

Salaries of Elected State Judges

September 1 through November 30, 2005

The State of Texas pays the base salaries of the state's appellate and district judges. Salaries for these judges have remained constant since fiscal year 1999 (beginning September 1, 1998).

In addition to the salary paid by the State, Chapter 31 of the Texas Government Code authorizes the counties in each court of appeals district to pay each justice of the court of appeals for that district a sum not to exceed \$15,000 per year for judicial and administrative services rendered. However, Section 659.012 of the Government Code limits the total salary for a justice of a court of appeals to a combined sum from state and county sources of \$1,000 less than the state salary paid to a justice of the Texas Supreme Court. This same provision limits the chief justices of the courts of appeals to receive a combined salary of \$500 less than the state salary paid to justices of the Supreme Court. To stay within the salary limit, the maximum additional compensation a justice may receive is \$4,650. If the additional compensation exceeds this amount, the state portion of the salary is reduced.

Various sections of Chapter 32 of the Texas Government Code authorize the state salaries of some district court judges to be supplemented from county funds. Section 659.012 of the Government Code limits, unless otherwise provided by law, the total annual salary for a district judge to a combined sum from state and county sources of \$2,000 less than the state salary provided for a justice of the Supreme Court. The 78th Legislature, during its regular session and third special session, amended certain sections of Chapter 32 to allow Collin, Ellis, Harris, Hill, Tarrant, Travis, and Williamson counties to pay the annual supplemental salary to district judges without restriction. Except for the judges in these seven counties, if a judge's supplement causes the judge's combined salary to exceed the maximum, the state portion of the salary is reduced.

Salary Summary for Elected State Judges as of September 1, 2005

Judge	State Salary	Additional/ Supplemental Compensation ¹	Other	Total
Supreme Court - Chief Justice	\$115,000	N/A		\$115,000
Supreme Court - Justice	\$113,000	N/A		\$113,000
Ct. of Criminal Appeals - Presiding Judge	\$115,000	N/A		\$115,000
Ct. of Criminal Appeals - Judge	\$113,000	N/A		\$113,000
Court of Appeals - Chief	\$107,850	up to \$4,650 ³		\$112,500
Court of Appeals - Justice	\$107,350	up to \$4,650 ³		\$112,000
Presiding Judge - Admin. Judicial Region (Active District Judge)	\$101,700	up to \$9,300 ⁴	not to exceed \$33,000 ⁵	up to \$134,000 ⁷
Presiding Judge - Admin. Judicial Region (Retired or Former Judge)	N/A	N/A	\$35,000 - 50,000 ⁶	up to \$50,000
District Judge - Local Admin. Judge who serves in county with more than 6 dist. cts.	\$106,700 ²	up to \$9,300 ⁴		\$116,000 ^{2,4}
District Judge	\$101,700	up to \$9,300 ⁴		\$111,000 ⁴

1. Additional compensation provided by counties in judicial and appellate districts for extrajudicial service performed by judges and justices. Tex. Gov't Code Sec. 31.001 and Ch. 32.

2. Includes \$5,000 state supplement. Tex. Gov't Code Sec. 659.0125.

3. The state salary of an appellate justice whose additional compensation exceeds \$4,650 will be reduced by the amount of the excess so that the maximum salary the justice receives from state and county sources is \$112,000 (justice) or \$112,500 (chief justice). Tex. Gov't Code Secs. 659.012 and 31.001.

4. Except for district judges in Collin, Ellis, Harris, Hill, Tarrant, Travis and Williamson counties, the state salary of a district judge whose county supplement exceeds \$9,300 will be reduced by the amount of the excess so that the maximum salary the judge receives from state and county sources is \$111,000. Tex. Gov't Code Secs. 659.012, 32.043, 32.070, 32.101, 32.109, 32.220, 32.227 and 32.246. In fiscal year 2005, the salary of 111 district judges ranged from \$116,732 - \$131,000.

5. Presiding judges salary set by Texas Judicial Council. Tex. Gov't Code 74.051(b). Paid by counties in administrative judicial region on a pro rata basis based on population.

