

Action Sheet
Independent Citizens Commission
January 29, 2015

The Independent Citizens Commission met Wednesday January 28, 2015, at 8:30 a.m., U of A Systems Administration Board Room, Little Rock, Ar.

Commission members present: Chair-Mr. Larry Ross, Vice Chair-Mr. Chuck Banks, Mr. Mitch Berry, Ms. Barbara Graves, Mr. Stuart Hill, Ms. Brenda James, and Mr. Stephen Tipton.

Vice Chairman Banks made a motion to approve the Action sheet from January 28th. Commissioner James seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Vice Chairman Banks made a motion to adjust the Chief Justice salary to \$191,154.00. Commissioner James Seconded. Motion failed in 3 to 4 vote.

Vice Chairman Banks amended the above motion to raise the Chief Justice salary to \$185,841.00 and that is a 15% increase. Commissioner Berry Seconded. Motion failed in 3 to 4 vote.

Arkansas General Assembly

Jeremy Gillam
Speaker of the House
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol
500 Woodlane Street, Suite 350
Little Rock, AR 72201



Jonathan Dismang
President Pro Tempore
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol
500 Woodlane Street, Suite 320
Little Rock, AR 72201

January 29, 2015

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your service on the Citizen's Commission (Commission) and to the taxpayers of the State Arkansas. We believe there is wisdom in the Commission's most recent proposal, which would eliminate all legislative/home office expenses for reimbursement, and add the maximum amount of \$14,400.00 to the annual base salary for legislators. This proposal would:

1. Reduce office administration in both Chambers
2. Increase taxable income for legislators by \$14,400.00
3. Reduce accounting costs
4. Defer audit expenses
5. Mitigate the potential for future litigation
6. Increase transparency

As you develop your final recommendation, we respectfully ask you consider two other factors:

- (1) Consumer Price Index (CPI) to the original salary in Amendment 70; and
- (2) The additional work load resulting from the citizen's voting for an additional Fiscal Session.

Concerning the above proposal, please know the leadership of the General Assembly honors both the will and the recommendations of the Commission regarding total elimination of all allowed expense reimbursements for legislators (\$14,400.00 per year) and the addition of that amount to the base salary for members of the General Assembly. Again, thank you for your service to our state and this endeavor.

Respectfully,


Jeremy Gillam
Speaker of the House


Jonathan Dismang
Senate President Pro Tempore

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ADDENDUM TO LETTER DATED JANUARY 29, 2015

January 30, 2015

Dear Independent Citizens Commission Members:

We would like to assure the Independent Citizens Commission if the recommendation to eliminate the legislative home office expenses is adopted, the leadership of the General Assembly will commit to eliminate from the Senate and House reimbursement plan all legislative home office expenses.

Executive Proposed Salaries—Discussion Purposes Only 1/30/15

	Governor	Lieutenant Governor	Attorney General	Secretary of State	Treasurer	Auditor	Land Commissioner
	(87,759)	(42,315)	(73,132)	(54,848)	(54,848)	(54,848)	(54,848)
C. Banks	170,000	42,315	N/A	95,000	85,000	85,000	85,000
M. Berry	140,000	42,315	130,000	95,000	85,000	85,000	95,000
B. Graves	140,000	49,500	121,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000
S. Hill	132,000	42,315	121,000	115,000	110,000	114,500	95,000
B. James	150,000	45,000	130,000	115,000	115,000	115,000	115,000
L. Ross	125,000	42,315	N/A	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
S. Tipton	130,000	42,315	115,000	85,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
Total	987,000	306,075	617,000	680,000	640,000	644,500	635,000
Average Salary	141,000	43,725	123,400	97,143	91,428	92,071	90,714

JUDICIAL PROPOSED SALARIES—FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

1/30/15

	Chief Justice Supreme Court	Assoc. Justice Supreme Court	Chief Justice Appeals Court	Appeals Court	Circuit Judge	District Judge
	(161,601)	(149,589)	(147,286)	(144,982)	(140,372)	(125,495)
C. Banks	185,841	172,027	169,379	166,729	161,427	144,319
M. Berry	191,154	175,000	165,000	160,000	159,000	140,000
B. Graves	166,449	154,500	155,000	155,000	149,000	140,000
S. Hill	161,601	154,500	147,286	144,982	140,372	135,000
B. James	191,154	176,584	179,200	170,998	165,406	140,000
L. Ross	177,761	169,589	162,000	160,000	155,000	140,000
S. Tipton	180,000	166,500	164,000	161,500	156,000	140,000
AVERAGE SALARY	179,137	166,957	163,124	159,887	155,172	139,902