

Legislator Compensation Since 1967

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Issue

Describe legislator compensation since 1967 (not including partial terms or special sessions).

Summary

Legislative compensation is set by the General Assembly under [CGS § 2-8](#). However, a legislator's compensation may not increase during his or her term ([Conn. Const. Art. XI, § 2](#), as amended by Conn. Const. Art. XIX). Each legislator is eligible for a base salary, but certain leadership positions receive a higher amount ([CGS § 2-8](#)). Table 1 describes the changes to these salaries, as well as when certain positions were explicitly added to the statute, since 1967. From 1967 to 1972, salaries were set for a legislator's term. Since 1973, legislators have received annual salaries, but from 1973 to 1982 these salaries varied depending on whether a year had a long legislative session or a short legislative session.

In 2022, the General Assembly indexed legislative salaries to inflation, beginning in 2025 and then every two years thereafter. By January 1 of each applicable year, the law requires the Office of Legislative Management executive director, after consulting with the state labor commissioner, to identify the necessary inflationary adjustment. The adjustment must be based on the percentage change in the employment cost index for wages and salaries for all civilian workers, as calculated by the U.S. Department of Labor, over the 24-month period ending on June 30 of the preceding year, rounded to the nearest whole cent. Compensation is adjusted at the beginning of every term ([CGS § 2-9c](#)).

State law also authorizes the reimbursement of expenses of \$4,500 for every House member and \$5,500 for each senator ([CGS § 2-8\(b\)](#)). Table 2 displays the changes in these amounts since 1967. Additionally, legislators may receive a per-mile transportation allowance for certain legislative-related transit ([CGS § 2-15](#)).

Table 1: Legislator Salary Since 1967 by Position Under CGS §§ 2-8(a) & (c) and 2-9c*

Year	Base Salary	House Speaker & Senate Pres. Pro Tempore	House & Senate Majority & Minority Leaders	House Deputy Speaker	House and Senate Deputy Majority & Minority Leaders	House and Senate Assistant Majority & Minority Leaders	Committee Chairs except JCLM**	Committee Ranking Members except JCLM	House and Senate Majority & Minority Whips
Salary Per Term									
1967-1970	\$3,250	\$5,000	\$5,000						
1971-1972	4,000	6,000	6,000						
Salary Per Year, Varies Based on Long Session/Short Session									
1973-1978	6,500/4,500	9,000/6,000	8,500/5,500	\$8,500/\$5,500	\$8,000/\$5,000	\$7,500/\$4,500			
1979-1980	8,500/6,500	11,000/8,000	10,500/7,500	10,500/7,500	10,000/7,000	9,500/6,500			
1981-1982	9,500/7,500	12,000/9,000	11,500/8,500	11,500/8,500	11,000/8,000	10,500/7,500			
Annual Salary									
1983-1984	10,500	15,500	14,500	13,500	13,500	12,500	\$11,500		
1985-1986	13,000	18,000	17,000	16,000	16,000	15,000	15,000	\$14,000	
1987-1988	15,200	21,000	20,000	18,700	18,700	17,500	17,500	16,500	
1989	15,960	22,050	21,000	19,635	19,635	18,375	18,375	17,325	
1990-1998	16,760	23,160	22,050	20,620	20,620	19,300	19,300	18,200	
1999-2000	21,788	30,108	28,665	26,806	26,806	25,090	25,090	23,660	\$25,090
2001-2022	28,000	38,689	36,835	34,446	34,446	32,241	32,241	30,403	32,241
2023-2024	40,000	52,000	50,000	49,000	49,000	46,500	46,500	44,500	46,500
2025	43,600	56,680	54,500	53,410	53,410	50,685	50,685	48,505	50,685

*The Connecticut General Assembly met biennially until annual legislative sessions began in 1971.

**Joint Committee on Legislative Management

Table 2: Reimbursement of Expenses Under CGS § 2-8(b)

Year	Amount
1967-1970	\$750 or \$1,000 for top six legislative leaders, per term
1971-1972	\$1,500 or \$2,000 for top six legislative leaders, per term
1973-1980	\$1,000 per year
1981-1982	\$2,000 per year
1983-1984	\$2,500 per year
1985-1986	\$3,500 per year
1987-1998	\$3,500 per representative/\$4,500 per senator, per year
1999-current	\$4,500 per representative/\$5,500 per senator, per year

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