

2026

REPORT OF THE

Judicial Compensation Commission

About

The Judicial Compensation Commission was created in the 2007 by the 80th Texas Legislature to recommend the proper salaries to be paid by the state for all justices and judges of the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the courts of appeals, and the district courts.

The Commission is required to consider enumerated factors, with the most important being the level of overall compensation adequate to attract the most highly qualified individuals in the state to serve in the judiciary without unreasonable economic harship and with judicial independence unaffected by financial concerns.

JUDICIAL COMPENSATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mr. Scott J. Salmans, Chair

Mr. Carlos Amaral	Mr. Phil Johnson
Ms. Cindy Olson Bourland	Ms. Linda W. Kinney
Ms. JJ Clemence	Mr. Curt Nelson
Mr. Tony Fidelie, Jr.	Mr. Rodney Anderson

The Commission's charge is to recommend judicial compensation in an amount that attracts the most highly qualified people to serve as Texas judges.

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Executive Summary

To effectively meet the needs of the state of Texas and its citizens, a strong, independent, and competent judiciary is essential. Adequate judicial compensation is a crucial factor in supporting and maintaining a well-qualified and independent judiciary.

In 2007, the Texas Legislature formed the Judicial Compensation Commission (the "Commission") specifically to look at enumerated factors and, each biennium, recommend the proper salaries to be paid by the state for all justices and judges of the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the courts of appeals and, the district courts.

Findings

Based on the information it has gathered and reviewed, the Commission makes the following findings:

- To maintain a strong, qualified and independent judiciary, and to attract qualified candidates and retain experienced judges, appropriate judicial compensation is essential.
- 83 percent of appellate and district judges had 20 or more years of experience as an attorney, and 49 percent had more than 30 years.[1]
- The Legislature instituted a tiered judicial pay scale effective September 1, 2019, that is based on longevity providing for a 10 percent raise after four years of service, another 10 percent raise after eight years, and longevity pay after 12 years of service.[2]
- In 2024, the Commission recommended increasing the base pay of a district judge 30 percent to $182,000.[3]
- SB 293 of the 89th Legislature increased the base pay of a district judge by 25 percent from $140,000 to $175,000.[4]
- During the past 35 years the base pay of a district judge has been adjusted eight times. The increases in the base pay range from 1 to 25 percent and have occurred as often as every 2 years to 12 years. The frequency and amount of increases to the base pay are unpredictable.
- Among the six most populous states, Texas ranks last in base salaries for judges on the state's highest courts, appellate courts and, district courts.[5]
- When comparing Texas judicial salaries to the rest of the country, Texas' gains in 2025 quickly eroded and judges began to fall behind judges serving in other states. At the district level, Texas judicial salaries rank 37th compared to other states – falling three positions, 32nd at the intermediate appellate level – falling five positions, and 31st at the highest appellate courts – falling four positions.
- Despite the historic 25 percent increase, compensation lags that of an experienced Texas lawyer by $52,061 and an average Texas attorney by $5,369, according to the Texas Workforce Commission 2025 Annual Wage Data.[6]
- Governmental counterparts such as city attorneys in major metropolitan areas ($269,120), general counsels of the largest 35 Texas state agencies ($230,000), and deans ($366,489), presidents/chancellors ($612,049) of the public university systems on average receive greater compensation.
- The mean age of district court judges serving in the Texas judiciary is increasing, and it is anticipated that many may retire soon making it important to set compensation at a level adequate to recruit a future generation of judges to the bench.[7]
- Texas law lacks a method of consistently addressing judicial compensation and as a result struggles to keep pace with inflation and the pay required to attract and retain judges.

1 Texas Office of Court Administration Report on Judicial Salaries and Turnover for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025
2 Tex. H.B. 2384, 86th Leg., R.S. (2019)
3 Report of the Judicial Compensation Commission 2024
4 Tex. S.B. 293, 89th Leg., R. S. (2025)
5 The six most populous states are California, Illinois, New York, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Texas.
6 Texas Workforce Commission 2025 Annual Wage Data
7 Texas Office of Court Administration Report on Judicial Salaries and Turnover for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025

Recommendations

01 Recommendation One

The Commission recommends that the base salaries of the justices and judges of the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the 15 courts of appeals, the Business Court, and the district courts be increased by 11 percent and set as shown in the table below for the 2028-2029 biennium:

RECOMMENDED BASE SALARY JUDICIAL COMPENSATION[8]

JUDGE	STATE SALARY	ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION[9]	TOTAL	CURRENT NATIONAL RANKING	ADJUSTED NATIONAL RANKING	6 MOST POPULOUS STATE
Supreme Court Justice & Court of Criminal Appeals Judge	$233,100	n/a	$233,100	31 of 50	19 of 50	6 of 6
15th Court of Appeals Justice	$228,100	n/a	$228,100	26 of 41	13 of 41	5 of 6
1st – 14th Court of Appeals Justice	$213,675	up to $14,425	up to $228,100	32 of 41	23 of 41	6 of 6
Business Court Judge	$223,100	n/a	$223,100	---	---	---
District Judge	$194,250	up to $28,850	up to $223,100	37 of 50	27 of 50	6 of 6

02 Recommendation Two

The Commission recommends a permanent statutory cost-of-living adjustment that may be deferred if the biennial revenue estimate of the Comptroller of Public Accounts indicates that there is a deficit.

Cost

The estimated state fiscal impact of the judicial salary increases recommended by the Commission is estimated to be approximately $48 million for the 2028 - 29 biennium.[10] The cost estimate does not include the fiscal impact of the corresponding increase to retirement benefits. 82 percent of the total cost is for judicial salaries; 18 percent is for other salaries that are linked to the salary of a district judge. For more detailed information regarding the cost of implementing the Commission's recommended salaries, refer to Appendix A.

8 Based on base pay

9 If the Commission's recommended salary increases are adopted, county supplements would increase. (*See* Tex. Govt. Code §659.012.) The current maximum county supplement for courts of appeals justices is $12,500 and for district court judges it is $25,000.

10 This cost includes state-paid judicial salaries, longevity pay increases, increases in pay for state and county prosecutors, and increases in funding provided for statutory county court salaries. The tenure of judges at any given time coupled with a tiered pay structure allows for an estimate.

History and Function of the Commission

Creation

The Judicial Compensation Commission was created by the 80th Legislature, effective September 1, 2007.[11] It is composed of nine members who are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate to serve six-year terms. No more than three members serving on the Commission may be licensed to practice law.

Responsibility

The Commission is responsible for making a report to the Texas Legislature each even-numbered year recommending the proper salaries to be paid by the state for all justices and judges of the Supreme Court of Texas, the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas, the courts of appeals and the district courts. In recommending the proper salaries for the justices and judges, the Commission is required to consider the factors listed in Section 35.102(b) of the Texas Government Code. (*See* page 9).

Meetings

The Commission held its first meeting of the biennium on May 28, 2026, and reviewed data relating to the factors to be considered in setting judicial compensation. The Commission held a public hearing followed by a meeting on August 7, 2026. The Commission adopted recommendations included in the report and on November 18, 2026, the Commission adopted this report.



