

**CTAS**  
**COUNTY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICE**



PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO COUNTY OFFICIALS IN TENNESSEE

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE**  
**COUNTY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICE**

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**TECHNICAL BULLETIN**  
**98-7**

**COUNTY OFFICIALS' SALARIES**  
**FOR FY98-99**

**MAY 1998**



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May 1998

**TO:** County Officials

**FR:** J. Rodney Carmical 

**RE:** County Officials' Compensation FY 98-99

**County Officials.** The Tennessee General Assembly, in its 1996 legislative session, established a new method for determining compensation increases for county officials. The law contains a provision for an automatic percentage increase in officials' salary based on the percentage of compensation received by state employees for the previous fiscal year. The law requires the Commissioner of Finance and Administration to certify to the Comptroller of the Treasury the average annualized increase in state employees' compensation on or before May 1 of each year. The Commissioner certified that state employees received a compensation percentage increase of **4.38** for fiscal year 1997-98. The Comptroller received that certification on May 12. The certification provision and other requirements are contained in Section 8-24-102(e) of the **Tennessee Code Annotated** as follows:

*On July 1, 1997 and each July 1 thereafter, the compensation for county officials, as provided by this section, shall be increased by a **dollar amount** equal to the average annualized general increase in state employees' compensation during the prior fiscal year multiplied by the compensation established herein for the county officials of the county with the **median population** of all counties; provided, that in no year shall such compensation increase by more than seven percent (7%). On or before May 1 of each year, the commissioner of finance and administration shall certify to the comptroller of the treasury the average annualized general increase in state employees' compensation during that fiscal year.*

The tables on the following pages are our salary calculations for each official, according to the statutory population classes. To calculate your **dollar** increase, multiply the certified compensation percentage increase of **4.38** by last year's statutory salary for each official in the median county, which was Giles County (population class 23,000 to 34,999). **Please remember the increase is a dollar amount, NOT a percentage.** The only officials receiving a true 4.38% increase in salary are those in the same population class as the median county, or those with populations between 23,000 and 34,999. Others will receive either more than 4.38% (those with smaller populations) or less than 4.38% (more populous counties). This provision was placed in the law to equalize salaries across the state so that there would not be growing disparity in compensation between officials in large and small counties.



**Administrators of Elections.** Separate legislation (T.C.A. § 2-12-208) provides for minimum salaries for the administrator of elections which, after the phase-in period, are based upon percentages of the assessor's compensation. As with the statute discussed above, this law provides for yearly salary increases based upon increases for state employees during the prior fiscal year and calculated in the same manner. There is also a cap, although this law limits salary increases to ten percent (10%) (rather than seven percent (7%) in the other statute) in any year.

**General Sessions Judges.** During the 1998-99 fiscal year, general sessions court judges will receive two (2) increases, one on July 1 and one on September 1. These two increases are explained below.

On July 1, 1998, T.C.A. § 16-15-5003(f) provides that general sessions judges receive an annual adjustment to their salaries based on the change in the average consumer price index. For each two percent (2%) increase in the average consumer price index between two successive calendar years, the base salaries are to be adjusted by one percent (1%), up to a maximum of four percent (4%). According to figures received by CTAS, the CPI change between the two prior years is 2.3%. A 2.3% CPI increase results in an adjustment to the base salary (as previously adjusted for changes in CPI) of **one percent (1%)** effective July 1, 1998. This adjustment is made prior to the addition of any supplements to which your judge may be entitled.

On September 1, 1998, T.C.A. § 16-15-5003(i) provides for another increase in the amount of twenty percent (20%) of the total annual compensation (base compensation, supplements and annual CPI adjustments) which the judge was actually receiving as of August 31, 1998, up to a limit of \$10,000. Also beginning September 1, all judges in a county who have the same jurisdiction must be paid the same compensation which the highest paid of those judges receives.

