



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

**TECHNICAL BULLETIN
96-1**

**COUNTY OFFICIALS' SALARIES
FOR FY 96-97**

MAY 1996



May 1, 1996

TO: County Officials

FR: J. Rodney Carmical

RE: County Officials' Compensation FY96-97

*** IMPORTANT NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS BEING PROVIDED TO YOU FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY. THE GOVERNOR HAS NOT ACTED ON THESE BILLS AS OF THIS DATE.**

COUNTY OFFICIALS

As you will recall, in the 1993 legislative session, Public Chapter 460 was adopted which created a temporary commission known as the Citizens' Commission on Government Officials Compensation. Their responsibility was to investigate and study the duties and responsibilities of the various county offices and recommend to the 1995 Session of the General Assembly a county officials' compensation plan. That study, with tremendous input from all association directors (TCSA, COAT, TCHOA, TACE, TCCA and TSA), resulted in the introduction of Senate Bill 869 and House Bill 1352, to establish a new county population classification and provide increases in compensation for county officials for FY95-96. In the 1995 session of the General Assembly, the Senate and House adopted different amended versions of the salary bill. They were unable to concur on the amendments and the bill was referred to Conference Committee for study in the summer of 1995.

The Conference Committee's Report on HB 1352/SB 869, has been adopted by the 99th Tennessee General Assembly. As a result of that action, county officials compensation will be increased for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1996. The percentage of increase varies by county, **with a first year cap of 7%**, and is based on the county's population position in the newly established county population classifications. (See Schedule attached.) The 1996 salary bill provides base salary schedules for three categories of county officers: (1) "general officers" which include assessors of property, county clerks, clerks of court, trustees, and registers of deeds; (2) sheriffs and chief administrative officers of highway departments; and (3) county executives.

Under the new salary schedule, all county officers receive an increase; however, in order to prevent a disproportionate impact in some counties during the first few years of implementation, the bill provides that no official may receive more than a 7% increase in any fiscal year. Any remaining

amount will be carried over to succeeding years until all officials receive the compensation stated in the salary schedule, plus annual increases. The bill also provides that salary amounts are to be increased annually, based on the percentage increase for state employees in the previous fiscal year. ?

The salary bill also sets out 16 new county population classes for the purpose of determining the compensation of county officers. County populations are determined initially by the 1990 federal census. A county moves into another class only as a result of the most recent succeeding federal census or a special census, which can be taken by the federal census bureau or in a manner approved by the commissioner of economic and community development. A county must take a special census at its own expense, and may not take more than three between regular federal censuses.

GENERAL SESSIONS JUDGES

General sessions judges, while not covered under the new salary bill, will also receive an increase for the 1996-97 fiscal year. According to the statutory formula in *Tennessee Code Annotated* Section 16-15-5003(f)(2), the base salary of general sessions judges is to be increased by 1% for every 2% increase in the average consumer price index between the two previous years. According to figures received by CTAS, the CPI change between 1994 and 1995 is 2.8%; therefore, the base salary is increased by 1% for the coming fiscal year. Note that the increase applies only to the **base** salary, not to any supplements. Note also that many counties have private acts which affect the general sessions judges' salaries. Since each county must be calculated individually, there is no schedule reflecting these salaries in the following pages.

CERTIFIED REGISTRARS-AT-LARGE

The Registrars-at-Large will receive a salary increase enacted by SB 2095/ HB 2085. For the coming fiscal year all will receive a 7% increase over last year's salary because, like the other salary bill, this one contains a 7% cap for the first year. The state will contribute an additional \$3,000 per county to offset these increases. Note that this bill is separate from the one discussed above and requires independent action by the Governor.

SALARY SCHEDULES

The following pages set out the 1996-97 fiscal year salary schedules according to the new county population classes for each county office. In some cases, the 7% cap discussed above limits the increase for this year so that the actual salary is less than the base amount specified in the bill. Those cases are explained in footnotes. If you have questions regarding any of this information, please contact the CTAS field representative for your county.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Minimum Salaries
Fiscal Year 1996-97

1990 Population	Total Budget FY 1996-1997 MINIMUM SALARY
-----------------	--

400,000 and more	\$97,020
275,000 to 399,999	\$89,513
250,000 to 274,999	\$83,160
225,000 to 249,999	\$79,350
200,000 to 224,999	\$76,230
175,000 to 199,999	\$72,765
150,000 to 174,999	\$69,300
125,000 to 149,999	\$62,365 *
100,000 to 124,999	\$60,638 *
65,000 to 99,999	\$60,638 (1)
50,000 to 64,999	\$57,750
35,000 to 49,999	\$50,625 *
23,000 to 34,999	\$49,665
12,000 to 22,999	\$45,045
5,000 to 11,999	\$38,693
less than 5,000	\$35,805

***Limited to a 7% Maximum Increase**

(1) *Wilson County* salary for FY96-97 is \$59,063 (limited to a 7% maximum increase)

NOTE: The County Executive's compensation shall be at least five percent (5%) higher than the maximum salary payable to any other county constitutional office. (8-24-102)

Salaries effective July 1, 1996.

