

Minnesota Legislative Reference Library

Compensation of Minnesota Legislators, 1872 - present

Until recently, the [Minnesota Constitution](#) provided that legislators' compensation was set by law and that the House and Senate could designate three leadership positions to receive up to 140 percent of the compensation of other members of the legislature. The annual salary for representatives and senators has been \$31,140 since January 1999.

A constitutional amendment regarding how legislators' salaries are set was on the ballot during the 2016 election. The amendment was adopted; legislator salaries will now be determined by the [Legislative Salary Council](#). The sixteen Council members are appointed by the governor and the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Legislators' salaries have not changed in recent years, but frequent requests are made for historical legislative salary and per diem information. This chart seeks to compile the information in one place.

These data on legislator salary, leadership salary, and per diem compensation are taken from a variety of sources: House and Senate Rules Committee books, House and Senate Journals, Session Laws, Statutes, [reports of the Minnesota State Compensation Council](#), and periodical sources. Individual data points link to their source of authority. Unique circumstances and other necessary details are included as footnotes to further explain the data.

For leadership salary and per diem data in particular, most data were found in materials from House or Senate Rules Committees, where resolutions on these matters are typically passed. Meeting minutes and the text of the resolutions are included.

While efforts have been made to verify this information, errors are possible. Please report any errors to the library staff.

Years	Legislator Salary	Session Law	Effective Date of Session Law	House Leadership Salary	Senate Leadership Salary	House Per Diem ("\$/y" indicates "outstate/metro" per diem)	Senate Per Diem ("\$/y" indicates "outstate/metro" per diem)
2017-2018	\$31,140	1997 Minn. Laws Second Spl. Sess. Chap. 3 Sec. 16	1/4/1999	140%	140%	\$66	
2015-2016	\$31,140	1997 Minn. Laws Second Spl. Sess. Chap. 3 Sec. 16	1/4/1999	140%	140%	\$66	\$86*
2013-2014	\$31,140	1997 Minn. Laws Second Spl. Sess. Chap. 3 Sec. 16	1/4/1999	140%	140%	\$66	
2011-2012	\$31,140	1997 Minn. Laws Second Spl. Sess. Chap. 3 Sec. 16	1/4/1999	140%	140%	\$77	\$86
2009-2010	\$31,140	1997 Minn. Laws Second Spl. Sess. Chap. 3 Sec. 16	1/4/1999	140%	140%	\$77	\$96*
2007-2008	\$31,140	1997 Minn. Laws Second Spl. Sess. Chap. 3 Sec. 16	1/4/1999	140%	140%	\$77	\$96
2005-2006	\$31,140	1997 Minn. Laws Second Spl. Sess. Chap. 3 Sec. 16	1/4/1999	140%	140%	\$66	\$66
2003-2004	\$31,140	1997 Minn. Laws Second Spl. Sess. Chap. 3 Sec. 16	1/4/1999	140%	140%	\$56	\$66
2001-2002	\$31,140	1997 Minn. Laws Second Spl. Sess. Chap. 3 Sec. 16	1/4/1999	140%	140%	\$56	\$66
1999-2000	\$31,140	1997 Minn. Laws Second Spl. Sess. Chap. 3 Sec. 16	1/4/1999	140%	140%	\$56	\$56
1997-1998	\$29,657	1993 Minn. Laws Chap. 192 Sec. 2 Subd. 6	1/2/1995	140%	140%	\$56	\$56
1995-1996	\$29,657	1993 Minn. Laws Chap. 192 Sec. 2 Subd. 6	1/2/1995	up to 140%	140%	\$48	\$50
1993-1994	\$27,979	The Minnesota State Compensation Council recommended a salary of \$27,979 pursuant to 1992 Minn. Stat. 15A.082 Subd. 3 There does not appear to be a corresponding law.	1/4/1993	up to 140%	140%	\$48	\$50
1991-1992	\$27,979	The Minnesota State Compensation Council recommended a salary of \$27,979 pursuant to 1990 Minn. Stat. 15A.082 Subd. 3 There does not appear to be a corresponding law.	1/7/1991	up to 140%	140%	\$48	\$50
1990	\$26,395	1987 Minn. Laws Chap. 404 Sec. 43 Subd. 2	1/1/1990	up to 140%	140%	\$48	\$48
1989	\$25,138	1987 Minn. Laws Chap. 404 Sec. 43 Subd. 2	1/1/1989	up to 140%	140%	\$48	\$48