We hope this information is helpful to you as you prepare budgets for fiscal year 1998-99. The above information is the increase for general sessions judges under T.C.A. § 16-15-5003. **Check with your judges, because in some counties private acts or other provisions of general law may apply.**

*CTAS cannot prepare salary schedules for general sessions court judges because the salaries in each county must be calculated separately after a thorough examination of the private acts and general laws that apply in that particular county.*

# COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Minimum Salaries  
Fiscal Year 1998-99

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Population Class	Total Budget FY 1998-1999 MINIMUM SALARY
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400,000 and more	\$100,751
275,000 to 399,999	\$ 93,244
250,000 to 274,999	\$ 86,891
225,000 to 249,999	\$ 83,081
200,000 to 224,999	\$ 79,961
175,000 to 199,999	\$ 76,496
150,000 to 174,999	\$ 73,031
125,000 to 149,999	\$ 69,566
100,000 to 124,999	\$ 66,101
65,000 to 99,999	\$ 64,369
50,000 to 64,999	\$ 61,481
35,000 to 49,999	\$ 55,706
23,000 to 34,999	\$ 53,396
12,000 to 22,999	\$ 48,776
5,000 to 11,999	\$ 42,424
Less than 5,000	\$ 39,536

- NOTES:
1. The County Executive's compensation shall be at least five percent (5%) higher than the maximum salary payable to any other county constitutional office. (T.C.A. § 8-24-102). The county legislative body may set the salary of the County Executive in an amount greater than the minimum salary noted above.
  2. The increase for FY98-99 over FY97-98 is \$2,241. This applies to all population classes except the population class of 125,000 to 149,999. For this class the dollar increase is \$3,731. (Seven percent cap phase-in)
  3. Salaries effective July 1, 1998.

# COUNTY HIGHWAY OFFICIALS

Minimum Salaries  
Fiscal Year 1998-99

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Population Class	Total Budget FY 1998-1999 MINIMUM SALARY
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400,000 and more	N/A
275,000 to 399,999	N/A
250,000 to 274,999	\$82,753
225,000 to 249,999	\$79,453
200,000 to 224,999	\$76,153
175,000 to 199,999	\$72,853
150,000 to 174,999	\$69,553
125,000 to 149,999	\$66,253
100,000 to 124,999	\$62,953
65,000 to 99,999	\$61,303
50,000 to 64,999	\$58,553
35,000 to 49,999	\$53,053
23,000 to 34,999	\$50,853
12,000 to 22,999	\$46,453
5,000 to 11,999	\$40,403
Less than 5,000	\$37,653

- NOTES:
1. The county legislative body may set the salary of the chief administrative officer in an amount greater than the minimum salary noted above. (T.C.A. § 8-24-102)
  2. The increase for FY98-99 over FY97-98 is \$2,134. This applies to all population classes except the population class of 125,000 to 149,999. For this class the dollar increase is \$3,553. (Seven percent cap phase-in)
  3. Salaries effective July 1, 1998.

**TRUSTEE**  
**CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT**  
**CLERK OF CRIMINAL COURT**  
**CLERK OF GENERAL SESSIONS COURT**  
**CLERK OF JUVENILE COURT**  
**CLERK OF PROBATE COURT**  
**CLERK & MASTER**  
**COUNTY CLERK**  
**REGISTER OF DEEDS**

Statutory Salaries  
 Fiscal Year 1998-99

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<b>Population Class</b>	<b>Total Budget FY 1998-1999 MINIMUM SALARY</b>
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400,000 and more	\$87,230
275,000 to 399,999	\$80,730
250,000 to 274,999	\$75,230
225,000 to 249,999	\$72,230
200,000 to 224,999	\$69,230
175,000 to 199,999	\$66,230
150,000 to 174,999	\$63,230
125,000 to 149,999	\$60,230
100,000 to 124,999	\$57,230
65,000 to 99,999	\$55,730
50,000 to 64,999	\$53,230
35,000 to 49,999	\$48,230
23,000 to 34,999	\$46,230
12,000 to 22,999	\$42,230
5,000 to 11,999	\$36,730
Less than 5,000	\$34,230

- NOTES:**
1. The increase for FY98-99 over FY97-98 is \$1,940. This applies to all population classes except the population class of 125,000 to 149,999. For this class the dollar increase is \$3,230. (Seven percent cap phase-in)
  2. Salaries effective July 1, 1998.

