

Salaries of Elected State Judges

Effective September 1, 2013, the annual state salary of a district judge increased from \$125,000 to \$140,000. While Chapter 32 of the Government Code authorizes the state salaries of district court judges to be supplemented from county funds, the total annual salary for a district judge is limited to a combined sum from state and county sources of \$5,000 less than the combined salary from state and county sources provided for a justice of a court of appeals.¹

The annual state salary of a justice of a court of appeals is 110 percent of the annual state salary of a district judge. The chief justice of an appellate court receives \$2,500 more than the other justices of the court. While Chapter 31 of the Government Code authorizes salaries of the justices to be supplemented by the counties in each court of appeals district, the total salary for a justice of a court of appeals is limited to a combined sum from state and county sources of \$5,000 less than the state salary paid to a justice of the 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 is 120 percent of the annual state salary of a district judge. The chief justice or presiding judge of these courts receives \$2,500 more than the other justices or judges on the courts.

Judges are also entitled to monthly longevity pay equal to 3.1 percent of their current monthly state salary for each year of service credited in the retirement system after completing 16 years of service. Longevity pay is not included as part of the judge or justice's combined salary from state and county sources for purpose of the salary limitations described above.

Salary Summary for Elected State Judges as of September 1, 2013

Judge ¹	State Salary	Additional Compensation ²	Other	Total
Chief Justice - Supreme Court or Court of Criminal Appeals	\$170,500	N/A		\$170,500
Justice - Supreme Court or Court of Criminal Appeals	\$168,000	N/A		\$168,000
Chief - Court of Appeals	\$156,500	up to \$9,000 ³		up to \$165,500
Justice - Court of Appeals	\$154,000	up to \$9,000 ³		up to \$163,000
Presiding Judge of Administrative Judicial Region (active district judge)	\$140,000	up to 18,000 ³	not to exceed \$33,000 ⁴	up to \$191,000
Presiding Judge of Administrative Judicial Region (retired or former judge)	N/A	N/A	\$35,000 - \$50,000 ⁵	up to \$50,000
District Judge - Local administrative judge who serves in county with more than 5 district courts	\$140,000	up to \$18,000 ³	\$5,000 ⁶	up to \$163,000
District Judge	\$140,000	up to \$18,000 ³		up to \$158,000
District Judge - Presiding judge of silica or asbestos multi-district litigation	\$140,000	up to \$18,000 ³	not to exceed \$33,000 ⁷	up to \$191,000
Retired Judge - Presiding judge of silica or asbestos multi-district litigation	\$140,000	\$18,000 ⁸		\$158,000 ⁸

Notes:

- Entitled to monthly longevity pay of 3.1 percent of current monthly state salary for each year of service credited in the retirement system after completing 16 years of service.
- Additional compensation provided by counties in judicial and appellate districts for extra judicial service performed by judges and justices. Government Code Secs. 31.001 and 32.001.
- The state salary of a district judge whose county supplement exceeds \$18,000, or appellate justice whose county supplement exceeds \$9,000, 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 \$158,000 (district judge), \$163,000 (appellate justice), or \$165,500 (appellate chief justice). Government Code Secs. 659.012, 31.001 and 32.001.
- Presiding judges' salary set by Texas Judicial Council. Government Code Sec. 74.051(b). Paid by counties in administrative judicial region on a pro rata basis based on population.
- Presiding judges' salary based on number of courts and judges in region. Government Code Sec. 74.051(c). Paid by counties in administrative judicial region on a pro rata basis based on population.
- Government Code Sec. 659.012(d).
- Government Code Sec. 659.0125(a).
- Government Code Sec. 659.0125(c).

1. Attorney General Opinion GA-0437 (2006).