



**City
of
Milwaukee**

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
RESEARCH & ANALYSIS SECTION

MEMO

To: Ald. Michael Murphy
From: Mary Turk, Fiscal Review Analyst - Senior
Date: 4/2/07
Subject: Council Member Salary Survey

The following is in response to your request for information about salaries for City Council Members:

A salary survey of City Council Member salaries from across the county was conducted. An existing list from a salary survey conducted in February of 2003 was used as a base list and an additional 9 cities were added, resulting in a total of 28 cities. The cities were contacted via phone and the resulting data is presented in the attached table.

The attached table, "Salaries of City Council Members," presents the city, its population and rank as of the 2000 census, the size of the council, the present Council Member salary and the present salary of the Council President. It is noted that in some Councils the Mayor presides over the Council and therefore the Mayor's salary is listed for the Council President. There are 6 cities where this is the case: Portland, San Jose, Cincinnati, Austin, Kansas City and Las Vegas. Other notes include salary differences for other council positions and differences due to staggered terms of office.

I hope this information will prove useful to you. Please feel free to contact me at x8680 with any questions or for further data.

LRB07167

Salaries of City Council Members

Data valid as of April 2, 2007

City	Population (Rank)	Council Size	Members' Salary	Council President
Los Angeles	3,694,820 (2)	15	\$171,648	\$171,648
Washington, DC	572,059 (21)	13	\$115,000	\$190,000
New York	8,008,278 (1)	51	\$112,500	\$112,500
Philadelphia	1,517,550 (5)	17	\$106,000 ¹	\$133,000
Seattle	563,374 (24)	9	\$103,878 ²	\$103,878
Chicago	2,896,016 (3)	50	\$98,125	\$98,125
Portland	529,121 (28)	4	\$93,350	\$110,822 ³
Detroit	951,270 (10)	9	\$81,312	\$85,456
San Diego	1,223,400 (7)	8	\$75,386	\$75,386
San Jose	894,943 (11)	10	\$75,000	\$105,000 ³
Boston	589,141 (20)	13	\$75,000	\$75,000
Denver	554,636 (25)	13	\$73,512	\$82,320
Minneapolis	382,618 (45)	13	\$73,153	\$73,153
Cleveland	478,403 (33)	21	\$69,968	\$79,968
Milwaukee	596,974 (19)	15	\$69,353	\$78,376
Oakland	399,484 (41)	8	\$66,896	\$66,896
Fresno	427,652 (37)	7	\$65,000	\$70,170
Newark	273,546 (63)	9	\$64,766	\$71,375
Cincinnati	331,285 (54)	10	\$60,646	\$121,292 ³
Austin	656,562 (16)	7	\$57,741	\$52,998 ⁴
Pittsburgh	334,563 (52)	9	\$55,029	\$55,029
Kansas City	441,545 (36)	13	\$52,630	\$105,274 ³
Buffalo	292,648 (58)	9	\$52,000 ⁵	\$62,000
Houston	1,953,631 (4)	14	\$51,957	\$51,957
Baltimore	651,154 (17)	16	\$48,000	\$80,000 ⁶
Honolulu	371,657 (46)	9	\$46,896	\$52,404
Las Vegas	478,434 (32)	7	\$45,410	\$59,657 ³
New Orleans	484,674 (31)	7	\$42,500	\$42,500

¹ Salary for Minority Whip is \$108,000, Minority Leader and Majority Whip \$111,000, and Majority Leader \$113,000.

² Salaries for 4 new members; 5 members in middle of term receive \$96,507.

³ Mayor, acts as Council leader.

⁴ Mayor, acts as Council leader. Mayor refused an increase in salary to \$67,981.

⁵ Salary for Majority Leader is \$57,000, committee chairs receive \$1,000 stipend.

⁶ Salary for Vice President is \$50,000.