11 Tex. H.B. 3199, 80th Leg., R.S. (2007)

Current Structure of Judicial Salaries

The 86th Texas Legislature passed HB 2384 and enacted a salary structure for Texas judges that took effect September 1, 2019.[12] The salary structure rewards continued service on the bench by creating a tiered pay structure for appellate and district judges. Under the pay structure, judges receive a raise after four years of service and then again after eight years of service. The law also increased the amount of longevity pay for state judges and reduced the number of years of actual service needed to be entitled to longevity pay from 16 years to 12 years. The structure did not raise the base pay of a district judge, which is the benchmark that all state judicial salaries are based upon. In 2025, the 89th Texas Legislature passed SB 293 and increased the base pay of a district judge by 25 percent to the current level $175,000.[13]

CURRENT JUDICIAL COMPENSATION LEVELS

JUDGE	STATE SALARY	ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION	TOTAL
Supreme Court Chief Justice and Court of Criminal Appeals Presiding Judge	$224,700	n/a	$224,700
Supreme Court Justice and Court of Criminal Appeals Judge	$210,000	n/a	$210,000
15th Court of Appeals Chief Justice	$219,350	n/a	$219,350
15th Court of Appeals Justice	$205,000	n/a	$205,000
1st – 14th Court of Appeals Chief Justice	$205,975	up to $12,500	up to $218,475
1st – 14th Court of Appeals Justice	$192,500	up to $12,500	up to $205,000
Business Court Judge	$200,000	n/a	$200,000
District Court Judge	$175,000	up to $25,000	up to $200,000

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Presiding Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals are entitled to an additional $14,700 from the state. The Chief Justice of the statewide 15th Court of Appeals is entitled to an additional $14,350 from the state, and the Chief Justices of the other 14 courts of appeals are entitled to an additional $13,475.[14]

In addition to base salary, Sections 31.001 and 32.001 of the Texas Government Code authorizes counties to supplement the salaries of the First through Fourteenth Courts of Appeals justices and the district court judges that have jurisdiction in their counties. The supplements are up to $12,500 for a court of appeals justice and up to $25,000 for a district court judge. Justices or judges sitting on the highest courts, the 15th Court of Appeals, and the Business Court are not entitled to receive county supplements. For more detailed information regarding supplements being paid by counties, refer to Appendix B and C.

Finally, district judges and the Presiding Judge of the Business Court who serve as Local Administrative District Judge who have more than two district courts in their county are entitled to a supplement of between $5,250 to $12,250.[15]

12 Tex. H.B. 2384, 86th Leg., R.S. (2019)
13 Tex. S.B. 293, 89th Leg., R.S. (2025)
14 Tex. Govt. Code §659.012(a)(5)
15 Tex. Govt. Code §659.012(d) and §659.012(d-1)

Factors Required to be Considered by the Commission

In determining what a "proper" salary would be, the Commission is required to consider the following eight factors:[16]

ONE

the skill and experience required of the particular judgeship at issue;

TWO

the value of compensable service performed by justices and judges, as determined by reference to judicial compensation in other states and the federal government;

THREE

the value of comparable service performed in the private sector, including private judging, arbitration, and mediation;

FOUR

the compensation of attorneys in the private sector;

FIVE

the cost of living and changes in the cost of living;

SIX

the compensation from the state presently received by other public officials in the state, including:

a) state constitutional officeholders;

b) deans, presidents, and chancellors of the public university systems; and

c) city attorneys in major metropolitan areas for which that information is readily available;

SEVEN

other factors that are normally or traditionally taken into consideration in the determination of judicial compensation; and

EIGHT

most importantly, the level of overall compensation adequate to attract the most highly qualified individuals in the state, from a diversity of life and professional experiences, to serve in the judiciary without unreasonable economic hardship and with judicial independence unaffected by financial concerns

The following is a summary of the Commission's analysis of the data collected for purposes of determining the proper salary for the state's justices and judges of the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the courts of appeals, and the district courts.