6. Presiding judges salary based on number of courts and judges in region. Tex. Gov't Code Sec. 74.051(c). Paid by counties in administrative judicial region on a pro rata basis based on population.

7. A presiding judge who is an active judge in Collin, Ellis, Harris, Hill, Tarrant, Travis or Williamson counties whose county supplement exceeds \$9,300 may receive a combined salary in excess of \$134,000.

As of December 1, 2005

In August 2005, the 79th Legislature amended statutes relating to the compensation of state judges (79th Legislature, Second Called Session, H.B. 11).

Effective December 1, 2005, the annual state salary of a district judge increases to \$125,000. While Chapter 32 of the Government Code authorizes the state salaries of district court judges to be supplemented from county funds, amendments made to Section 659.012 of the Government Code will limit the total annual salary for a district judge to a combined sum from state and county sources of \$5,000 less than the state salary provided for a justice of a court of appeals. Effective December 1, 2005, special provisions created in Chapter 32 during the 78th Legislature allowing unrestricted payment by certain counties of an annual supplemental salary to district judges will be eliminated.

The annual state salary of a justice of a court of appeals increases to 110 percent of the annual state salary of a district judge. In addition, the chief justice of an appellate court will receive \$2,500 more than the other justices of the court. While Chapter 31 of the Government Code authorizes the counties in each court of appeals district to pay each justice of the court of appeals for that district for judicial and administrative services rendered, amendments made to Section 659.012 of the Government Code will limit the total salary for a justice of a court of appeals to a combined sum from state and county sources of \$5,000 less than the state salary paid to a justice of the Texas Supreme Court. This same provision limits the chief justices of the courts of appeals to receive a combined salary of \$2,500 less than the state salary paid to justices of the Supreme Court.

Finally, the annual state salary of a justice of the Supreme Court or a judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals increases to 120 percent of the annual state salary of a district judge. Moreover, the chief justice or presiding judge of these courts will receive \$2,500 more than the other justices or judges on the courts.

Salary Summary for Elected State Judges as of December 1, 2005

Judge	State Salary	Additional Compensation ¹	Other	Total
Supreme Court - Chief Justice	\$152,500	N/A		\$152,500
Supreme Court - Justice	\$150,000	N/A		\$150,000
Ct. of Criminal Appeals - Presiding Judge	\$152,500	N/A		\$152,500
Ct. of Criminal Appeals - Judge	\$150,000	N/A		\$150,000
Court of Appeals - Chief	\$140,000	up to \$7,500 ³		\$147,500
Court of Appeals - Justice	\$137,500	up to \$7,500 ³		\$145,000
Presiding Judge - Admin. Judicial Region (Active District Judge)	\$125,000	up to \$7,500 ³	not to exceed \$33,000 ⁴	up to \$165,500
Presiding Judge - Admin. Judicial Region (Retired or Former Judge)	N/A	N/A	\$35,000 - 50,000 ⁵	up to \$50,000
District Judge - Local Admin. Judge who serves in county with more than 5 dist. cts.	\$130,000 ²	up to \$7,500 ³		\$137,500 ^{2,3}
District Judge	\$125,000	up to \$7,500 ³		\$132,500 ³

1. Additional compensation provided by counties in judicial and appellate districts for extrajudicial service performed by judges and justices. Tex. Gov't Code Secs. 31.001 and 32.001.
2. Includes \$5,000 state supplement. Tex. Gov't Code Sec. 659.012(d).
3. The state salary of a district judge or appellate justice whose county supplement exceeds \$7,500 will be reduced by the amount of the excess so that the maximum salary the judge or justice receives from state and county sources is \$132,500 (district judge), \$145,000 (appellate justice), or \$147,500 (appellate chief justice). Tex. Gov't Code Secs. 659.012, 31.001 and 32.001.
4. Presiding judges' salary set by Texas Judicial Council. Tex. Gov't Code 74.051(b). Paid by counties in administrative judicial region on a pro rata basis based on population.
5. Presiding judges' salary based on number of courts and judges in region. Tex. Gov't Code Sec. 74.051(c). Paid by counties in administrative judicial region on a pro rata basis based on population.