

House Committee Staff Pay, Selected Positions, 2001-2025

Updated September 11, 2026

Congressional Research Service

<https://crsreports.congress.gov>

R44322



R44322

September 11, 2026

R. Eric Petersen

Specialist in American
National Government

Jane M. Wright

Research Assistant

House Committee Staff Pay, Selected Positions, 2001-2025

The level of pay for congressional staff is a source of recurring interest among Members of Congress, congressional staff, and the public. There may be interest in congressional pay data from multiple perspectives, including assessment of the costs of congressional operations; guidance in setting pay levels for staff in committee offices; or comparison of congressional staff pay levels with those of other federal government pay systems.

This report provides pay data for the following 14 staff position titles that are used in House committees: Chief Clerk; Chief Counsel; Clerk; Communications Director; Counsel; Deputy Staff Director; General Counsel; Minority Professional Staff Member; Professional Staff Member; Senior Counsel; Senior Professional Staff Member; Staff Assistant; Staff Director; and Subcommittee Staff Director. The following table provides 2025 pay levels and the change in median pay levels for these positions in 2026 dollars, between 2024 and 2025.

2025 Median Pay and Percentage Change for Selected Staff Positions in House Committees, 2026 Dollars, and Percentage Change, 2024-2025

Position	2025 Pay, 2026\$	Change, 2024-2025	Position	2025 Pay, 2026\$	Change, 2024-2025
Chief Clerk	\$169,625	13.25%	Minority Professional Staff Member	\$103,657	-22.43%
Chief Counsel	\$197,611	-1.87%	Professional Staff Member	\$129,509	3.74%
Clerk	\$96,955	-22.83%	Senior Counsel	\$162,317	-1.99%
Communications Director	\$178,736	2.75%	Senior Professional Staff Member	\$174,664	10.44%
Counsel	\$149,718	-1.67%	Staff Assistant	\$69,910	-1.32%
Deputy Staff Director	\$221,092	-0.24%	Staff Director	\$228,032	1.97%
General Counsel	\$212,746	-3.64%	Subcommittee Staff Director	\$196,982	0.54%

Source: *Statement of Disbursements of the House*, as collated by LegiStorm, various years, and CRS calculations based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the first half of 2026. “—” indicates no data available.

Report tables provide aggregate statistics on pay for each staff position for 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021-2025, including quartiles, median pay, and average pay, based on available data. Graphic displays are also included, providing representations of pay from the following two perspectives:

- a line graph showing change in median pay, 2001-2025, in nominal (current) and 2026 dollars; and
- distributions of 2025 pay in 2026 dollars, in \$10,000 increments.

Other data, which may not represent the entire 2001-2025 period, are available to congressional staff upon request.

The Congressional Research Service provides a number of products on congressional staffing matters. These include CRS Report R44323, *Staff Pay, Selected Positions in House Member Offices, 2001-2025*; CRS Report R44324, *Staff Pay, Selected Positions in Senators’ Offices, FY2001-FY2025*; CRS Report R44325, *Senate Committee Staff Pay, Selected Positions, FY2001-FY2025*; and CRS Report R46262, *Congressional Staff: Duties and Qualifications Identified by Members of Congress for Selected Positions*.

Contents

Introduction	1
Data Concerns	2
Data Tables and Visualizations.....	2
House Committee Staff Pay Tables	3

Tables

Table 1. House Committee Staff Pay, Annual Maximums, 2001-2026	3
Table 2. 2025 Median Pay in 2026 Dollars, and Changes in Pay for Selected House Committee Staff, Members of Congress, and Selected General Schedule Employees	5
Table 3. Chief Clerk	6
Table 4. Chief Counsel	7
Table 5. Clerk	8
Table 6. Communications Director.....	9
Table 7. Counsel	10
Table 8. Deputy Staff Director	11
Table 9. General Counsel	12
Table 10. Minority Professional Staff Member	13
Table 11. Professional Staff Member	14
Table 12. Senior Counsel.....	15
Table 13. Senior Professional Staff Member	16
Table 14. Staff Assistant	17
Table 15. Staff Director	18
Table 16. Subcommittee Staff Director	19

Contacts

Author Information.....	20
Acknowledgments	20

Introduction

Levels of pay for congressional staff are a source of recurring interest among Members of Congress, congressional staff, and the public. In House committees, the chair and ranking member set the terms and conditions of employment for majority and minority staff, respectively. This includes job titles and descriptions, as well as rates of pay, subject to maximum levels.¹ There may be interest in congressional pay data from multiple perspectives, including assessment of the costs of congressional operations; guidance in setting pay levels for staff in committee offices; consideration by staff when negotiating compensation for a new position or promotion; or comparison of congressional staff pay levels with those of other federal government pay systems.

Publicly available information sources do not provide aggregated congressional staff pay data in a readily retrievable form. Pay² information in this report is based on the House *Statement of Disbursements* (SOD), published quarterly by the Chief Administrative Officer,³ as collated by LegiStorm, a private entity that provides some congressional data by subscription.⁴ Data in this report are based on official House reports, which afford the opportunity to use consistently collected data from a single, authoritative source. Additionally, this report provides annual data, which allows for observations about the nature of House committee staff compensation over time.