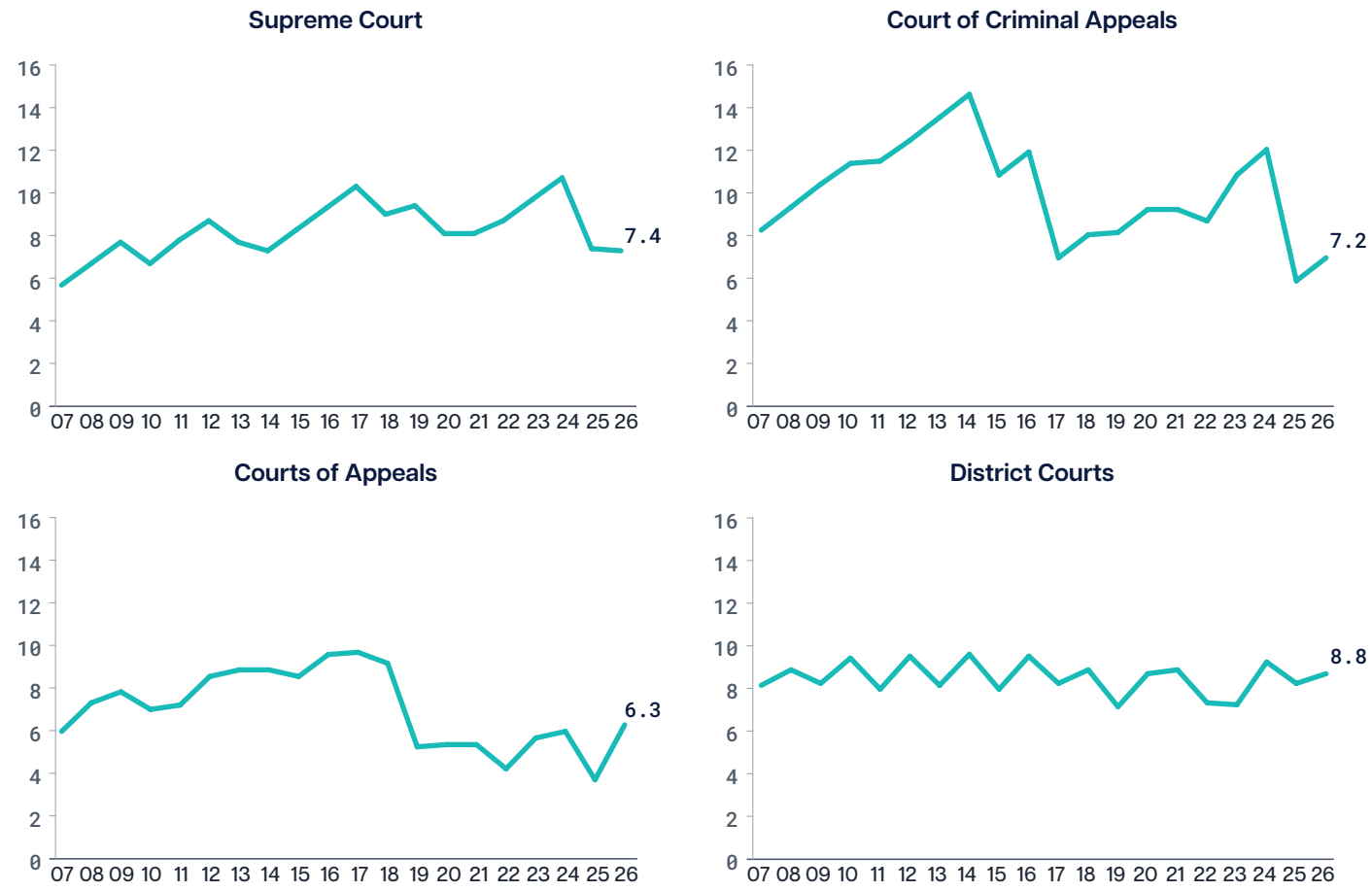
16 Tex. Govt. Code §35.102

Factor 1: Skill and Experience Required of the Particular Judgeship at Issue

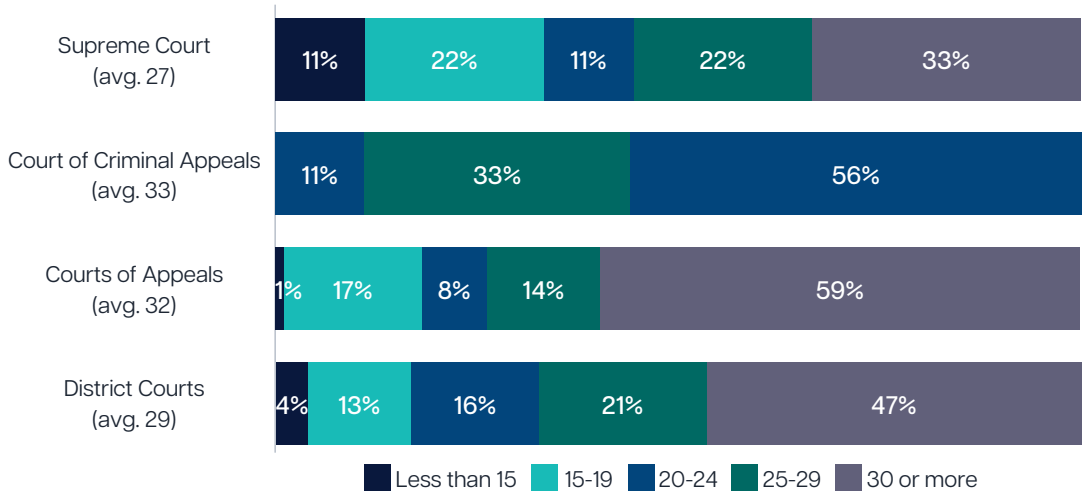
In 2021, Texans passed a constitutional amendment to increase the qualifications to become a district and appellate judge or justice. District judges must be at least 25 years old and have been a practicing lawyer or judge, or both combined for at least eight years. Appellate justices and judges must be at least 35 years of age and have practiced law or been the judge of a court of record and practiced law for at least ten years. These changes in requirements were effective for judges and justices elected or appointed to a term beginning after January 1, 2025.

Data reviewed by the Commission show that the Texas state judiciary is very experienced. 83 percent of appellate and district judges have 20 or more years of experience as an attorney, and 49 percent have more than 30 years. In addition, appellate justices and judges have been on the bench an average 6.4 years and district court judges have been on the bench an average of 8.8 years.

AVERAGE YEARS OF JUDGES' SERVICE ON CURRENT BENCH



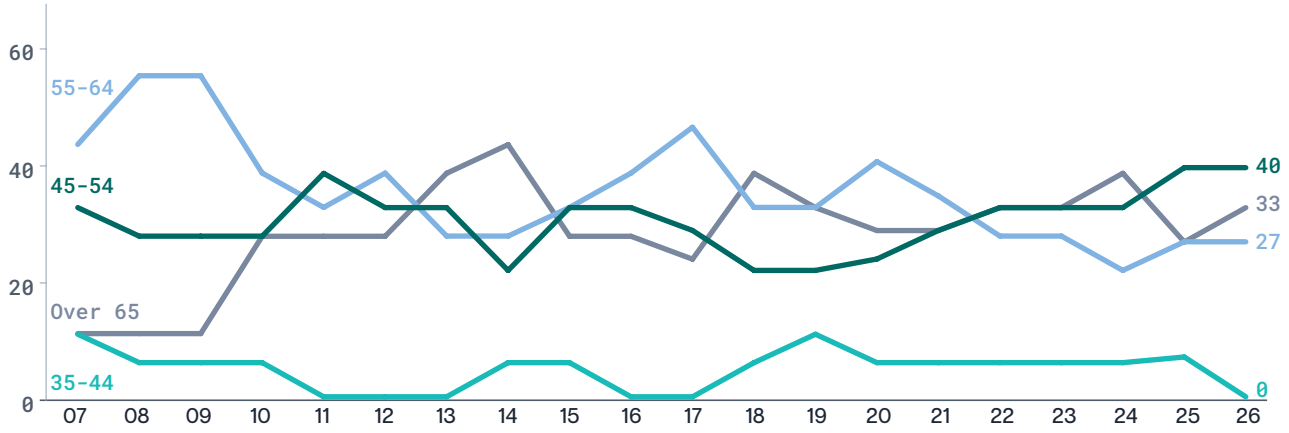
JUDGES' YEARS LICENSED AS A TEXAS ATTORNEY

