2% salary increase for justices, judges, prosecuting attorneys the legislature, as well as constitutional offices.

I certainly understand that the positions considered fulltime need review lest they fall substantially behind their peers in other states. However, the legislature and the lieutenant governor's office are a citizen legislature that is considered part-time. I believe the citizen legislature allows more people the opportunity to participate in elected office. My concern is that legislators will evolve to full time politicians, something the drafters of our constitution never intended.

Considering the fragile status of the state's budget, the governor has already cut the last two month's budget by \$70 million and next year's budget by \$43 million. I would ask that you postpone any raises for the coming year.

Thank you so much for your willingness to serve in such an important and thankless position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Ingram".

Keith M. Ingram
Minority Leader

KMI/db

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June 23, 2017

Mr. Larry Ross
Chairman – Independent Citizens Commission of Arkansas
102 Fork River Road
Sherwood, AR 72120

Dear Larry:

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I certainly understand that the positions considered fulltime need review lest they fall substantially behind their peers in other states. However, the legislature and the lieutenant governor's office are a citizen legislature that is considered part-time. I believe the citizen legislature allows more people the opportunity to participate in elected office. My concern is that legislators will evolve to full time politicians, something the drafters of our constitution never intended.

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