# COUNTY SHERIFF

## Minimum Salaries Fiscal Year 1998-99

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Population Class	Total Budget FY 1998-1999 MINIMUM SALARY
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400,000 and more	\$95,953
275,000 to 399,999	\$88,803
250,000 to 274,999	\$82,753
225,000 to 249,999	\$79,453
200,000 to 224,999	\$76,153
175,000 to 199,999	\$72,853
150,000 to 174,999	\$69,553
125,000 to 149,999	\$66,253
100,000 to 124,999	\$62,953
65,000 to 99,999	\$61,303
50,000 to 64,999	\$58,553
35,000 to 49,999	\$53,053
23,000 to 34,999	\$50,853
12,000 to 22,999	\$46,453
5,000 to 11,999	\$40,403
Less than 5,000	\$37,653

- NOTES:**
1. Sheriffs may receive additional compensation set by the county legislative body for ex-officio services as workhouse superintendent. (T.C.A. §§ 8-24-103(a)(3); 8-24-111)
  2. The increase for FY98-99 over FY97-98 is \$2,134. This applies to all population classes except the population class of 125,000 to 149,999. For this class the dollar increase is \$3,553. (Seven percent cap phase-in)
  3. Salaries effective July 1, 1998.

**ASSESSOR OF PROPERTY**

**Minimum Salaries  
Fiscal Year 1998-99**

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<b>Population Class</b>	<b>Total Budget FY 1998-1999 MINIMUM SALARY</b>
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400,000 and more	\$87,230
275,000 to 399,999	\$80,730
250,000 to 274,999	\$75,230
225,000 to 249,999	\$72,230
200,000 to 224,999	\$69,230
175,000 to 199,999	\$66,230
150,000 to 174,999	\$63,230
125,000 to 149,999	\$60,230
100,000 to 124,999	\$57,230
65,000 to 99,999	\$55,730
50,000 to 64,999	\$53,230
35,000 to 49,999	\$48,230
23,000 to 34,999	\$46,230
12,000 to 22,999	\$42,230
5,000 to 11,999	\$36,730
Less than 5,000	\$34,230

- NOTES:**
- 1. The county legislative body may provide additional compensation for the assessor. (T.C.A. § 67-1-508)**
  - 2. The increase for FY98-99 over FY97-98 is \$1,940. This applies to all population classes except the population class of 125,000 to 149,999. For this class the dollar increase is \$3,230. (Seven percent cap phase-in)**
  - 3. Salaries effective July 1, 1998.**

# ADMINISTRATOR OF ELECTIONS

Minimum Salaries  
Fiscal Year 1998-99

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Population Class	Total Budget FY 1998-1999 MINIMUM SALARY
400,000 and more	\$67,840
275,000 to 399,999	\$72,657
250,000 to 274,999	\$67,707
225,000 to 249,999	\$65,007
200,000 to 224,999	\$62,307
175,000 to 199,999	\$59,607
150,000 to 174,999	\$56,907
125,000 to 149,999	\$52,268
100,000 to 124,999	\$51,507
65,000 to 99,999	\$50,157 <sup>(1)</sup>
50,000 to 64,999	\$47,907
35,000 to 49,999	\$37,125
23,000 to 34,999	\$36,984
12,000 to 22,999	\$33,784
5,000 to 11,999	\$29,384
Less than 5,000	\$27,384 <sup>(2)</sup>

(1) Wilson County's salary for FY98-99 is \$49,500  
(Limited to 10% maximum increase)

(2) Van Buren County's salary for FY98-99 is \$26,656  
(Limited to 10% maximum increase)

NOTE: Salaries effective July 1, 1998.

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