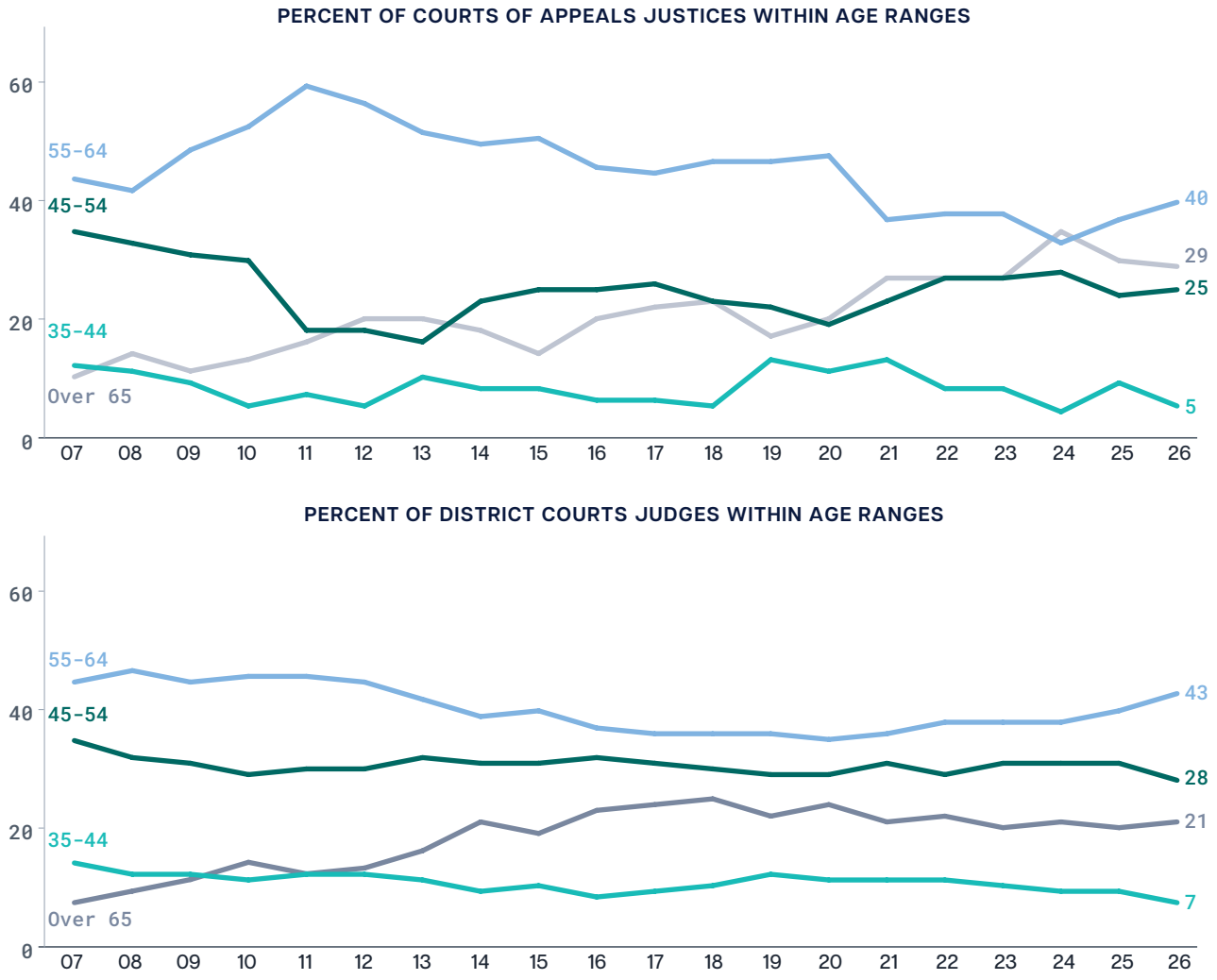


This information reveals that the judiciary can attract individuals to the bench who have significant experience. While this experience may be viewed positively, it may also indicate that compensation is a barrier to younger, but still experienced attorneys. Instead, those younger attorneys may be required to pursue private practice, where compensation levels are often significantly higher, before entering public service. Law school and undergraduate student loan debt often necessitate salary as a primary consideration.

Demographic profile data shows the age of those serving as judges has increased. 60 percent of judges serving on the Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals are over 55. 69 percent of judges serving on the state's intermediate courts of appeals are over 55 and 64 percent of district judges are over 55 years of age.

PERCENT OF HIGHEST COURTS JUSTICES AND JUDGES WITHIN AGE RANGES

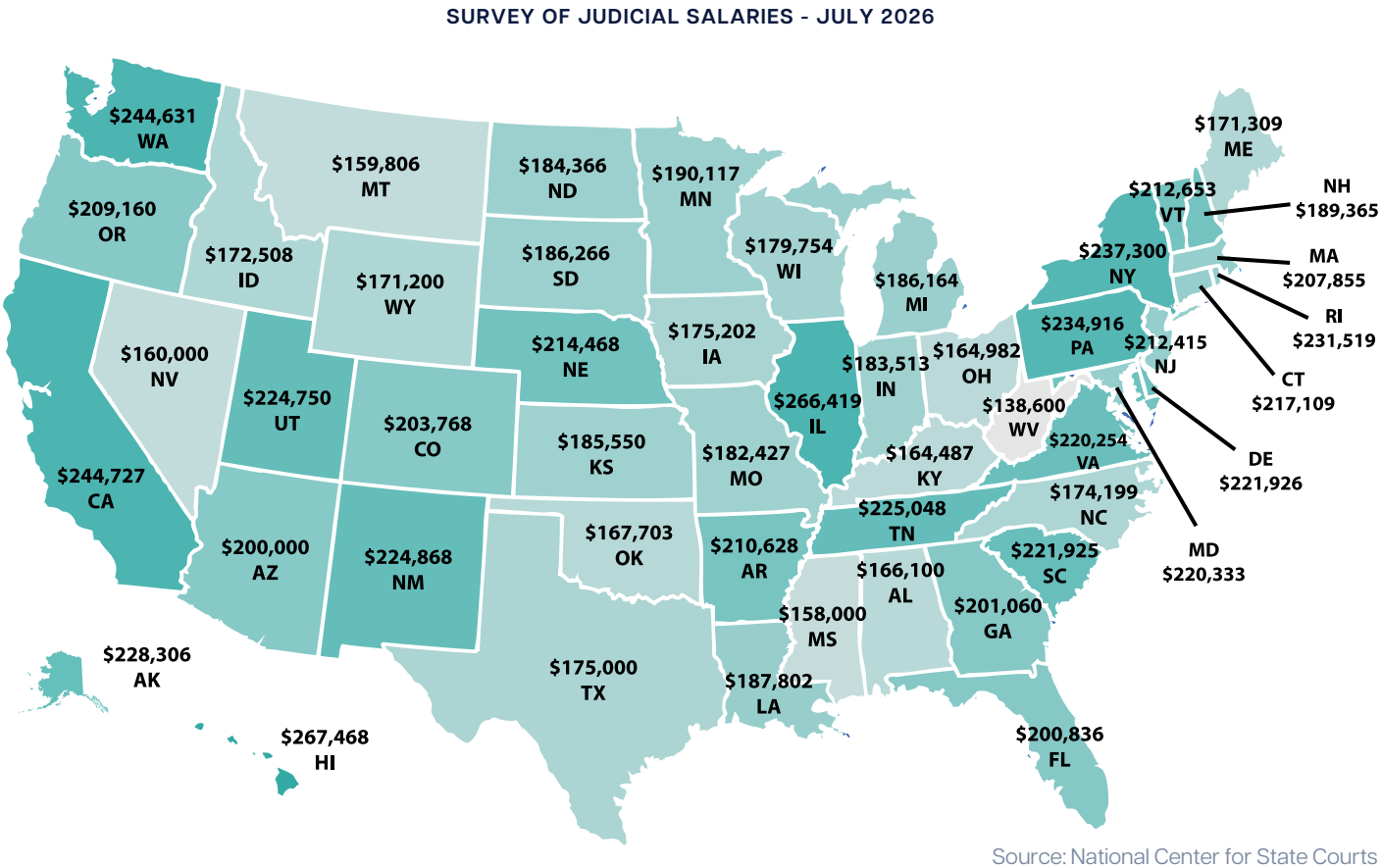




With the reality that a large percentage of judges and justices may be retiring soon, it is more important than ever to ensure that compensation is set at a level adequate to recruit the future generation of judges and justices to the bench.

Factor 2: Value of Compensable Service Performed by Justices and Judges, as Determined by Reference to Judicial Compensation in Other States and the Federal Government

All Other States - A wealth of data exists about the judicial salaries in other states. This data has been collected by the National Center for State Courts ("NCSC") for each year since 1974.[17]



Source: National Center for State Courts

When comparing Texas judicial salaries to the rest of the country, the base pay of Texas judges elevated after the pay increase from the 89th Legislature but soon began to fall behind. At the district level, Texas judicial salaries rank 37th compared to other states, 32nd at the intermediate appellate level, and 31st at the highest appellate courts which include the Texas Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals.

