



## Legislative Coordinating Commission

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### Compensation Council

April 7, 1999

The Honorable Steve Sviggum  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Honorable Allan H. Spear  
President of the Senate

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

In accordance with the duties assigned to it by Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 15A.082, the Minnesota Compensation Council offers the following recommendations:

1) **Increase the salaries of Judges in 2001 and 2002.** The Council recommends that salaries of judges be increased by 3.5% on January 1, 2001, and 3.5% on January 1, 2002.

In addition, the Council recommends that the salaries of judges be increased in 2001 and 2002 by the average of the across the board increases received by state employees in their collective bargaining agreements and arbitration awards.

Specifically, the salaries of judges should be increased on January 1, 2001, by the average of the across the board increases for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2000, included in collective bargaining agreements and arbitration awards that have been ratified by the Legislature in regular session in 2000. The salaries of judges should be increased on January 1, 2002, by the average of the across the board increases for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2001, included in collective bargaining agreements and arbitration awards that have been ratified by the Legislature in regular session in 2000.

2) **Increase the salaries of Constitutional Officers in 2001 and 2002.** The Council recommends that the salary of the Governor be increased by 7.5% on January 1, 2001, and by 2.5% on January 1, 2002.

In addition, the Council recommends that the salaries of the other constitutional officers be fixed as a percentage of the salary of the Governor, as follows:

| <u>Constitutional Officer</u> | <u>% of the Governor's salary</u> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Attorney General              | 85%                               |
| State Auditor                 | 75%                               |
| Secretary of State            | 65%                               |
| Lt. Governor                  | 55%                               |
| State Treasurer               | 55%                               |

If the Legislature rejects our recommendation to change the compensation relationships among the constitutional officers, the Council recommends that each constitutional officer receive a salary increase of 7.5% on January 1, 2001, and an increase of 2.5% on January 1, 2002.

**3) Increase the salaries of Legislators in 2001 and 2002.** The Council recommends that salaries of Legislators be increased by 5% on January 1, 2001, and by 2.5% on January 1, 2002.

In addition to the recommendations required by law, the Compensation Council urges the following:

**4) Allow the Governor to approve increases in agency head salaries without legislative approval.** Under current law, the Governor may set the salary of an agency head within a statutory range, but a new salary rate does not take effect until approved by the Legislative Coordinating Commission and is not final until ratified by the Legislature. The Compensation Council recommends that the requirement for approval by the Legislative Coordinating Commission and the Legislature be eliminated for heads of state agencies appointed by the Governor.

I have included a list of the members of the Council at the end of this recommendation. The members worked diligently and thoughtfully to develop these recommendations for consideration by the Legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gene Merriam  
Chair, Compensation Council

c: Governor Jesse Ventura  
 Lt. Governor Mae Schunk  
 Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz  
 Attorney General Mike Hatch  
 State Auditor Judith Dutcher  
 Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer  
 State Treasurer Carol Johnson  
 Senator Roger Moe  
 Senator Dick Day  
 Representative Tim Pawlenty  
 Representative Tom Pugh

### **Members of the Compensation Council**

#### Appointed by the Governor

Mr. Richard McCluhan  
 Mr. Verne Meyer  
 Ms. Polly Bowles  
 Mr. Thomas Triplett  
 Mr. Richard Jefferson  
 Mr. Gene Merriam  
 Ms. Cynthia Bigger  
 Mr. Buford Johnson

#### Appointed by the House of Representatives

Representative Bruce Anderson  
 Representative Torrey Westrom  
 Representative Joe Mullery

#### Appointed by the Supreme Court

Mr. Thomas Swain  
 Mr. George Soule

#### Appointed by the Senate

Senator Allan Spear  
 Senator Jerry Janezich  
 Senator Martha Robertson