



ELECTED OFFICIAL COMPENSATION OVERVIEW

December 16, 2025

Salary Computations

- Salaries for all elected officials are computed according to one of the following requirements:
 - State Base Salary (minimum salary established by the General Assembly that is applicable to certain officials in every county)
 - Local Acts (local legislation passed by the General Assembly that is only applicable to officials in a particular county)
 - Local Resolutions & Ordinances (legislation passed by the local governing authority such as the City Council or County Commissioners)

Impacts to Salaries

- There are multiple factors that may impact the salary of an elected official to include:
 - Population Changes – population brackets are used to compute state minimum salaries and are based on census estimates provided annually by the Department of Community Affairs.
 - Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) – only applicable when the General Assembly provides a cost-of-living adjustment to state employees and must be provided as regardless of when the official took office.
 - Longevity Pay – Re-election increase applies to every completed 4-year term (i.e., no partial terms) for a maximum of 5 terms.

Impacts to Salaries, cont'd

- Supplements (State & Local) – only when specifically authorized by either state statute or local resolution/ordinance for certain positions or individuals.
- “Tied to” Salary Adjustments – applies when the salary of a certain official is tied to the salary of another official. Changes may trigger a domino effect for all correlated salaries.
- Regardless of the computation methodology, once the base salary of an elected official has been established, it cannot be changed unless it is done so in the same manner as it was established.
- Although salary supplements may be provided, as authorized, to increase elected official salaries, reductions are prohibited during a current term.

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2026 SALARY GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

The "Computing County Official Salaries for 2026" guidebook is now available. ACCG publishes this guidebook annually to assist counties in calculating salaries (effective as of January 1, 2026) of certain county officials, as well as state officials who receive supplements to their salaries from the county. The procedures outlined in this guidebook have been reviewed and approved by the Constitutional Officers Association of Georgia (COAG), the Magistrate Council of Georgia, and ACCG, but it is within the county attorney's purview to interpret and apply all applicable state and local law. Please review the general principles on pages 4 through 7 of the guide for an overview of the complex considerations involved in the process of calculating salaries.

Important highlights in which counties may be most interested are shown below:

- There is no statewide 2026 cost-of-living adjustment.
- There are no major substantive statutory changes to compensation other than HB 85 (2025).
- HB 85 (2025) could have significant impacts on your county's budget and may require legislative action by the county or the General Assembly. See Appendix J.
- The worksheets in the appendix of the guide have been significantly revised to improve clarity and usability.

Counties may still access the "Computing County Official Salaries for 2025". Use this edition of the guidebook to assist in the calculation of salaries (effective as of January 1, 2025) for county commissioners, coroners, magistrates, probate judges, sheriffs, superior court clerks, tax commissioners, and other officials.

If you have questions about how salaries should be calculated, please contact your county attorney.

Previous Salary Guides

- [2025 Salary Guide](#)
- [2024 Salary Guide](#)
- [2023 Salary Guide](#)
- [2022 Salary Guide](#)
- [2021 Salary Guide](#)
- [2020 Salary Guide](#)
- [2019 Salary Guide](#)
- [2018 Salary Guide](#)
- [2017 Salary Guide](#)

ACCG Salary Guide

ACCG publishes an annual salary guide to assist local governments with the computation of elected official salaries.

<https://www.accg.org/publications.php>

Judge Marc D'Antonio Term Began January 2013 Completed 3 full terms (2013-2016, 2017-2020, 2021-2024)	As of 1/1/2025
Base Salary	\$100,722.08
State Statutory Supplements	-
Longevity Pay (15%)	15,108.31
Cost of Living Adjustments	14,277.98
Local Supplements	<u>16,101.17</u>
Total Annual Salary	\$146,209.54

PROBATE JUDGE

Salary Computation
Method:
State Base

Authorizing Legislation:
Base Salary – O.C.G.A.
Local Supplement –
Local Ordinance No.
03-44

Sheriff Gregory Countryman Term Began January 2021 Completed 1 full term (2021-2024)	
	As of 1/1/2025
Base Salary	\$103,266.39
State Statutory Supplements	9,261.60
Longevity Pay (5%)	5,626.40
Cost of Living Adjustments	15,130.61
Local Supplements	<u>50,963.53</u>
Total Annual Salary	\$184,248.53

SHERIFF

Salary Computation
Method:
State Base

Authorizing Legislation:
Base Salary – O.C.G.A.
Local Supplement –
Local Ordinance No.
24-001