Most Populous States - For its comparison of compensation in other states, the Commission first focused on salaries in the six most populous states, including Texas.

The Commission found that the base salaries of judges and justices in Texas continue to lag the salaries of judges at corresponding levels in all five states closest to Texas in population.

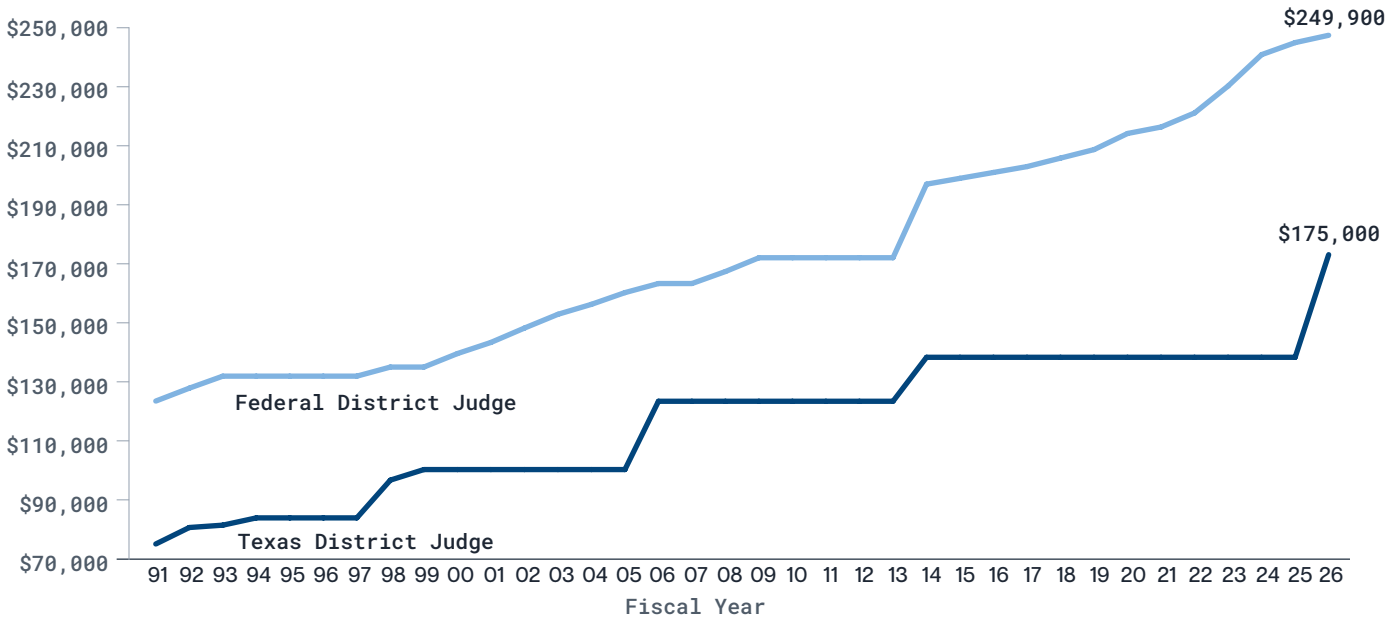
17 National Center for State Courts, *Survey of Judicial Salaries*, July 1, 2026

STATE SALARIES OF JUDGES IN THE SIX MOST POPULOUS STATES AS OF JULY 2026 LISTED IN POPULATION ORDER

Judge	California	Texas	New York	Florida	Illinois	Pennsylvania
High Courts	$298,721	$210,000	$262,700	$264,136	$308,475	$270,622
Court of Appeals	$280,052	$192,500	$250,100	$223,318	$290,334	$255,346
District Court	$244,727	$175,000	$237,300	$200,836	$266,419	$234,916

Federal Judges - Unlike previous reports, the Commission more closely examined the compensation of federal judges. The Commission took note that the salary of federal judges has been increased consistently every year since 2014. Federal law has an automatic adjustment tied to the Employment Cost Index, a Bureau of Labor statistic that tracks the change in labor costs to employers over time.[18] Every year the raise is rounded to the nearest $100 but cannot exceed the percentage increases afforded to General Schedule federal employees. In 2026, federal district judges are paid $249,900, circuit judges are paid $264,900, associate justices are paid $306,600, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is paid $320,700. [19]

FEDERAL DISTRICT JUDGE SALARY COMPARED TO TEXAS DISTRICT JUDGE SALARY



18 U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Cost Index
19 United States Courts Judicial Compensation

Factor 3: Value of Comparable Services Performed in the Private Sector, Including Private Judging, Arbitration and Mediation

The Commission was unable to gather definitive information about the rates of compensation that can be obtained in the private sector by serving as a private judge, arbitrator or mediator. As a result, the Commission did not examine data for this factor.

Factor 4: Compensation of Attorneys in the Private Sector

The Commission reviewed data collected by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) for its Annual Wage Data.[20] TWC defines experienced workers as the wage earned by the upper two-thirds of all workers in the selected occupation. In 2025, the statewide average for an experienced lawyer's salary is $227,061. According to TWC, the average salary statewide for all lawyers is $180,369.

The base pay of a district judge is $5,369 less than the average salary for lawyers statewide and $52,061 less than the average salary for an experienced lawyer. Almost half of judges have been licensed Texas attorneys for more than 30 years.



To become a judge, the average attorney would have to take a decrease in salary but may also have to relinquish many opportunities for income and investment due to the Code of Judicial Conduct that is unique to the judicial branch of government.[21]

20 Texas Workforce Commission 2025 Annual Wage Data
21 Texas Code of Judicial Conduct

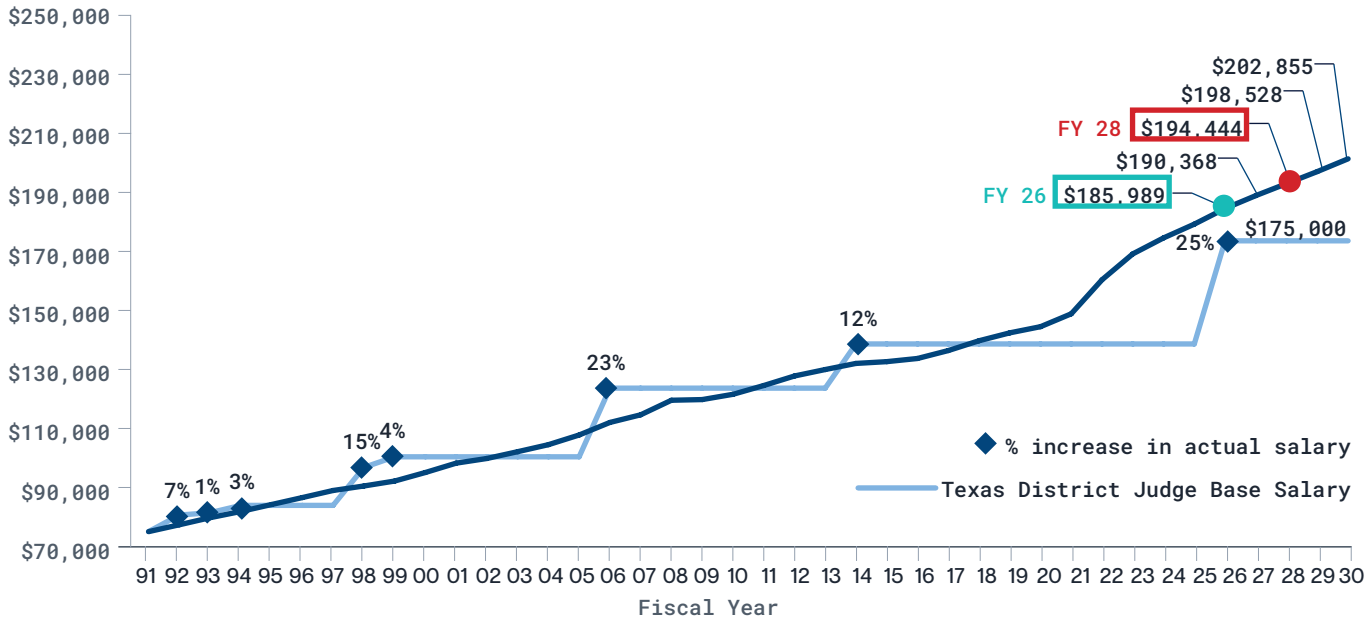
Factor 5: Cost of Living and Changes in the Cost of Living

Reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Workers (CPI-U) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services, such as transportation, food, and medical care. The CPI-U over the past five years has been higher than the 20-year average, 4.4 percent compared to 2.5 percent. While CPI-U always erodes the purchasing power of salary, the persistently high CPI-U has accelerated the gap.

The following chart illustrates the relationship between judicial salaries and the CPI-U from 1991 to 2030. From 1998 to 2005, judicial salaries stayed static while inflation (measured by the CPI-U) climbed by 19 percent. This trend continued again between 2005 and 2013, where judicial salaries remained unchanged while inflation increased by another 20 percent. The salary increase effective September 2013 brought the salaries to an amount slightly above the rate of inflation.

Because the base salary of a district judge was not raised again until September 2025, in fiscal year 2018, the base state salary of a district judge fell below the compensation levels from 1991 when factoring in inflation. When the base salary was increased in 2025 to $175,000, it was the first time that the base salary increased but remained under the CPI-U. Prior to the 89th Legislative Session the Commission recommended the base salary of $182,000. When factoring the CPI-U, the base salary in 2028 would be $194,444.

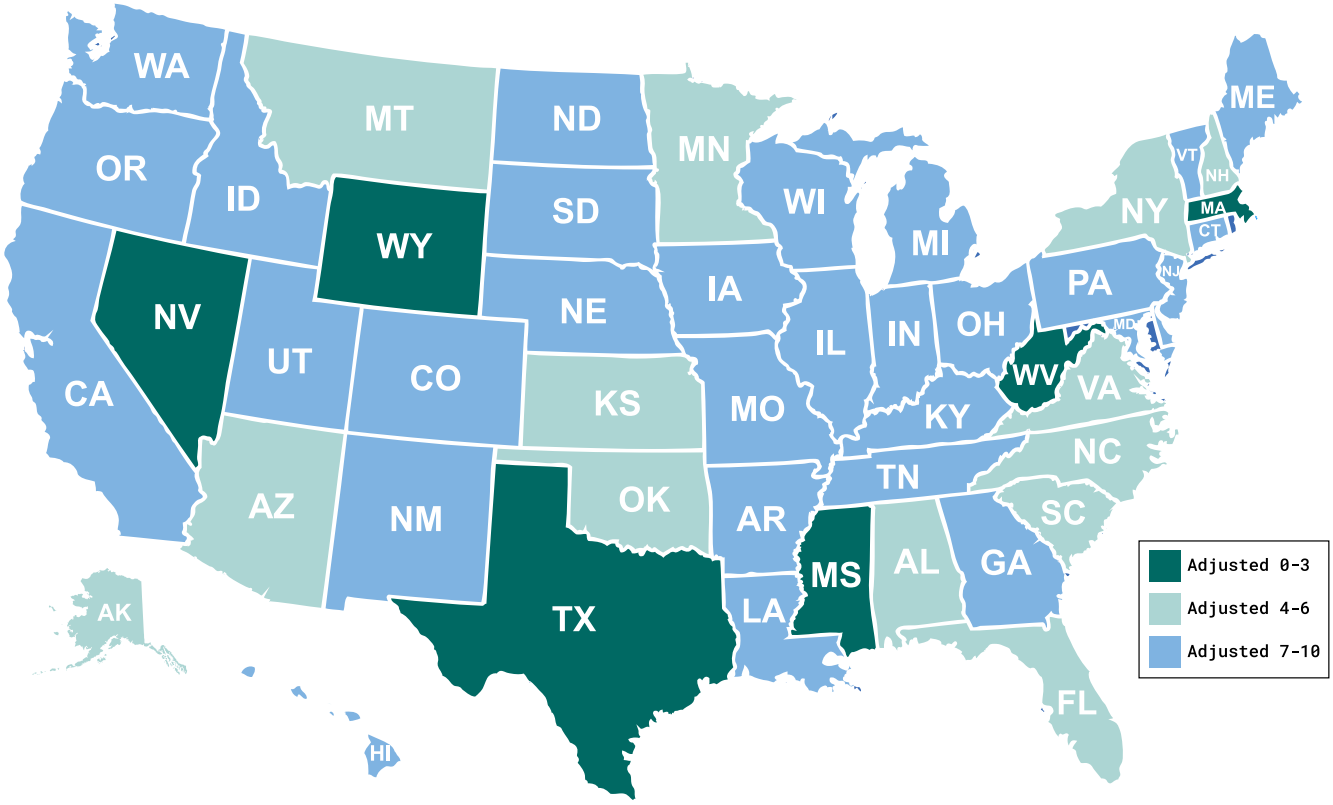
BASE STATE SALARY OF DISTRICT JUDGE AND INFLATION



The chart above also shows during the past 35 years the base pay of a district judge has been adjusted eight times. When increases are given, the increases range from 1 to 25 percent and have occurred as often as every 2 to 12 years. The frequency and amount of increases to the base pay are unpredictable.

According to the National Center for State Courts, Texas is in a minority of states that has adjusted judicial pay less than three times in the past decade. Texas has adjusted the base pay of a district judge only once in the past 10 years while the average amongst the other 10 most populous states was 7.2 times. Ohio, Michigan, the District of Colombia, and federal judicial pay adjusted pay annually. The average amongst all states, the District of Colombia, and the federal judiciary was 6.6 times.

FREQUENCY OF JUDICIAL PAY INCREASES IN LAST 10 YEARS



Source: National Center for State Courts

28 other states and the federal government have a mechanism to more regularly address judicial compensation. Regular, systematic increases in the base salary would make judicial compensation more predictable and would offset the effects of inflation.

Factor 6: Compensation from the State Presently Received by Other Public Officials

The Commission is required by statute to consider the compensation from the state presently received by other public officials in the state, including state constitutional officeholders; deans, presidents, and chancellors of the public university systems; and city attorneys in major metropolitan areas for which that information is readily available.

