

Members

John L. Bartlett, Chairperson  
Mary Fink  
Jon O'Bannon  
Stephen A. Stitle  
Michael Browning  
Jean Blackwell  
Lee Marchant  
David Link  
Ian Rolland



# PUBLIC OFFICERS COMPENSATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

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Commission

Authority: IC 2-5-1.5

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## MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

Meeting Date: August 26, 2004  
Meeting Time: 9:00 A.M.  
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington  
St., Room 404  
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana  
Meeting Number: 3

**Members Present:** John L. Bartlett, Chairperson; Mary Fink; Jon O'Bannon;  
Stephen A. Stitle; Michael Browning; Jean Blackwell; Lee  
Marchant; Ian Rolland.

**Members Absent:** David Link

### I. Introduction and welcome of members

Mr. John Bartlett, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. He then asked the members to introduce themselves.

### II. Approval of minutes from second meeting

The Chairman then asked for approval of the minutes from the Commission's last meeting. There was a motion, a second, and the minutes were approved by voice vote.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

### III. Consideration of proposals to recommend increase in public officer salaries

The Chairman moved on to Commission consideration of proposals for increases in public officer salaries. He used a PowerPoint presentation prepared by the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) to illustrate the officers' current salaries as compared to the national average and the mid-west average.

#### Governor's salary

The Chairman started with a discussion of the proposed increase in the Governor's salary. The recommendation was to increase the salary from \$95,000 currently to the maximum allowable recommendation of \$105,404. There was a motion to adopt the recommendation, and the recommendation was adopted by a vote of 7 to 0.

#### Lieutenant Governor's salary

The Chairman next started discussion of the Lieutenant Governor's salary with a proposal to increase it from \$76,000 currently to \$82,800. He then opened the floor for discussion.

Mr. Stephen Stitle proposed that the Commission recommend the maximum allowed of \$84,323. He explained that he felt Indiana would fall too far behind in compensating the Lieutenant Governor if the maximum was not recommended today.

Mr. Lee Marchant expressed agreement if recommending the maximum. He said that he could support less than that if the Commission was dedicated to fixing the whole compensation system for public officers.

There was a motion by Mr. Ian Rolland to recommend \$84,323, there was a second by Ms. Mary Fink. The Commission adopted the recommendation by a vote of 7 to 0.

#### Secretary of State's salary

The Chairman started the discussion with a recommendation of increasing the Secretary of State's salary from \$66,000 to the maximum allowed of \$79,775.

There was a motion to adopt the recommendation by Mr. Michael Browning. There was a second by Mr. Rolland. The Commission adopted the recommendation of \$79,775 by a vote of 7 to 0.

#### Auditor's salary

The Chairman proposed increasing the Auditor's salary from \$66,000 to the maximum allowed of \$82,692.

There was a motion to adopt the recommendation by Mr. Browning, seconded by Ms. Fink. The recommendation was adopted by a vote of 7 to 0.

#### Treasurer's salary

The Chairman proposed increasing the Treasurer's salary from \$66,000 to the

maximum allowed of \$79,775.

There was a motion to adopt the recommendation by Mr. Rolland, seconded by Mr. Stitle. The recommendation was adopted by a vote of 7 to 0.

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Attorney General's salary

The Chairman proposed increasing the Attorney General's salary from \$79,400 to the maximum allowed of \$95,972.

There was a motion to adopt the recommendation by Mr. Browning, seconded by Mr. Rolland. The recommendation was adopted by a vote of 7 to 0.

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Clerk of the Supreme Court's salary

The Chairman proposed that no increase be recommended for the Clerk of the Supreme Court (Clerk) since this officer was no longer elected, but by statute appointed. He explained that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court would determine the Clerk's salary from now on.

There was a motion to adopt the recommendation of no increase. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8\* to 0. (\* Note: the votes from this point forward reflect the arrival of Ms. Jean Blackwell)

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Superintendent of Public Instruction's (Superintendent) salary

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The Chairman proposed the salary of the Superintendent be increased from \$79,400 to the maximum allowed of \$95,972.

Mr. Stitle made a motion to adopt the recommendation, and there was a second by Mr. Rolland. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8 to 0.

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Supreme Court Justices' salaries

The Chairman proposed an increase from \$115,000 to \$128,857, and opened the floor for discussion.

Mr. Rolland recommended that the Commission look at a higher increase because of both the low comparison to other mid-west states and the fact that it has been 7 years since an increase in Judges' salaries.

Mr. Stitle agreed that a higher increase was needed to attract quality people to serve as judges.

Ms. Blackwell explained that a higher increase could be justified because of the amount of time before any of these recommendations would likely take effect. She said the earliest these salaries could take effect would be July 1, 2005 and most likely the salaries would have an effective date of January 1, 2006.

The Chairman recommended that the Commission use a formula to determine the amount to be recommended.

The Commission then discussed various formulas to arrive at the fairest increase for the Supreme Court Justices.

After discussion Mr. Rolland made a motion that the salary be recommended at \$143,195, which reflects a 15% increase of the national average for Supreme Court Justice salaries. Mr. Browning seconded the motion. The Commission adopted the recommendation by a vote of 8 to 0.

#### Appeals Court Judges' salaries

The Chairman recommended that the Commission use the same formula here as they used with the Supreme Court Justices. He proposed an increase, reflecting 15% above the national average, from \$110,000 to \$139,951.

Mr. Stitle made a motion to adopt the recommendation. Ms. Fink seconded the motion. The recommendation was adopted by a vote of 8 to 0.

#### Tax Court Judge's salary

The Chairman proposed an increase from \$110,000 to \$139,951 for the Tax Court Judge salary. He explained that a separate recommendation was required for the Tax Court Judges, but that currently their salaries were tied to the Appeals Court Judges by statute.

There was a motion to adopt, and the recommendation was adopted by a vote of 8 to 0.

#### Circuit Court Judges' salaries

The Chairman proposed an increase from \$90,000 to the maximum allowed of \$121,122. He explained that an increase of 15% above the national average in this case would exceed the maximum allowed by statute.

Mr. Rolland made a motion to adopt the recommendation. Mr. Marchant seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8 to 0.

#### General Assembly salaries

The Chairman proposed an increase from \$11,600 to \$30,015.

Mr. Rolland made a motion to adopt the recommendation, which was seconded. The Commission adopted the recommendation by a vote of 8 to 0.

The Chairman asked that the minutes show that every vote on every salary recommendation was unanimous.

#### IV. Consideration of draft final report

The Chairman recognized Mr. Philip Sachtleben, Executive Director of the LSA, to explain the other recommendations required of the Commission.

Mr. Sachtleben explained that the Commission must also make a finding on the record of the last salary increase for each of the officers listed in the statute. He then referred the Commissioners to Appendix A of the draft final report, which listed the statutory authority and date for each officers last salary increase.

There was a motion to adopt Appendix A. The motion was adopted by voice vote.

V. Other business and adjournment

The Chairman asked if there was any other business to come before the Commission.

Mr. Stitle thanked the LSA and Mr. Bartlett for their informative presentations and hard work.

Mr. Marchant then commented that the Commission's recommendations were a giant step toward good government. He also asked that the citizens support the recommendations of the Commission.

The Chairman thanked the LSA for its work. He also said that he felt the state would be better served after the Commission's work, and that if the citizens want the best people to serve in these offices, then they must be prepared to compensate these officers.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:55 A.M.