This report provides pay data for 14 staff position titles that are used in House committees, and for which sufficient data could be identified. The positions include the following:

Chief Clerk	Deputy Staff Director	Senior Professional Staff Member
Chief Counsel	General Counsel	Staff Assistant
Clerk	Minority Professional Staff Member	Staff Director
Communications Director	Professional Staff Member	Subcommittee Staff Director
Counsel	Senior Counsel	

When committees had more than two staff members with the same job title, data for no more than two staff per committee were collected. House committee staff had to hold a position with the same job title on the same committee for the entire year examined and not receive pay from any other congressional employing authority for their data to be included. Every recorded payment ascribed in the LegiStorm data to those staff for the year is tabulated. Data collected for this report may differ from an employee's stated annual salary due to the inclusion of overtime, bonuses, or other payments in addition to base salary paid in the course of a year.

The Congressional Research Service provides a number of products on congressional staffing matters. These include CRS Report R44323, *Staff Pay, Selected Positions in House Member Offices, 2001-2025*; CRS Report R44324, *Staff Pay, Selected Positions in Senators' Offices, FY2001-FY2023*; CRS Report R44325, *Senate Committee Staff Pay, Selected Positions, FY2001-FY2025*; and CRS Report R46262, *Congressional Staff: Duties and Qualifications Identified by Members of Congress for Selected Positions*.

¹ Effective January 17, 2025, the maximum annual pay for House staff, a figure that has increased over time, is the equivalent of Level II of the Executive Schedule, \$228,000 for 2026. A minimum salary of \$45,000 per year was also established. See Order of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, January 17, 2025, set out as a note following 2 U.S.C. 4532. Maximum payable rates for House committee staff since 2001 are available in **Table 1**.

² In this report, pay refers to monies paid by the House to staff, and excludes other components of total compensation, which might include paid leave or employer contributions to various insurance and retirement benefits.

³ Volumes of the *Statement of Disbursements* since July 2009 are available at <http://disbursements.house.gov/>.

⁴ <http://www.legistorm.com/>.

Data Concerns

Data presented here are subject to some challenges that could affect findings presented or their interpretation. Some of the concerns include the following:

- Given the large number of positions in committees with titles held by one House employee, data provided here almost certainly do not represent all the jobs carried out by House committee staff.
- The way staff titles are assigned might have implications regarding the representativeness of the data provided. Of positions for which data were collected, two broad categories emerge. The first category identifies position titles that usually appear to apply to one staff member per committee.⁵ Since almost all available data were collected for those positions, pay information provided is likely to be highly representative of what House committees pay staff in those positions. The second category includes positions for which committees might hire two or more staff members.⁶ Since pay data were collected for no more than two staff per committee for each position, it is more likely that data for those positions are a sample of staff in those positions rather than nearly complete data. Those data may be less closely representative of what all staff in those positions are paid.
- Pay data provide no insight into the education, work experience, position tenure, and full- or part-time status of staff, or other potential explanations for levels of compensation.
- Differences might exist in the job duties of staff in positions with the same title. Aggregation of pay by job title rests on the assumption that staff with the same title carry out the same or similar tasks. Given the wide discretion congressional employing authorities have in setting the terms and conditions of employment, there may be differences in the duties of similarly titled staff that could affect their levels of pay.

Data Tables and Visualizations

Tables in this section provide background information on House pay practices, comparative data for each position, and detailed data and visualizations for each position. Constant dollar calculations throughout the report are based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), various years, expressed in 2026 dollars.⁷

Table 1 provides the maximum payable rates for House committee staff since 2001 in both nominal (current) and 2026 dollars.

Table 2 provides 2025 pay levels in median pay in 2026 dollars and percentage changes for each of the 14 positions; for Members of Congress; and for salaries paid under the General Schedule in Washington, DC, and surrounding areas and in the Rest of the United States (RUS) area.

⁵ Positions that typically employ one staff member per committee include communications director, deputy staff director, and staff director.

⁶ Positions that typically employ two or more staff members per committee include counsel, staff assistant, and professional staff member.

⁷ 2026 CPI-U based on the first half of the year.

Table 3 through **Table 16** provide available tabular pay data for each staff position for 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021-2025, including data distributed by quartile, median pay, and average pay. Staff pay tables also provide a comparison, at various intervals to 2025, based on data availability, of the cumulative percentage change in median pay for that position, in 2026 dollars.

Graphic displays are also included for each position, providing representations of pay from the following two perspectives:

- distributions of 2025 pay in 2026 dollars, in \$10,000 increments; and
- a line graph showing changes in median pay, 2001-2025 (or available data), in nominal (current) and 2026 dollars.

House Committee Staff Pay Tables

Table 1. House Committee Staff Pay, Annual Maximums, 2001-2026

Year	Nominal \$	2026 \$	Year	Nominal \$	2026 \$
2001	\$143,600	\$268,165	2014	\$172,500	\$240,985
2002	\$148,500	\$272,999	2015	\$172,500	\$240,700
2003	\$153,200	\$275,364	2016	\$172,500	\$237,701
2004	\$156,600	\$274,174	2017	\$172,500	\$232,743
2005	\$160,600	\$271,962	2018	\$172,500	\$227,194
2006	\$163,700	\$268,549	2019	\$172,500	\$223,150
2007	\$163,700	\$261,112	2020	\$173,900	\$222,220
2008	\$167,800	\$257,755	2021	\$199,300	\$243,249
2009	\$172,500	\$265,921	2022	\$203,700	\$230,198
2010	\$172,500	\$261,630	2023	\$212,100	\$230,214
2011	\$172,500	\$253,624	2024	\$212,100	\$233,618
2012	\$172,500	\$248,482	2025	\$225,700	\$230,346
2013	\$172,500	\$244,895	2026	\$228,000	\$228,000

Source: 2 U.S.C. 4532 note, CRS calculations based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the first half of 2026.