The Governor of Texas, Attorney General, Comptroller of Public Accounts are paid $153,750. The Secretary of State is paid $285,000 while the Land Commissioner is paid $140,938. The Lieutenant Governor is paid like other legislative officials, $7,200. The salaries of most constitutional officeholders are set by statute. The Commission took note that top staff serving in the offices of the constitutional officeholders, on average, received $167,000 more than the elected constitutional officeholder.

Deans, presidents, and chancellors' of the public university systems salaries vary across Texas based on university size, location, experience, and education credentials of the position. The Legislative Budget Board publishes each public institutions' Fiscal Year 2026 Higher Education Administrative Accountability Reports. [22] 30 sample institutions were randomly selected and reviewed for the title of president or chancellor and the salary was recorded. The data set excluded the chancellors of the University of Texas system and the Texas A&M University system. Based on the sample the average salary for a chancellor is $612,049. The average salary of a dean is $366,489. This does not account for living expenses and other forms of compensation often provided that are not available to judges.

There is no single source of data for city attorneys in major metropolitan areas. As a result, open-source searches were conducted for the 40 most populous Texas cities that publish the city attorney's salary in either 2024 or 2025. The average city attorney's compensation is $269,120.

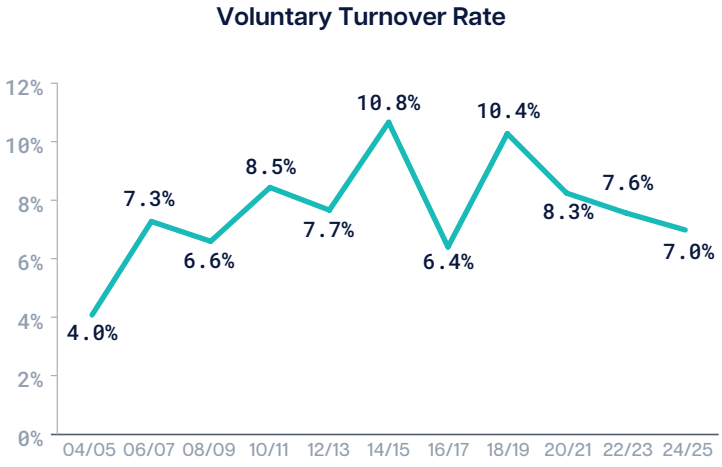
The Commission reviewed the salary of General Counsels for the largest 35 Texas State agencies in 2026 and found the average was $230,000.

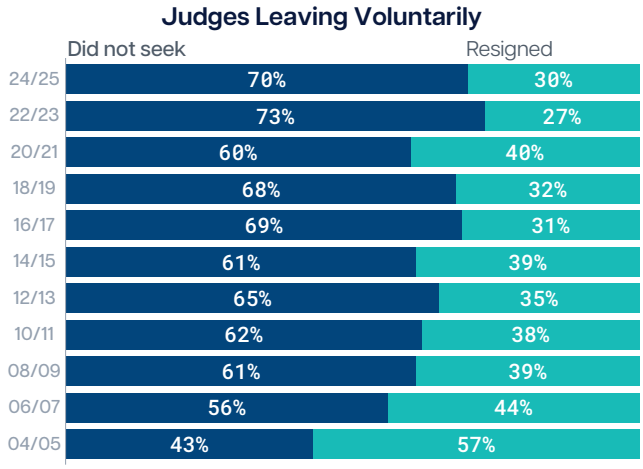
22 Legislative Budget Board Fiscal Year 2026 Higher Education Administrative Accountability Reports

Factor 7: Other Factors Traditionally Considered

To provide the Legislature with information to facilitate legislation that ensures that the compensation of state judges is adequate and appropriate, the 79th Texas Legislature charged the Office of Court Administration (OCA) with collecting information related to state judicial turnover. Section 72.030 of the Texas Government Code requires OCA to obtain data on the rate at which state judges resign from office or do not seek re-election, as well as the reason for these actions. The results for the latest report are available on OCA's website.

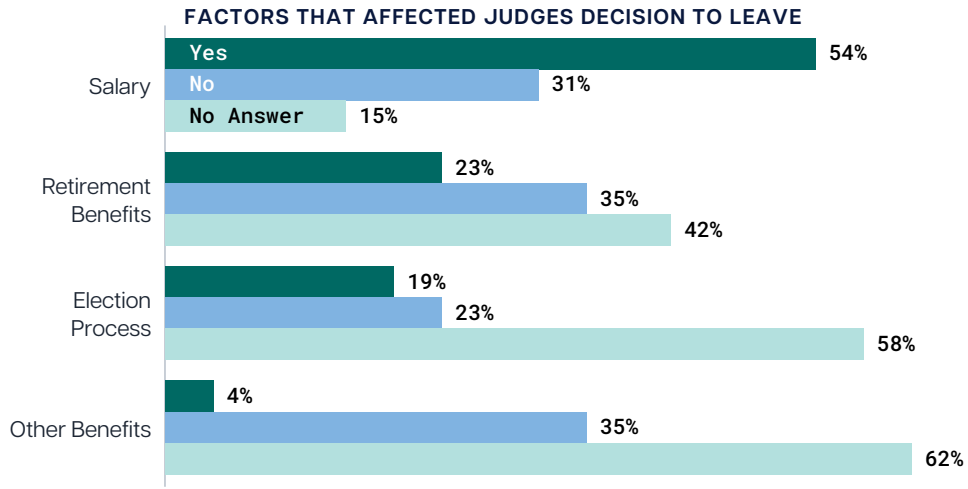
The judicial turnover rate for the fiscal year 2024-2025 biennium was 15.4 percent, 7.0 percent voluntarily. The percentage of judges voluntarily leaving the judiciary was slightly lower than the previous biennium. While the number of judges resigning or deciding not to seek reelection remained similar to the number in the previous biennium, the total number of judgeships grew by 25 making the percentage lower.





The number of judges voluntarily leaving office by not seeking reelection has been generally increasing since 2004-2005.

Almost 70 percent of judges indicated that retirement was a significant factor, a large decrease over the 91 percent identifying retirement in the last biennium. More than 60 percent of judges indicated that salary was a major factor, a significant increase from the 26 percent naming salary in the previous period.



However, almost 54 percent indicated that an increase in salary would have affected their decision to leave.

Factor 8: Level of Overall Compensation that is Adequate to Attract the Most Highly Qualified Individuals, from a Diversity of Life and Professional Experiences, to Serve in the Judiciary Without Unreasonable Economic Hardship and with Judicial Independence Unaffected by Financial Concerns

The Commission viewed the analysis required by the first seven factors to be relevant to the analysis of the last factor. The Commission also recognizes that base compensation remains lower than an average attorney salary and other benchmarks which create a recruiting problem. Based on those analyses, the Commission concludes that regular adjustments in compensation are necessary and appropriate in order to seek to attract the most highly qualified individuals, from a diversity of life and professional experiences, to serve in the judiciary without unreasonable economic hardship and with judicial independence unaffected by financial concerns. Therefore, the Commission recommends that the base salary be increased by 11 percent with a cost-of-living adjustment increase thereafter.

