

Charlotte VanveKoven

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#21]

HYPERLINK "mailto:charlottevan@suddenlink.net"charlottevan@suddenlink.net

I do not take the Sunday Democrat Gazette but a friend who does told me about the proposed salary increases for state legislators, govenor, judges, etc. I was sure she had the facts wrong since I knew the legislature was in session every other year for only 60 days. I also know that most senators and representatives have either retired from the work force or still hold a position in some kind of business for which they are well compensated. They return to a paying job when the legislature adjourns. As the legislators work only 2 months or one-sixth of a year the pro rated salaries would be \$236, 400.00!

so, I did some searching online and found the proposal for the salary increases. I am 67 years old and worked an RN 40 plus hours a week for 20 years. Then, my husband and I opened a retail store which became quite successful, but, we both worked 14 hours a day seven days a week to insure that success. Right now, I am actually sick to my stomach after reading the recommendations. Little did I know when I voted for the constitutional amendment to create this commission that I was opening up the state treasury to be looted by our elected officials. A sad day for Arkansas.

Lloyd Kassler

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#22]

HYPERLINK "mailto:lkassler@att.net"lkassler@att.net

I spent about 2 hours researching data from US Census Bureau, and Bankrate.com for the 5 states you used for comparison, according to your website and your own review and recommendation pages. You state you spent days reviewing and comparing to come up with these recommendations....REALLY??

Arkansas has the smallest population of comparable states, by millions, with exception of 1- Iowa. Arkansas has the lowest median household income of ALL, the lowest per capita income of ALL, by thousands of dollars. The highest state income tax of all but one (Iowa), the highest state sales tax of ALL but one (Iowa), and you want to initiate raises HIGHER than all of these comparable states for legislature pay? Where in the world would a reasonable 'business-minded' individual even begin to suggest this?

Population according to US Census Bureau, Median Household Income, Per Capita Money Income, State Income Tax Rate, State Sales Tax Rate

Arkansas	- 2,959,373;	\$40,768;	\$22,170;	1-7%;	6%
Iowa	- 3,090,416;	\$51,843;	\$27,027;	.36-8.98%;	6%
Oklahoma	- 3,850,568;	\$45,339;	\$24,208;	.5-5.25%;	4.5%
Louisiana	- 4,625,470;	\$44,874;	\$24,442;	2-6%;	4%
Missouri	- 6,044,171;	\$47,380;	\$25,649;	1.5-6%;	4.225%
Tennessee	- 6,495,978;	\$44,298;	\$24,409;	None;	7%

Please enlighten the citizens of Arkansas based on this criteria how you could possibly recommend these size increases in compensation for these Constitutional officers. All you mention is it's based on these 5 states. I see no reasonable correlation based on this for the amounts you arrived at.

Martha Blount

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#23]

HYPERLINK "mailto:mlb@bluebirdglen.com"mlb@bluebirdglen.com
Just speechless aptly expresses my opinion of such drastic raises. Absurd also fits. We live in Arkansas so get real! Everyone's salaries are lower than the national average. These raises signal the end of citizen government in AR. The AR ledge turned red in 2012 & where did it get us? The GOP got control, decided they wanted to stay & also wanted a hefty raise. The very idea of an "independent" body setting salaries is ludicrous: The sky is the limit I suppose!

Tony Ronchetto

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#20]

HYPERLINK "mailto:ronchetto@sbcglobal.net"ronchetto@sbcglobal.net
Most people now realize the bill stressing term limits was a facade for a way to get higher pay for elected officials. I vehemently oppose the proposed increases.