Interpreting Pay Tables: Statistics Describing Pay Data

For each year that data are available, statistical values for staff positions are included in **Table 3** through **Table 16**, including the following:

Minimum & Maximum	The smallest and largest pay level, respectively, for each position
Average (Mean)	The mean is the average of a list of numbers, in which the sum of all the values is divided by the total number of values. For example, if three salaries, \$30,000, \$45,000, and \$90,000, were identified for a given staff position, the average (mean) would be $(\$30,000 + \$45,000 + \$90,000) \div 3 = \$55,000$.
Median	The midpoint at which half of the numbers in a list are higher and the other half lower. For example, if three salaries, \$30,000, \$45,000, and \$90,000, were identified for a given staff position, the midpoint (median) would be \$45,000.
Statistical Quartiles	Statistical values that divide data into quarters for more detailed analysis. In a list of numbers, Quartile 1 (Q1) is a number that falls in the middle between the lowest number, or minimum, and the median. For example, if Q1 for a given staff position was \$50,000, this would indicate that 25% of employees in that position make \$50,000 or less. Quartile 2 (Q2) is also the median. Quartile 3 (Q3) is a number that falls in the middle between the median and the highest number in the list, or maximum. Numbers between Q1 and Q3 compose the interquartile range, the difference between the largest and smallest values in the middle 50% of a list of numbers. Quartiles might also be described as percentiles, as shown below.

Statistical Measures Used in Pay Tables

Minimum	Quartile 1 (Q1)	Quartile 2 (Q2) Median	Quartile 3 (Q3)	Maximum	Average
Lowest number in a list	25 th Percentile 25% of staff make less than Q1 Middle number between Minimum and Median Lower Quartile	50 th Percentile 50% of staff make less than Q2 Median—midpoint at which half of the numbers in a list are higher and the other half lower Interquartile Range = Q3-Q1	75 th percentile 75% of staff make less than Q3 Middle number between Median and Maximum Upper Quartile	Highest number in a list	The mean, or number expressing the central value in a set of data

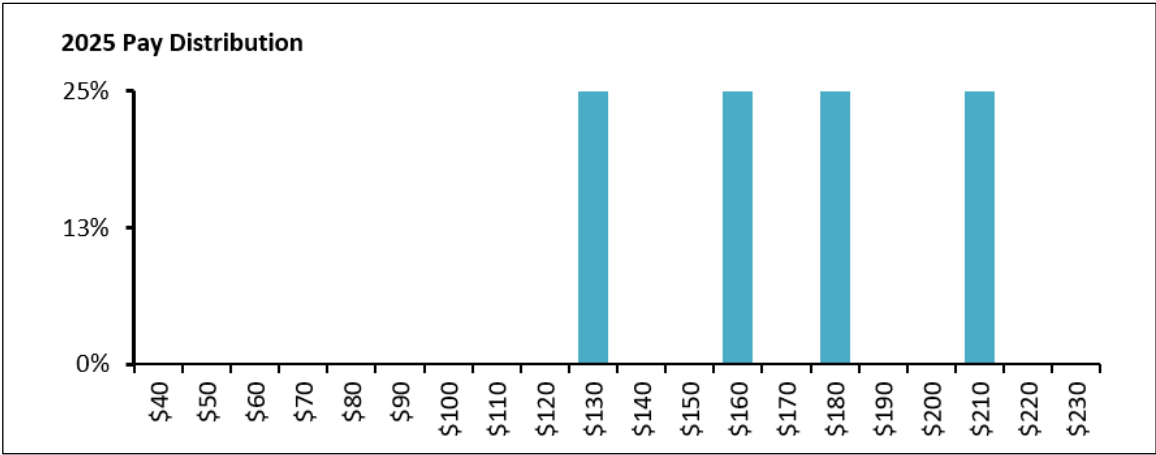
Table 2. 2025 Median Pay in 2026 Dollars, and Changes in Pay for Selected House Committee Staff, Members of Congress, and Selected General Schedule Employees

	2025 Pay, 2026\$	2024- 2025	2021- 2025	2016- 2025	2011- 2025	2006- 2025	2001- 2025
Chief Clerk	\$169,625	13.25%	—	—	—	—	—
Chief Counsel	\$197,611	-1.87%	-7.35%	-10.42%	-16.10%	-20.88%	-11.15%
Clerk	\$96,955	-22.83%	-3.61%	12.58%	—	—	—
Communications Director	\$178,736	2.75%	3.22%	2.94%	17.80%	-5.79%	—
Counsel	\$149,718	-1.67%	-1.87%	11.39%	-10.16%	-21.08%	0.41%
Deputy Staff Director	\$221,092	-0.24%	2.15%	-5.62%	-11.29%	—	—
General Counsel	\$212,746	-3.64%	-0.40%	—	—	—	—
Minority Prof. Staff Member	\$103,657	-22.43%	-26.79%	-28.77%	—	-26.98%	-37.51%
Professional Staff Member	\$129,509	3.74%	-1.17%	14.31%	-2.50%	-23.47%	-13.77%
Senior Counsel	\$162,317	-1.99%	-6.09%	-11.10%	-27.72%	—	—
Senior Professional Staff Mbr.	\$174,664	10.44%	-5.23%	13.26%	—	-14.54%	-20.34%
Staff Assistant	\$69,910	-1.32%	-7.86%	42.44%	2.28%	0.27%	-11.10%
Staff Director	\$228,032	1.97%	5.02%	-4.07%	-6.96%	-14.68%	-14.69%
Subcommittee Staff Director	\$196,982	0.54%	15.18%	6.75%	-14.57%	-11.32%	-8.54%
Congressional Staff Positions Pay Change Summary							
Increase		6	4	7	2	1	2
Decrease		8	9	5	7	8	6
Members of Congress, General Schedule Pay Change							
MCs	\$178,746	-2.56%	-15.83%	-25.45%	-30.13%	-34.04%	-34.03%
General Schedule, DC	Varies	-0.40%	-2.12%	-2.45%	-5.38%	-2.39%	4.93%
General Schedule, RUS	Varies	-0.70%	-3.74%	-6.96%	-10.01%	-10.91%	-6.12%

