

Independent Citizens Commission
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Annual Review of salaries for Constitutional Elected Officers, and Judges

Dear Commissioners:

I would like to make a few comments regarding this ongoing process, and ask that you consider this logic when deciding to annually provide increases/raises to salaries of ELECTED officials. Especially when comparing these salaries to the rest of the citizens in the various and respective localities of Arkansas from which these elected individuals reside, and perform their duties.

One could surmise that an elected office holder making in the Top 10-20% of income range within their community is probably fairly well compensated. To compare salaries to surrounding states and use that as the primary guide to setting salaries in Arkansas, or to listen to people representing these elected officials come before you using this guideline, seems a little beguiling. Maybe you should suggest the best course of action would be to go serve there if the pay is so much better? Of course you can't do that, but it is just a thought.

When looking at your website, one would be lead to believe that you are representing the CITIZENS of Arkansas. This word is bolded and larger than the other two (Independent and Commission). The fiduciary duty you would have therefore should be to the CITIZENS of Arkansas, not to the people that appointed you to this Commission.

A person would hope the individuals presiding in our elected offices made diligent informed personal decisions before running for any election, or should have. While making these decisions, whether they could afford to live within the salary of that office should have been one of their primary thoughts.

Our government was founded on the basis of a 'representative' government. That being the people who represent the citizens are chosen probably because they are successful individuals, most likely of means to have acquired knowledge and wealth due to this success, and want to 'give back' to the communities that made them successful and wealthy. Representative government IS to SERVE...that's the very meaning of it from the beginning of our Country. It's not meant to enrich those that are in it. They possibly should stay in the private sector if they want monetary enrichment.

It is your fiduciary responsibility to keep this kind of annual enrichment in check. You were appointed to represent the CITIZENS in this process. If within your own business sphere you are not awarding every employee you are responsible for similar annual increases/raises with your own money, but are willing to award/grant increases from taxpayer money to ELECTED individuals already making in the Top 10-20% of their communities, then you are not being fair to your commitment to represent the CITIZENS of Arkansas. Taxpayer money should bear the same weight and consideration as your own money.

Amazing we were able to govern our state for 178 years prior to this Amendment, and make so many elected officials wealthy, given our pay scale has been apparently so drastically minimal?

Thank you for your service, and I appreciate you if you've given the time to make it this far in my letter.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Kassler
Bryant, AR 72022

