

California Legislature

April 11, 2011

Mr. Charles Murray
California Citizens Compensation Commission
c/o Dept. of Personnel Administration
1515 S Street, North Building, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: Debbie Baldwin

Dear Chairman Murray:

Enclosed please find an updated chart of the one we provided to the Commission last year comparing California's legislative salaries with New York's.

We thought it would be helpful for you to have the more up-to-date information. The misconception is still prevalent that California's legislators are the highest compensated state legislators in the country. Although over 80% of New York's legislators receive an additional stipend, most surveys only reference the base salary.

The attached chart prepared by the Office of the Legislative Analyst shows that on average, for the comparable 120 legislators, New York's legislators receive a higher salary than California's. Additionally, when you factor in the pension for New York, their total compensation package is much higher than California's.

Note as well that with almost twice the total population of New York and with substantially fewer Members, each California Legislator represents over three times as many constituents.

Sincerely,


JON WALDIE
Chief Administrative Officer
of the Assembly


GREGORY P. SCHMIDT
Secretary of the Senate

Enclosure

April 6, 2011

**Legislative Salaries and Retirement Benefits
New York Versus California**

| | Assembly | | Senate | | Combined | | Differences | |
|---|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|
| | California | New York | California | New York | California | New York | Amount | Percent |
| Population ^a | 36,961,664 | 19,541,453 | 36,961,664 | 19,541,453 | 36,961,664 | 19,541,453 | -17,420,211 | -47.1% |
| Number of Members | 80 | 150 | 40 | 62 | 120 | 212 | 92 | 76.7% |
| Constituents per Member | 462,021 | 130,276 | 924,042 | 315,185 | 308,014 | 92,177 | -215,837 | -70.1% |
| Base salary | \$95,291 | \$79,500 | \$95,291 | \$79,500 | \$95,291 | \$79,500 | -\$15,791 | -16.6% |
| Leadership stipend, top | \$14,293 | \$41,500 | \$14,293 | \$41,500 | \$14,293 | \$41,500 | \$27,207 | 190.4% |
| Average stipend for those receiving one | \$10,720 | \$13,552 | \$10,720 | \$16,414 | \$10,720 | \$14,591 | \$3,871 | 36.1% |
| Percent of Members receiving stipend | 5.0% | 71.3% | 10.0% | 98.4% | 6.7% | 79.2% | — | — |
| Average annual salary, including stipend | | | | | | | | |
| Top 80 Assembly Members | \$95,827 | \$95,045 | | | | | -\$782 | -0.8% |
| Top 40 Senators | | | \$96,363 | \$99,325 | | | \$2,962 | 3.1% |
| Top 120 Legislators | | | | | \$96,006 | \$96,533 | \$528 | 0.5% |
| Total Annual Compensation, Salaries and Stipends ^b | \$7,666,158 | \$13,209,789 | \$3,854,518 | \$5,901,960 | \$11,520,676 | \$19,111,749 | \$7,591,073 | 65.9% |
| Retirement benefit? | ^c | yes | ^c | yes | ^c | yes | — | — |
| Employer contribution as a percent of gross monthly income | — | 19.2% ^d | — | 19.2% ^d | — | 19.2% ^d | — | — |
| Average annual state cost for retirement benefit for Members elected on or after January 2010 | — | \$15,264 | — | \$15,264 | — | \$15,264 | \$15,264 | — ^e |

a Source: U.S. Census Bureau, as of July 2009.

b Source:
New York: Legislative Expenditure Report for 2009-10 (last full year available).
California: reflects current maximum legislative salaries allowed by California Citizens Compensation Commission from December 2010 to November 2011.

c Per California's Constitution, legislators elected after 1990 are not eligible for retirement benefits for legislative service.

d Employer contributions range from 18.3 percent to 22.6 percent. This figure reflects Tier 5, which all New York Members first elected on or after 2010 must join.

e Not meaningful.