Source: CRS calculations, based on data provided in **Table 3-Table 16** for congressional positions; CRS Report 97-1011, *Salaries of Members of Congress: Recent Actions and Historical Tables*, for Members of Congress; and the Office of Personnel Management for federal civilian workers in the District of Columbia and surrounding areas and rest of the U.S. localities, various years. Nominal Member pay in 2026 is \$174,000. General Schedule pay for individuals varies by grade, step, and locality, but percentage changes are consistent within each locality. “—” indicates no data available. 2026 dollars are based on Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the first half of 2026.

Table 3. Chief Clerk

Year	#	Nominal, Current \$						Constant, 2026 \$					
		Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average
2024	6	\$70,000	\$84,910	\$142,065	\$162,373	\$212,100	\$133,538	\$73,801	\$89,521	\$149,780	\$171,191	\$223,618	\$140,790
2025	4	\$127,500	\$149,931	\$166,204	\$183,808	\$210,233	\$167,535	\$130,124	\$153,017	\$169,625	\$187,592	\$214,561	\$170,984



Change	
2024-2025	13.25%

Dollars in figures are in thousands.

Source: *Statement of Disbursements of the House*, as collated by LegiStorm, various years, and CRS calculations. In the visualizations, position pay information based on 2026 dollars in thousands of dollars, or change in those levels, is presented in solid teal. “—” indicates no data available. 2026 dollars are based on Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the first half of 2026.

Table 4. Chief Counsel

Nominal, Current \$								Constant 2026 \$					
Year	#	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average
2001	4	\$114,529	\$116,473	\$119,093	\$122,329	\$126,123	\$119,709	\$213,876	\$217,506	\$222,399	\$228,443	\$235,527	\$223,550
2006	8	\$131,188	\$140,679	\$152,250	\$158,147	\$161,997	\$149,070	\$215,213	\$230,784	\$249,765	\$259,440	\$265,755	\$244,549
2011	7	\$156,400	\$159,130	\$160,188	\$167,344	\$170,696	\$162,890	\$229,952	\$233,966	\$235,522	\$246,044	\$250,971	\$239,495
2016	10	\$138,500	\$148,350	\$160,089	\$164,061	\$172,500	\$157,102	\$190,850	\$204,422	\$220,599	\$226,072	\$237,701	\$216,483
Most Recent Five Years													
2021	6	\$169,911	\$171,915	\$174,748	\$176,179	\$179,600	\$174,439	\$207,379	\$209,826	\$213,283	\$215,029	\$219,205	\$212,906
2022	12	\$155,000	\$174,500	\$181,425	\$187,557	\$195,042	\$179,469	\$175,163	\$197,199	\$205,025	\$211,955	\$220,413	\$202,815
2023	10	\$170,000	\$182,803	\$183,437	\$193,558	\$199,889	\$185,732	\$184,518	\$198,415	\$199,103	\$210,089	\$216,960	\$201,593
2024	10	\$181,989	\$186,166	\$191,000	\$200,681	\$208,058	\$193,426	\$191,872	\$196,276	\$201,372	\$211,579	\$219,357	\$203,930
2025	5	\$183,169	\$193,000	\$193,626	\$202,558	\$221,242	\$198,719	\$186,939	\$196,972	\$197,611	\$206,727	\$225,795	\$202,809

2025 Pay Distribution

Change

2024-2025	-1.87%
2021-2025	-7.35%
2016-2025	-10.42%
2011-2025	-16.10%
2006-2025	-20.88%
2001-2025	-11.15%

Dollars in figures are in thousands.

Median Pay

Source: *Statement of Disbursements of the House*, as collated by LegiStorm, various years, and CRS calculations. Percentage change is based on change in median pay for the periods noted. In the visualizations, position pay information based on 2026 dollars in thousands of dollars, or change in those levels, is presented in solid teal. 2026 dollars are based on Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the first half of 2026.