1988	\$23,941	1985 Minn. Laws First Spl. Sess. Chap. 13 Sec. 52	1/1/1988	up to 140%	140%	\$36	\$36
1987	\$23,244	1985 Minn. Laws First Spl. Sess. Chap. 13 Sec. 52	1/1/1987	up to 140%	140%	\$36	\$36
1986	\$22,350	1984 Minn. Laws Chap. 654 Art. 2 Sec. 30	1/1/1986	up to 140%	140%	\$36/\$23	\$36
1985	\$21,140	1984 Minn. Laws Chap. 654 Art. 2 Sec. 30	1/1/1985	up to 140%	140%	\$36/\$23	\$36
1983-1984	\$18,500	1977 Minn. Laws Chap. 35 Sec. 10	1/1/1980	up to 140%	140%	\$36/\$23	\$36
1981-1982	\$18,500	1977 Minn. Laws Chap. 35 Sec. 10	1/1/1980	up to 140%	140%	\$36/\$23	\$36/\$23
1980	\$18,500	1977 Minn. Laws Chap. 35 Sec. 10	1/1/1980	The resolution on leadership compensation was suspended on January 28, 1980	140%	\$27/\$17	\$27/\$17
1979	\$16,500	1977 Minn. Laws Chap. 35 Sec. 10	1/1/1979	140%	140%	\$27/\$17	\$27/\$17
1977-1978	\$8,400	1971 Minn. Laws First Spl. Sess. Chap. 32 Sec. 22	1/2/1973			\$48/\$40	\$48/\$40
1975-1976	\$8,400	1971 Minn. Laws First Spl. Sess. Chap. 32 Sec. 22	1/2/1973			\$33/\$25	\$33/\$25
1973-1974	\$8,400	1971 Minn. Laws First Spl. Sess. Chap. 32 Sec. 22	1/2/1973			\$33/\$25	\$33/\$25
1971-1972	\$4,800	1965 Minn. Laws Chap. 881 Sec. 1	1/1/1967			\$24/\$16	\$24/\$16**
1969-1970	\$4,800	1965 Minn. Laws Chap. 881 Sec. 1	1/1/1967			\$24/\$16	\$24/\$16**
1967-1968	\$4,800	1965 Minn. Laws Chap. 881 Sec. 1	1/1/1967			\$21/\$14	\$21/\$14
1957-1966	\$2,400.00	1955 Minn. Laws Chap. 793 Sec. 1	1/1/1957				
1953-1956	\$1,500.00	1951 Minn. Laws Chap. 701 Sec. 1	1/1/1953				
1945-1952	\$1,000.00	1943 Minn. Laws Chap. 629 Sec. 1	1/2/1945				
1909-1944	\$500.00	1907 Minn. Laws Chap. 229	1/1/1909				
1872-1908?	\$5.00/day	"the senators and representatives are paid five dollars a day, and they receive free travel back and forth and about twenty dollars for stationary." "A Swedish Visitor of the Early Seventies," Minnnesota History Vol. 8, no. 4, December, 1927, p. 419.	1/1/1872				

* The source for these figures were based on memos from the Rules Committee which were decided upon for the interim at the end of the [2009](#), [2010](#), and [2015](#) sessions.

** The source for these figures are the Senate Journal in [1969](#) and [1971](#) rather than the Rules Committee.