



Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant
Utah Supreme Court
Chair, Utah Judicial Council

Ronald B. Gordon, Jr.
State Court Administrator
Neira Siaperas
Deputy State Court Administrator

April 16, 2025

The Honorable Donia Jessop

Mayor of Hildale
320 E Newel Avenue
Hildale, Utah 84784

Re: Potential Salary Increase for Justice Court Judges

Dear Mayor Jessop,

Each year, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides guidance to each local government with a justice court. The purpose of this guidance is to ensure that judges are paid within the salary range required by Section 78A-7-206 of the Utah Code. That statute allows each city or county to set the salary of its full-time justice court judge(s) between 70% and 90% of the annual salary of a district court judge.

The salary of a district court judge is set by the legislature. In the 2025 session, the legislature approved a COLA increase of 2.5%. Accordingly, effective July 1, 2025, the annual salary of a district court judge will be increased to \$219,250. As such, the salary of a full-time justice court judge as of that date should be between \$153,475 and \$197,325. For courts with part-time judges, this salary range is reduced in proportion to the judge's workload. The workload for the Hildale Justice Court was calculated by the AOC to be 0.09 or 9% of the workload of a full-time justice court judge. Therefore, the salary range for the Hildale Justice Court Judge as of July 1, 2025 will be \$13,812.75 to \$17,759.25.

In addition to the foregoing parameters, please consider the following when determining the salary your judge will receive as of July 1, 2025:

- The range described above merely provides baseline salary parameters for your judge. Salaries should reflect experience, tenure as a judge, and the vast array of services provided to the community.

**The mission of the Utah judiciary is to provide the people an open, fair,
efficient, and independent system for the advancement of justice under the law.**

- In addition to any increase that may result from the new range, Section 78A-7-206(1)(c) of the Utah Code requires that each judge receive an annual salary increase equal to or greater than the average pay increase for all county or municipal employees in the jurisdiction served by that judge.
- Despite fluctuations in workload, the Utah State Constitution does not permit judges' salaries to be reduced during their terms in office.
- Those individuals employed as a justice court judge by more than one jurisdiction may not receive a combined salary for services as a judge that exceeds \$219,250. Please note it is the judge's responsibility to ensure compliance with this requirement if it applies.

To ensure compliance with applicable statutes and the Utah Constitution, the AOC tracks changes to the compensation of each justice court judge. As such, I would request that you please provide (i) the current salary of your justice court judge as of March 31, 2025, and (ii) what the salary will be as of July 1, 2025.

This information should be emailed to Dee Dee Sonntag at deedees@utcourts.gov no later than June 30, 2025. If you have any questions regarding the calculation of a judge's salary, please contact Ms. Sonntag at (801) 578-3820. Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ronald B. Gordon, Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

Ronald B. Gordon, Jr.
State Court Administrator

cc: Judge Kenneth Graff
Jim Peters, State Justice Court Administrator

Reference: Utah Constitution, Article VIII, Section 14
UCA § 78A-7-206