Table 5. Clerk

Nominal, Current \$								Constant 2026 \$					
Year	#	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average
2016	8	\$35,250	\$46,750	\$62,500	\$148,049	\$170,696	\$91,643	\$48,574	\$64,420	\$86,123	\$204,008	\$235,215	\$126,282
Most Recent Five Years													
2021	8	\$48,750	\$67,313	\$82,417	\$107,904	\$176,617	\$96,883	\$59,500	\$82,156	\$100,591	\$131,699	\$215,564	\$118,248
2022	11	\$54,400	\$80,650	\$92,971	\$112,897	\$207,963	\$109,133	\$61,476	\$91,141	\$105,065	\$127,582	\$235,015	\$123,330
2023	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2024	10	\$68,072	\$81,938	\$119,167	\$153,940	\$205,333	\$125,025	\$71,769	\$86,387	\$125,638	\$162,300	\$216,484	\$131,815
2025	6	\$58,603	\$82,500	\$95,000	\$136,958	\$201,652	\$113,255	\$59,809	\$84,198	\$96,955	\$139,777	\$205,803	\$115,587

2025 Pay Distribution

Pay (\$K)	Percentage (%)
\$60,000	18%
\$80,000	18%
\$90,000	34%
\$150,000	18%
\$200,000	18%

Change

2024-2025	-22.83%
2021-2025	-3.61%
2016-2025	12.58%

Dollars in figures are in thousands.

Median Pay

Year	Nominal \$ (K)	Constant \$ (K)
2014	~\$55	~\$100
2015	~\$130	~\$195
2016	~\$55	~\$100
2017	~\$55	~\$100
2018	~\$55	~\$100
2019	~\$55	~\$100
2020	~\$55	~\$100
2021	~\$55	~\$100
2022	~\$55	~\$100
2023	~\$55	~\$100
2024	~\$125	~\$125
2025	~\$115	~\$115

Source: *Statement of Disbursements of the House*, as collated by LegiStorm, various years, and CRS calculations. Percentage change is based on change in median pay for the periods noted. In the visualizations, position pay information based on 2026 dollars in thousands of dollars, or change in those levels, is presented in solid teal. 2026 dollars are based on Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the first half of 2026.

Table 6. Communications Director

Nominal, Current \$								Constant 2026 \$					
Year	#	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average
2006	5	\$56,250	\$93,074	\$115,647	\$131,109	\$154,083	\$111,987	\$92,278	\$152,688	\$189,718	\$215,084	\$252,772	\$183,714
2011	8	\$79,356	\$95,375	\$103,197	\$116,706	\$133,889	\$106,634	\$116,675	\$140,228	\$151,729	\$171,590	\$196,855	\$156,782
2016	20	\$91,000	\$104,050	\$126,000	\$147,813	\$168,411	\$129,035	\$125,396	\$143,378	\$173,625	\$203,682	\$232,066	\$177,808
Most Recent Five Years													
2021	15	\$107,000	\$127,980	\$141,875	\$151,439	\$170,000	\$139,047	\$130,595	\$156,202	\$173,161	\$184,835	\$207,488	\$169,710
2022	15	\$105,683	\$140,792	\$157,100	\$164,313	\$182,667	\$152,821	\$119,431	\$159,106	\$177,536	\$185,687	\$206,428	\$172,701
2023	13	\$109,695	\$155,428	\$167,492	\$185,900	\$199,889	\$167,162	\$119,063	\$168,702	\$181,796	\$201,776	\$216,960	\$181,438
2024	21	\$116,000	\$144,200	\$165,000	\$174,627	\$206,033	\$163,220	\$122,299	\$152,031	\$173,960	\$184,110	\$217,222	\$172,084
2025	15	\$137,587	\$156,342	\$175,132	\$186,210	\$217,950	\$174,595	\$140,419	\$159,559	\$178,736	\$190,043	\$222,436	\$178,189

2025 Pay Distribution

Change

2024-2025	2.75%
2021-2025	3.22%
2016-2025	2.94%
2011-2025	17.80%
2006-2025	-5.79%

Dollars in figures are in thousands.

Median Pay

Source: *Statement of Disbursements of the House*, as collated by LegiStorm, various years, and CRS calculations. Percentage change is based on change in median pay for the periods noted. In the visualizations, position pay information based on 2026 dollars in thousands of dollars, or change in those levels, is presented in solid teal. 2026 dollars are based on Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the first half of 2026.

Table 7. Counsel

Nominal, Current \$								Constant 2026 \$					
Year	#	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average
2001	16	\$45,930	\$62,958	\$79,848	\$94,407	\$139,559	\$82,257	\$85,772	\$117,571	\$149,112	\$176,300	\$260,618	\$153,611
2006	19	\$56,250	\$93,074	\$115,647	\$131,109	\$154,083	\$111,987	\$92,278	\$152,688	\$189,718	\$215,084	\$252,772	\$183,714
2011	10	\$89,333	\$99,290	\$113,347	\$121,114	\$142,015	\$112,227	\$131,345	\$145,984	\$166,652	\$178,071	\$208,803	\$165,006
2016	22	\$47,500	\$75,533	\$97,542	\$118,788	\$145,833	\$98,638	\$65,454	\$104,083	\$134,410	\$163,686	\$200,955	\$135,921
Most Recent Five Years													
2021	19	\$76,305	\$91,201	\$125,000	\$130,000	\$145,000	\$114,291	\$93,132	\$111,312	\$152,565	\$158,668	\$176,975	\$139,494
2022	24	\$67,500	\$113,672	\$134,854	\$145,198	\$187,139	\$132,735	\$76,281	\$128,458	\$152,396	\$164,086	\$211,482	\$150,002
2023	11	\$101,663	\$106,444	\$131,083	\$142,403	\$186,773	\$129,881	\$110,345	\$115,534	\$142,278	\$154,564	\$202,724	\$140,973
2024	19	\$77,000	\$133,131	\$144,417	\$154,973	\$190,000	\$141,269	\$81,182	\$140,360	\$152,259	\$163,389	\$200,318	\$148,940
2025	14	\$94,398	\$141,687	\$146,699	\$159,532	\$200,806	\$148,203	\$96,341	\$144,604	\$149,718	\$162,815	\$204,939	\$151,254

2025 Pay Distribution

Change

2024-2025	-1.67%
2021-2025	-1.87%
2016-2025	11.39%
2011-2025	-10.16%
2006-2025	-21.08%
2001-2025	0.41%

Dollars in figures are in thousands.