Clerk Danielle Forte Term Began January 2021 Completed 1 full term (2021-2024)	As of 1/1/2025
Base Salary	\$103,266.39
State Statutory Supplements	4,630.80
Longevity Pay (5%)	5,394.86
Cost of Living Adjustments	12,265.84
Local Supplements	—
Total Annual Salary	\$125,557.89

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

Salary Computation
Method:
State Base & Local Act

Authorizing Legislation:
Base Salary – O.C.G.A.
Local Act - 1984 House
Bill No. 1445

Commissioner David Britt Term Began January 2025	As of 1/1/2025
Base Salary	\$103,266.39
State Statutory Supplements	5,003.28
Longevity Pay	-
Cost of Living Adjustments	12,165.39
Local Supplements	<u>-</u>
Total Annual Salary	\$120,435.06

TAX COMMISSIONER

Salary Computation
Method:
State Base & Local Act

Authorizing Legislation:
Base Salary – O.C.G.A.
Local Act - 1984 House
Bill No. 1445

Clerk Reginald Thompson Term Began January 2021 Completed 1 full term (2021-2024)	As of 1/1/2025
Base Salary (70% of Sheriff Statutory Salary)	\$91,226.09
State Statutory Supplements	-
Longevity Pay (5%)	4,561.30
Cost of Living Adjustments	18,922.73
Local Supplements	<u>-</u>
Total Annual Salary	\$114,710.12

CLERK OF MUNICIPAL COURT

Salary Computation
Method:
Local Act

Authorizing Legislation:
Local Act - 2010 House
Bill No. 1391

Coroner Eddie “Buddy” Bryan Term Began January 2013	As of 1/1/2025
Base Salary	\$82,500.00
State Statutory Supplements	-
Longevity Pay	-
Cost of Living Adjustments	17,992.07
Local Supplements	<u>-</u>
Total Annual Salary	\$100,492.07

CORONER

Salary Computation
Method:

Local Ordinance

Authorizing Legislation:

Base Salary – Local
Ordinance No. 22-027

State COLAs - Local
Ordinance No. 09-26

Superior Court Judges (Judge McBride, Smith, Martin, Peters, Gottfried, Richardson & Burch)	As of 7/1/2024
Base Salary	\$138,790.32
State Statutory Supplements	-
Longevity Pay	-
Local Supplements - Other Counties	23,930.28
Local Supplements - Muscogee	<u>26,115.84</u>
Total Applicable Salary	\$188,836.44

Note: Applicable salary is not total salary. Superior Court Judges also receive \$6k accountability court supplement.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

Salary Computation
Method:

State Base, Local Act, &
Local Ordinance

Authorizing Legislation:

Base Salary – O.C.G.A.

Local Supplement - Local
Act - 1984 House Bill No.
1450 & Local Ordinance
Ord. No. 87-072, 07-31, &
18-21

2026 Proposed Changes

Superior Court Judges	As of 1/1/2026
Base Salary	\$201,060.00
Proposed Locality Pay - Other Counties	?
Proposed Locality Pay – Muscogee 54.3% of \$20,106 (current authorized amount)	10,917.56

Note: 2025-2026 House Bill No. 85 overhauls the pay structure of Superior Court Judges. HB 85 key changes include:

1. Establishing a new base salary.
2. Abolishing most local county supplements.
3. Authorizing locality pay in lieu of local county supplements.
4. Indefinite suspension of triggered salary increases for all local officials “tied-to” Superior Court Judges salaries except for other judges which are suspended until 7/1/2026.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

Salary Computation
Method:
State Base

Authorizing Legislation:
Base Salary – O.C.G.A.
Locality Pay – New
Authorizing Ordinance
eff 1/1/26

State Court Judges (Judge Prather & Temesgen)	As of 7/1/2024
Base Salary (90% of Superior Court Judge Salary)	\$169,952.80
State Statutory Supplements	-
Longevity Pay	-
Cost of Living Adjustments	-
Local Supplements	-
Total Annual Salary	\$169,952.80

Note: 90% of Superior Court Judge's 2026 base salary is \$180,954.00. However, any increase is suspended until 7/1/2026.

