

District Attorney Salaries

The New York State Commission on Legislative, Judicial & Executive Compensation is assigned with making recommendations with respect to compensation for New York's state judges. The recommendations take effect unless modified or abrogated by legislation prior to taking effect. The primary implication for county taxpayers of the judicial pay raises is that state law links judicial salaries with county district attorneys' salaries.

On December 24, 2015 the Commission recommended increases in all state judges' salaries in 2016 and again in 2018. The recommended increase would place Supreme Court judges' salaries at \$193,000 in 2016 and \$203,000 in 2018. This would automatically trigger a mandatory increase in County District Attorney salaries as well. NYSAC estimates the DA salary increase will amount to \$1.6 million in SFY 2016-17.

Historically, the state has funded 100 percent of the incremental increase in DA salaries related to state judicial salary increases proposed by the Commission. The Governor's Budget for 2016-17 does not include the incremental funding for the DA salary increase that would be linked to the new judicial salaries. There is no state legislation in place that would nullify the judicial salary increase. Therefore, effective April 1, 2016 all linked salary increases are scheduled to go into effect.

1. Fully Fund the Incremental Costs of District Attorney Salary Increases

Support State funding to offset increases in the mandated salary increase for DAs.

Over the last several years, the Governor and Legislature have been careful to not impose new mandates or shift costs on counties and other local governments. When new mandates are created, or there is an increase in the costs of existing mandates, or a shift in costs to local governments without any flexibility to mitigate these higher costs – we all recognize this is paid by local taxpayers.

Counties oppose any costs shifts or the imposition of new mandated costs. Each time this happens, no matter the scale, it damages the progress we have made to reduce pressure on local taxes. Costs shifts and the imposition of unfunded, and underfunded, state mandates on local governments is the number one reason for New York's high property taxes and highest in the nation local tax burden.