Median Pay

Source: *Statement of Disbursements of the House*, as collated by LegiStorm, various years, and CRS calculations. Percentage change is based on change in median pay for the periods noted. In the visualizations, position pay information based on 2026 dollars in thousands of dollars, or change in those levels, is presented in solid teal. 2026 dollars are based on Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the first half of 2026.

Table 8. Deputy Staff Director

Nominal, Current \$								Constant 2026 \$					
Year	#	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average
2011	6	\$80,000	\$154,584	\$169,516	\$170,696	\$172,500	\$152,038	\$117,623	\$227,282	\$249,236	\$250,971	\$253,624	\$223,539
2016	14	\$116,000	\$153,281	\$170,000	\$170,696	\$172,500	\$160,276	\$159,845	\$211,218	\$234,256	\$235,215	\$237,701	\$220,856
Most Recent Five Years													
2021	5	\$161,158	\$173,411	\$177,325	\$183,900	\$184,483	\$176,056	\$196,697	\$211,651	\$216,429	\$224,453	\$225,165	\$214,879
2022	12	\$165,000	\$183,435	\$189,428	\$199,367	\$208,583	\$188,697	\$186,463	\$207,296	\$214,069	\$225,301	\$235,716	\$213,243
2023	10	\$151,804	\$204,165	\$207,779	\$211,365	\$212,100	\$201,366	\$164,768	\$221,601	\$225,524	\$229,416	\$230,214	\$218,563
2024	19	\$76,333	\$201,947	\$210,208	\$212,100	\$212,100	\$198,548	\$80,479	\$212,914	\$221,624	\$223,618	\$223,618	\$209,330
2025	11	\$153,150	\$206,900	\$216,633	\$224,000	\$225,700	\$207,415	\$156,302	\$211,159	\$221,092	\$228,611	\$230,346	\$211,684

2025 Pay Distribution

Change

2024-2025	-0.24%
2021-2025	2.15%
2016-2025	-5.62%
2011-2025	-11.29%

Dollars in figures are in thousands.

Median Pay

Source: *Statement of Disbursements of the House*, as collated by LegiStorm, various years, and CRS calculations. Percentage change is based on change in median pay for the periods noted. In the visualizations, position pay information based on 2026 dollars in thousands of dollars, or change in those levels, is presented in solid teal. 2026 dollars are based on Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the first half of 2026.

Table 9. General Counsel

Nominal, Current \$								Constant 2026 \$					
Year	#	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average
2021	7	\$169,000	\$173,764	\$175,000	\$178,948	\$184,483	\$176,272	\$206,268	\$212,082	\$213,591	\$218,410	\$225,165	\$215,144
2022	9	\$117,578	\$184,167	\$185,889	\$195,951	\$202,233	\$182,467	\$132,873	\$208,123	\$210,070	\$221,441	\$228,540	\$206,203
2023	6	\$180,250	\$188,480	\$190,871	\$194,904	\$202,793	\$191,453	\$195,644	\$204,577	\$207,171	\$211,549	\$220,112	\$207,803
2024	5	\$194,033	\$201,050	\$209,402	\$209,402	\$212,100	\$205,197	\$204,570	\$211,968	\$220,774	\$220,774	\$223,618	\$216,341
2025	7	\$135,132	\$200,317	\$208,456	\$218,037	\$219,350	\$199,949	\$137,913	\$204,440	\$212,746	\$222,525	\$223,865	\$204,065

2025 Pay Distribution

Change

2024-2025	-3.64%
2021-2025	-0.40%

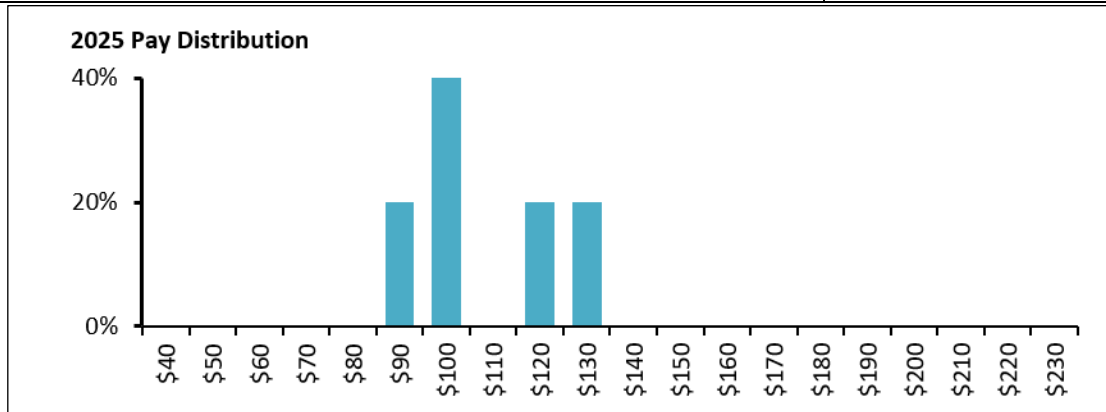
Dollars in figures are in thousands.