STATE COURT JUDGES

Salary Computation
Method:
Local Act

Authorizing Legislation:
Local Act – 1997 House
Bill No. 770

Judge Steven Smith Term Began January 2013 Completed 3 full terms (2013-2016, 2017-2020, 2021-2024)	As of 1/1/2025
Base Salary (70% of State Court Judge Salary per Local Act)	\$123,156.04
OR	
Base Salary (per O.C.G.A)	\$102,736.58
State Statutory Supplements	-
Longevity Pay (15%)	15,410.49
Cost of Living Adjustments	10,000.00
Local Supplements	-
Total Annual Salary (per O.C.G.A.)	\$128,147.07

Note: 70% of State Court Judge's salary eff 7/1/2026 is \$126,667.80.

MUNICIPAL/ MAGISTRATE COURT JUDGE

Salary Computation
Method:

Local Act or State Base
(whichever is higher)

Authorizing Legislation:
Base Salary – O.C.G.A.
or

Local Act – 2003 House
Bill No. 265

District Attorney William “Don” Kelly Term Began January 2025	As of 1/1/2025
Base Salary	\$132,473.00
State Statutory Supplements	-
Longevity Pay	-
Cost of Living Adjustments	-
Local Supplements (Muscogee Only)	<u>16,895.64</u>
Total Applicable Salary	\$149,368.64

Note: Applicable salary is not total salary. Local Act also authorizes \$16k local supplement for the Chief Assistant District Attorney.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Salary Computation
Method:

State Base & Local Act

Authorizing Legislation:

Base Salary – O.C.G.A.

Local Supplement -
Local Act - 1984 House
Bill No. 1451

Solicitor General Shevon Thomas Term Began January 2025	As of 1/1/2025
Base Salary (85% of DA Base & Muscogee Supplement)	\$126,963.34
State Statutory Supplements	-
Longevity Pay	-
Cost of Living Adjustments	-
Local Supplements	-
Total Annual Salary	\$126,963.34

Note: Local Act also authorizes salary percentages for the Chief Assistant Solicitor (75%) and Senior Assistant Solicitors (65%) based on the Solicitor's salary.

STATE COURT SOLICITOR GENERAL

Salary Computation
Method:
Local Act

Authorizing Legislation:
Local Act – 1999 House
Bill No. 700

2026 Proposed Changes

Solicitor General Shevon Thomas Term Began January 2025	As of 1/1/2025
Base Salary (90% of State Court Judge)	\$152,957.52
State Statutory Supplements	-
Longevity Pay	-
Cost of Living Adjustments	-
Local Supplements	_____ - _____
Total Annual Salary	\$152,957.52

Note: Proposed Local Act would also authorize salary percentage for the Chief Assistant Solicitor as 80% of Solicitor salary and it would “un-tie” the Senior Assistant Solicitors salaries from the Solicitor. 90% of State Court Judge’s salary eff 7/1/2026 is \$162,858.60.

STATE COURT SOLICITOR GENERAL

Salary Computation
Method:
Local Act

Authorizing Legislation:
Local Act – New 2026
HB

COLUMBUS COUNCIL

Salary Computation
Method:
Local Ordinance

Authorizing Legislation:
Base Salary – Ord. No.
98-029

As of 1/1/2025	Chambers Hickey Cogle Anker	Crabb	Garrett	Tucker	Huff	Davis
Base Salary	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
State Statutory Supplements	-	-	-	1,200.00	-	-
Longevity Pay	-	579.97	1,159.94	619.77	1,739.91	\$2,899.85
Cost of Living Adjustments	11,198.76	11,198.76	11,198.76	11,590.63	11,764.45	11,785.59
Local Supplements	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Annual Salary	\$23,198.76	\$23,778.73	\$24,358.70	\$25,410.40	\$25,504.36	\$26,685.44

Note: Councilors may receive a \$1,200.00 statutory supplement upon completion of certified county commissioner training. Also, longevity pay is authorized at 2.5% for every completed 4-year term up to 5 terms.

As of 1/1/2025	Mayor	Pro-Tem
Base Salary	\$65,000.00	\$16,500.00
State Statutory Supplements	-	-
Longevity Pay	2,322.76	3,646.04
Cost of Living Adjustments	27,910.22	13,255.13
Local Supplements	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Annual Salary	\$95,232.98	\$33,401.17

Note: Councilors may receive a \$1,200 statutory supplement upon completion of certified county commissioner training. Also, longevity pay is authorized at 2.5% for every completed 4-year term up to 5 terms.

MAYOR & MAYOR PRO-TEM

Salary Computation
Method:
Local Ordinance

Authorizing Legislation:
Base Salary – Ord No.
89-081 for Mayor & Ord.
No. 91-039 for Pro-Tem

Questions?