Other Considerations

In addition to the 25 percent increase of the base pay of a district judge, SB 293 delinked an increase in judicial pay with an increase in legislators' pension benefits, which can lead to perceptions of a conflict of interest. [23] Beginning August 2030, the Texas Ethics Commission is required to consider an equitable increase in the dollar amount of which the standard service retirement annuity for legislators is calculated.

23 Tex. S.B. 293, 89th Leg., R.S. (2025)

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on its evaluation of the factors the Commission is required to consider, the Commission concluded that it is necessary and appropriate to adjust judicial salaries by increasing the base pay of a district judge by 11% and recommends that salaries be established as shown below for the 28-29 biennium:

RECOMMENDED JUDICIAL COMPENSATION[24]

Judge	State Salary	Additional Compensation[25]	Total	Current National Ranking	Adjusted National Ranking	6 Most Populous States
Supreme Court Justice & Court of Criminal Appeals Judge	$233,100	n/a	$233,100	31 of 50	19 of 50	6 of 6
15th Court of Appeals Justice	$228,100	n/a	$228,100	26 of 41	13 of 41	5 of 6
1st – 14th Court of Appeals Justice	$213,675	up to $14,425	up to $228,100	32 of 41	23 of 41	6 of 6
Business Court Judge	$223,100	n/a	$223,100	---	---	---
District Judge	$194,250	up to $28,850	up to $223,100	37 of 50	27 of 50	6 of 6

Appendix D reflects the effect of an 11% increase across all tiers.

The Commission also recommends a statutory cost-of-living adjustment that may be deferred if the biennial revenue estimate of the Comptroller of Public Accounts indicates that there is a deficit.

24 Based on base pay.

25 If the Commission's recommended salary increases are adopted, county supplements would increase. (See Tex. Govt. Code §659.012.) The current maximum county supplement for courts of appeals justices is $12,500 and for district court judges it is $25,000.

Appendix A: Estimated Cost of Recommendation

The following table provides more detailed information regarding potential fiscal impacts related to judicial salaries and budget items that are linked to judicial salaries, such as prosecutors' salaries.[26] The cost estimate does not include the fiscal impact of the corresponding increase to retirement benefits.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDED SALARIES

		Annual		Biennial
State Judge Salary Increase	**$**	**15,471,152**	**$**	**30,942,304**
Supreme Court & Court of Criminal Appeals	$	479,094	$	958,188
Courts of Appeals	$	1,962,347	$	3,924,694
District Courts	$	11,329,780	$	22,659,560
Business Court	$	245,823	$	491,646
Multi-District Litigation Judges	$	23,063	$	46,126
Family Law Associate Judges	$	1,431,045	$	2,862,090
County Court Judge Supplements[27]	**$**	**4,107,543**	**$**	**8,215,086**
Statutory County Court Judge Supplements	$	3,031,380	$	6,062,760
Probate Court Judge Supplements	$	254,100	$	508,200
Constitutional County Judge Supplement	$	822,063	$	1,644,126
State Prosecuting Attorney	**$**	**23,100**	**$**	**46,200**
District Attorneys	**$**	**3,498,880**	**$**	**6,997,760**
County Attorney Supplements	**$**	**821,787**	**$**	**1,643,574**
Total	$	23,922,462	$	47,844,924

26 See Govt. Code §§25.0015, 41.013, 45.175, 45.280, 46.002, 46.003 and 46.0031.
27 Funded by filing fees and court costs under Govt. Code §51.702.

Appendix B: County Supplements Paid to District Court Judges

Number of Judges	County Supplement	Percent of Judges
380	$25,000 or more [28]	74.5%
6	$24,000 to 24,999	1.2%
1	$23,000 to 23,999	0.2%
2	$22,000 to 22,999	0.4%
5	$21,000 to 21,999	1.0%
2	$20,000 to 20,999	0.4%
1	$19,000 to 19,999	0.2%
81	$18,000 to 18,999	15.9%
1	$17,000 to 17,999	0.2%
2	$16,000 to 16,999	0.4%
4	$15,000 to 15,999	0.8%
3	$14,000 to 14,999	0.6%
1	$13,000 to 13,999	0.2%
4	$12,000 to 12,999	0.8%
1	$9,000 to 9,999	0.2%
3	$8,000 to 8,999	0.6%
3	$6,000 to 6,999	0.6%
1	$5,000 to 5,999	0.2%
4	$4,000 to 4,999	0.8%
1	$1,000 to 1,999	0.2%
1	$1 to 999	0.2%
3	$0	0.6%

Appendix C: County Supplements Paid to Intermediate Appellate Court Justices

Number of Justices	County Supplement	Percent of Justices
77	$12,500	96%
3	$9,000	4%

28 The total base salary of a district judge and county supplement cannot exceed $200,000 without a reduction in the state salary. Six judges receive more than the maximum county supplement which reduced their state salary.

Appendix D: Recommended Judicial Compensation Including All Tiers

RECOMMENDED JUDICIAL COMPENSATION[29]

Judge	State Salary (Years of Service)	County Supplement[30]	State Longevity[31]	Total
Supreme Court Justice & Court of Criminal Appeals Judge	0-4 $233,100 4-8 $256,410 8+ $279,720 12+ 279,720	n/a	12+ $13,986	0-4 $233,100 4-8 $256,410 8+ $279,720 12+ $293,706
15th Court of Appeals Justice	0-4 $228,100 4-8 $250,910 8+ $273,720 12+ $273,720	n/a	12+ $13,686	0-4 $228,100 4-8 $250,910 8+ $273,720 12+ $287,406
1st – 14th Court of Appeals Justice	0-4 $213,675 4-8 $235,043 8+ $256,410 12+ $256,410	$14,425	12+ $12,821	0-4 up to $228,100 4-8 up to $249,468 8+ up to $270,835 12+ up to $283,656
Business Court Judge	0-4 $223,100 4-8 $242,525 8+ $261,950 12+ $261,950	n/a	12+ $11,655	0-4 $223,100 4-8 $242,525 8+ $261,950 12+ $273,605
District Judge[32]	0-4 $194,250 4-8 $213,675 8+ $233,100 12+ $233,100	$28,850	12+ $11,655	0-4 up to $223,100 4-8 up to $242,525 8+ up to $261,950 12+ up to $273,605

29 The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Presiding Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals are entitled to an additional $14,700 from the state. The Chief Justice of the statewide 15th Court of Appeals is entitled to an additional $14,350 from the state, and the Chief Justices of the other 14 courts of appeals are entitled to an additional $13,475. Tex. Govt. Code §659.012(a)(5)

30 If the Commission's recommended salary increases are adopted, county supplements would increase. (See Tex. Govt. Code §659.012.) The current maximum county supplement for courts of appeals justices is $12,500 and for district court judges it is $25,000.

31 Tex. Govt. Code §659.0445 entitles a judge or justice an amount equal to 0.05 multiplied by the amount of the judge's current state salary in the month following the month in which the judge completes 12 years of service.

32 District judges and the Presiding Judge of the Business Court who serve as Local Administrative District Judge who have more than two district courts in their county are entitled to a supplement of between $5,250 to $12,250. Tex. Govt. Code §659.012(d) and §659.012(d-1).

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2026 Report and Recommendations

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE · JUDICIAL COMPENSATION COMMISSION