

Legislative Salaries Compared to Other Entities

The following chart shows how the NY legislative base salary compares to the 10 highest paying states for base salaries, the NYC City Council and Congress.

State	Base Salary	Duration of Session
New York ⁽¹⁾	\$79,500	5 months
Alaska	\$50,400	4 months
Wisconsin	\$50,950	12 months
Ohio	\$60,584	12 months
Massachusetts	\$62,548	12 months
Hawaii	\$62,604	3.5 months
Illinois	\$67,836	4 months
Michigan	\$71,685	12 months
Pennsylvania	\$87,180	6 months
California	\$107,240	9 months
NYC City Council (limits outside income) ⁽²⁾	\$148,500	12 months
United States Congress (limits outside income) ⁽³⁾	\$174,000	12 months

Notes:

1. In addition to a salary of \$79,500, legislators receive “allowances” ranging from \$9,000 to \$41,500.
2. In February 2016, the NYC Council voted to: i) raise salaries from \$112,500 to \$148,500 (\$30K / 32%); ii) ban outside income except for teaching and book royalties; and iii) eliminate the payment of allowances for leading special committees. The Speaker of the NYC Council earns \$164,500 (NYC Charter).
3. Congressional Leaders earn \$193,400 and the Speaker of the House earns \$223,500. Members are allowed to retain an amount of permissible “outside earned income” limited to no more than 15% of the annual rate of basic pay for level II of the Executive Schedule for federal employees (\$28,400 per year in 2018). There is no limit on the amount of non-salary income members can retain from their investments, corporate dividends or profits.

Cost of Living Impact on Legislative Base Pay

The following table shows the impact of national inflation on legislative base pay.

Current Salary: \$79,500 ⁽¹⁾		
Growth Measurement	Cumulative Change	Salary Adjusted by Inflation
CPI-U (National) ⁽²⁾	54.41%	\$122,758

Notes:

1. In addition to a base salary of \$79,500, nearly all legislators receive “allowances” -- ranging from \$9,000 to \$41,500 per person depending on the responsibility and per diems of \$175 per day.
2. Cumulative change for national CPI-U of 54.41% is projected from 1/1/2000 through 12/31/2017, with an estimated 2.53% increase for all of CY 2018 and an estimated 2.34% for CY2019. The cumulative changes without the projected CY 2019 increase is 50.88%.
3. See [Research Sources and References](#) for additional sources for some of this data.