Median Pay

Source: *Statement of Disbursements of the House*, as collated by LegiStorm, various years, and CRS calculations. Percentage change is based on change in median pay for the periods noted. In the visualizations, position pay information based on 2026 dollars in thousands of dollars, or change in those levels, is presented in solid teal. 2026 dollars are based on Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the first half of 2026.

Table 10. Minority Professional Staff Member

Year	#	Nominal, Current \$						Constant, 2026 \$					
		Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average
2001	13	\$73,667	\$83,724	\$88,827	\$107,333	\$139,559	\$95,925	\$137,568	\$156,351	\$165,880	\$200,439	\$260,618	\$179,134
2006	13	\$77,333	\$79,140	\$86,530	\$91,687	\$95,000	\$85,913	\$126,865	\$129,829	\$141,952	\$150,413	\$155,847	\$140,940
2011	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2016	6	\$56,069	\$93,250	\$105,601	\$111,800	\$114,000	\$97,378	\$77,262	\$128,496	\$145,515	\$154,058	\$157,089	\$134,185
Most Recent Five Years													
2021	5	\$106,250	\$115,844	\$116,010	\$116,250	\$157,906	\$122,452	\$129,680	\$141,389	\$141,592	\$141,885	\$192,727	\$149,455
2022	8	\$67,556	\$102,083	\$123,500	\$162,948	\$171,250	\$124,740	\$76,343	\$115,362	\$139,565	\$184,144	\$193,526	\$140,967
2023	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2024	6	\$105,000	\$125,187	\$126,750	\$139,000	\$145,000	\$128,542	\$110,702	\$131,986	\$133,633	\$146,548	\$152,874	\$135,522
2025	5	\$91,652	\$99,900	\$101,567	\$122,437	\$133,808	\$109,873	\$93,538	\$101,956	\$103,657	\$124,957	\$136,562	\$112,134



Change	
2024-2025	-22.43%
2021-2025	-26.79%
2016-2025	-28.77%
2011-2025	—
2006-2025	-26.98%
2001-2025	-37.51%

Dollars in figures are in thousands.

Source: *Statement of Disbursements of the House*, as collated by LegiStorm, various years, and CRS calculations. In the visualizations, position pay information based on 2026 dollars in thousands of dollars, or change in those levels, is presented in solid teal. “—” indicates no data available. 2026 dollars are based on Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the first half of 2026.

Table 11. Professional Staff Member

Nominal, Current \$								Constant 2026 \$					
Year	#	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average
2001	24	\$45,930	\$74,404	\$80,423	\$90,000	\$140,865	\$79,533	\$85,772	\$138,945	\$150,186	\$168,070	\$263,057	\$148,523
2006	29	\$40,833	\$77,500	\$103,161	\$120,000	\$157,013	\$100,719	\$66,987	\$127,138	\$169,235	\$196,860	\$257,579	\$165,229
2011	22	\$49,000	\$73,167	\$90,344	\$118,419	\$142,000	\$94,787	\$72,044	\$107,576	\$132,832	\$174,109	\$208,780	\$139,363
2016	31	\$47,500	\$69,267	\$82,222	\$116,380	\$172,500	\$93,321	\$65,454	\$95,448	\$113,300	\$160,368	\$237,701	\$128,594
Most Recent Five Years													
2021	31	\$67,167	\$94,461	\$107,363	\$142,919	\$172,778	\$116,123	\$81,978	\$115,292	\$131,038	\$174,435	\$210,879	\$141,730
2022	33	\$86,525	\$107,467	\$126,250	\$137,856	\$197,074	\$129,449	\$97,780	\$121,446	\$142,673	\$155,788	\$222,710	\$146,288
2023	23	\$72,826	\$108,074	\$124,083	\$154,549	\$186,680	\$129,224	\$79,046	\$117,303	\$134,680	\$167,747	\$202,622	\$140,260
2024	26	\$75,000	\$107,661	\$118,404	\$136,125	\$186,333	\$123,803	\$79,073	\$113,508	\$124,834	\$143,517	\$196,452	\$130,526
2025	37	\$76,692	\$105,245	\$126,897	\$148,667	\$185,000	\$128,787	\$78,270	\$107,411	\$129,509	\$151,727	\$188,808	\$131,438

2025 Pay Distribution

Change

2024-2025	3.74%
2021-2025	-1.17%
2016-2025	14.31%
2011-2025	-2.50%
2006-2025	-23.47%
2001-2025	-13.77%

Dollars in figures are in thousands.

Median Pay

Source: *Statement of Disbursements of the House*, as collated by LegiStorm, various years, and CRS calculations. In the visualizations, position pay information based on 2026 dollars in thousands of dollars, or change in those levels, is presented in solid teal. “—” indicates no data available. 2026 dollars are based on Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the first half of 2026.

