

STATE OF TEXAS
RESOLUTION
of the
TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Judicial Compensation and Benefits Committee Judicial Retirement Recommendations

WHEREAS, the Texas Judicial Council was created under Chapter 71, Texas Government Code and is charged with improving the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, the Council has charged its Judicial Compensation and Benefits Committee with studying judicial compensation and benefits; and

WHEREAS, judges and justice who retired from active service before September 1, 2005, and judges and justices who retired on or after September 1, 2019, have not received any increase in their retirement benefits and are experiencing the effects of inflation and loss of purchasing power in connection with their retirement; and

WHEREAS, although the 89th Legislature increased judicial compensation through Senate Bill 293 (SB 293), which delinked judicial salaries from legislative retirement, SB 293 also amended Section 834.102 of the Government Code, which relates to the calculation of the service retirement annuity for Judicial Retirement Service (JRS) Plan One annuities; and

WHEREAS, SB 293 prohibited the use of any increase in the base salary for a district judge in calculating a JRS 1 annuity where the judge retired before September 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the bill also extended the applicability of the FY 2025 base salary to future JRS 1 annuity computations;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Judicial Council respectfully recommends that the Legislature instruct ERS to recalculate the annuities of annuitants in JRS 2 to make a one-time permanent annuity adjustment, institute a cost-of-living adjustment, and repeal the statute (Government Code Section 834.102(e) and (f)) that made the 89th increase to the base salary of a district judge inapplicable to JRS 1 retirees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Blacklock', positioned above a horizontal line.

Honorable Jimmy Blacklock
Chairman, Texas Judicial Council