COUNTY HIGHWAY OFFICIALS

Minimum Salaries
Fiscal Year 1996-97

1990 Population	Total Budget FY 1996-1997 MINIMUM SALARY
400,000 and more	N/A
275,000 to 399,999	N/A
250,000 to 274,999	\$79,200
225,000 to 249,999	\$75,900
200,000 to 224,999	\$72,600
175,000 to 199,999	\$69,300
150,000 to 174,999	\$66,000
125,000 to 149,999	\$59,395 *
100,000 to 124,999	\$59,395 *
65,000 to 99,999	\$57,750 (1)
50,000 to 64,999	\$55,000
35,000 to 49,999	\$48,215 *
23,000 to 34,999	\$47,300
12,000 to 22,999	\$42,900
5,000 to 11,999	\$36,850
less than 5,000	\$34,100

***Limited to a 7% Maximum Increase**

(1) *Wilson County* salary for FY96-97 is \$56,250 (limited to a 7% maximum increase)

NOTE: The county legislative body may set the salary of the chief administrative officer in an amount greater than the minimum salary noted above.

Salaries effective July 1, 1996

COUNTY SHERIFF

Minimum Salaries

Fiscal Year 1996-97

1990 Population	Total Budget FY 1996-1997 MINIMUM SALARY
------------------------	---

400,000 and more	\$92,400
275,000 to 399,999	\$85,250
250,000 to 274,999	\$79,200
225,000 to 249,999	\$75,900
200,000 to 224,999	\$72,600
175,000 to 199,999	\$69,300
150,000 to 174,999	\$66,000
125,000 to 149,999	\$59,395 *
100,000 to 124,999	\$59,395 *
65,000 to 99,999	\$57,750 (1)
50,000 to 64,999	\$55,000
35,000 to 49,999	\$48,215 *
23,000 to 34,999	\$47,300
12,000 to 22,999	\$42,900
5,000 to 11,999	\$36,850
less than 5,000	\$34,100

***Limited to a 7% Maximum Increase**

(1) *Wilson County* salary for FY96-97 is \$56,250 (limited to a 7% maximum increase)

NOTE: 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)

Salaries effective July 1, 1996.

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

Salaries
 Fiscal Year 1996-97

1990 Population	Total Budget FY 1996-1997
400,000 and more	\$84,000
275,000 to 399,999	\$77,500
250,000 to 274,999	\$72,000
225,000 to 249,999	\$69,000
200,000 to 224,999	\$66,000
175,000 to 199,999	\$63,000
150,000 to 174,999	\$60,000
125,000 to 149,999	\$53,995 *
100,000 to 124,999	\$53,995 *
65,000 to 99,999	\$52,500 (1)
50,000 to 64,999	\$50,000
35,000 to 49,999	\$43,831 *
23,000 to 34,999	\$43,000
12,000 to 22,999	\$39,000
5,000 to 11,999	\$33,500
less than 5,000	\$31,000

***Limited to a 7% Maximum Increase**

(1) *Wilson County* salary for FY96-97 is \$51,136 (limited to a 7% maximum increase)

Salaries effective July 1, 1996.

ASSESSOR OF PROPERTY

Minimum Salaries
Fiscal Year 1996-97

	Total Budget
	FY 1996-1997
1990 Population	MINIMUM SALARY

400,000 and more	\$84,000
275,000 to 399,999	\$77,500
250,000 to 274,999	\$72,000
225,000 to 249,999	\$69,000
200,000 to 224,999	\$66,000
175,000 to 199,999	\$63,000
150,000 to 174,999	\$60,000
125,000 to 149,999	\$53,995 *
100,000 to 124,999	\$53,995 *
65,000 to 99,999	\$52,500 (1)
50,000 to 64,999	\$50,000
35,000 to 49,999	\$43,831 *
23,000 to 34,999	\$43,000
12,000 to 22,999	\$39,000
5,000 to 11,999	\$33,500
less than 5,000	\$31,000

***Limited to a 7% Maximum Increase**

(1) *Wilson County* salary for FY96-97 is \$51,136 (limited to a 7% maximum increase)

NOTE: The county legislative body may provide additional compensation for the assessor. (T.C.A. 67-1-508)

Salaries effective July 1, 1996.

CERTIFIED REGISTRAR-AT-LARGE

Minimum Salaries
Fiscal Year 1996-97

1990 Population	Total Budget FY 1996-1997**
400,000 and more	\$56,066
275,000 to 399,999	\$63,629
250,000 to 274,999	\$64,800
225,000 to 249,999	\$62,100
200,000 to 224,999	\$59,400
175,000 to 199,999	\$56,700
150,000 to 174,999	\$54,000
125,000 to 149,999	\$43,196
100,000 to 124,999	\$43,196
65,000 to 99,999	\$43,196 (1 & 2)
50,000 to 64,999	\$40,909
35,000 to 49,999	\$30,682
23,000 to 34,999	\$30,682
12,000 to 22,999	\$28,124
5,000 to 11,999	\$24,290
less than 5,000	\$23,012 (3)

****All increases limited to a maximum of 7%**

(1) Anderson and Bradley Counties salary FY 96-97 is \$42,998
(limited to 7% maximum increase)

(2) Wilson County salary FY 96-97 is \$40,909
(limited to 7% maximum increase)

(3) Van Buren County salary FY 96-97 is \$22,021
(limited to 7% maximum increase)

NOTE: The state will increase by \$3,000 its contribution to counties with Certified Registrar-at-Large for FY 96-97.

Salaries effective July 1, 1996.