Table 12. Senior Counsel

Nominal, Current \$								Constant 2026 \$					
Year	#	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average
2011	5	\$128,242	\$141,303	\$152,735	\$156,878	\$158,069	\$147,445	\$188,552	\$207,755	\$224,564	\$230,655	\$232,405	\$216,786
2016	13	\$105,200	\$120,000	\$132,500	\$150,804	\$170,696	\$135,692	\$144,963	\$165,357	\$182,582	\$207,804	\$235,215	\$186,980
Most Recent Five Years													
2021	8	\$109,000	\$125,789	\$141,621	\$157,096	\$163,465	\$139,809	\$133,037	\$153,527	\$172,851	\$191,738	\$199,512	\$170,640
2022	6	\$111,234	\$133,950	\$148,300	\$148,325	\$160,673	\$141,001	\$125,704	\$151,374	\$167,591	\$167,619	\$181,573	\$159,343
2023	10	\$127,500	\$135,220	\$139,208	\$162,746	\$198,742	\$149,475	\$138,389	\$146,768	\$151,097	\$176,645	\$215,715	\$162,240
2024	10	\$140,000	\$146,252	\$157,089	\$184,808	\$202,850	\$164,511	\$147,603	\$154,194	\$165,620	\$194,844	\$213,866	\$173,445
2025	10	\$114,804	\$139,250	\$159,043	\$181,787	\$194,833	\$158,532	\$117,167	\$142,116	\$162,317	\$185,529	\$198,844	\$161,795

2025 Pay Distribution

Change

2024-2025	-1.99%
2021-2025	-6.09%
2016-2025	-11.10%
2011-2025	-27.72%

Dollars in figures are in thousands.

Median Pay

Source: *Statement of Disbursements of the House*, as collated by LegiStorm, various years, and CRS calculations. Percentage change is based on change in median pay for the periods noted. In the visualizations, position pay information based on 2026 dollars in thousands of dollars, or change in those levels, is presented in solid teal. 2026 dollars are based on Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the first half of 2026.

Table 13. Senior Professional Staff Member

Nominal, Current \$								Constant 2026 \$					
Year	#	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average
2001	6	\$73,169	\$99,137	\$117,411	\$123,874	\$125,123	\$108,698	\$136,639	\$185,133	\$219,258	\$231,327	\$233,659	\$202,987
2006	5	\$76,000	\$103,000	\$124,581	\$140,768	\$151,225	\$119,115	\$124,678	\$168,971	\$204,374	\$230,930	\$248,084	\$195,407
2011	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2016	11	\$55,000	\$99,920	\$111,918	\$128,277	\$166,917	\$113,685	\$75,789	\$137,687	\$154,220	\$176,762	\$230,007	\$156,655
Most Recent Five Years													
2021	9	\$84,500	\$148,500	\$151,000	\$168,067	\$179,935	\$149,849	\$103,134	\$181,247	\$184,298	\$205,129	\$219,614	\$182,893
2022	15	\$104,167	\$132,114	\$158,800	\$187,469	\$194,761	\$158,831	\$117,717	\$149,300	\$179,457	\$211,856	\$220,096	\$179,493
2023	8	\$111,189	\$149,561	\$163,829	\$180,802	\$211,501	\$164,583	\$120,685	\$162,334	\$177,820	\$196,243	\$229,564	\$178,639
2024	21	\$110,000	\$136,500	\$150,000	\$175,726	\$186,333	\$155,510	\$115,974	\$143,913	\$158,146	\$185,269	\$196,452	\$163,955
2025	14	\$129,817	\$145,042	\$171,141	\$179,673	\$225,700	\$167,278	\$132,489	\$148,027	\$174,664	\$183,371	\$230,346	\$170,721

2025 Pay Distribution

Pay Range (\$K)	Percentage (%)
\$120 - \$130	15%
\$130 - \$140	28%
\$140 - \$150	28%
\$150 - \$160	8%
\$160 - \$170	8%
\$170 - \$180	8%
\$180 - \$190	8%

Change

2024-2025	10.44%
2021-2025	-5.23%
2016-2025	13.26%
2011-2025	—
2006-2025	-14.54%
2001-2025	-20.34%

Dollars in figures are in thousands.

Median Pay

..... Nominal\$ — Constant\$

Source: *Statement of Disbursements of the House*, as collated by LegiStorm, various years, and CRS calculations. Percentage change is based on change in median pay for the periods noted. In the visualizations, position pay information based on 2026 dollars in thousands of dollars, or change in those levels, is presented in solid teal. 2026 dollars are based on Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the first half of 2026.

Table 14. Staff Assistant

Nominal, Current \$								Constant 2026 \$					
Year	#	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average
2001	20	\$25,750	\$33,314	\$42,111	\$65,763	\$124,500	\$54,489	\$48,087	\$62,213	\$78,640	\$122,808	\$232,497	\$101,755
2006	19	\$29,417	\$37,159	\$42,500	\$64,213	\$161,997	\$59,980	\$48,258	\$60,959	\$69,721	\$105,340	\$265,755	\$98,397
2011	12	\$30,000	\$39,734	\$46,491	\$66,699	\$153,000	\$63,876	\$44,108	\$58,420	\$68,354	\$98,066	\$224,953	\$93,916
2016	11	\$27,600	\$34,633	\$35,618	\$57,038	\$168,411	\$62,532	\$38,032	\$47,724	\$49,080	\$78,596	\$232,066	\$86,167
Most Recent Five Years													
2021	5	\$57,561	\$57,600	\$62,167	\$65,000	\$75,404	\$63,546	\$70,254	\$70,302	\$75,876	\$79,334	\$92,032	\$77,559
2022	5	\$49,167	\$58,167	\$62,333	\$71,633	\$77,755	\$47,644	\$55,562	\$65,733	\$70,442	\$80,951	\$87,869	\$53,841
2023	4	\$56,208	\$58,365	\$65,207	\$71,582	\$72,333	\$64,739	\$61,009	\$63,349	\$70,776	\$77,695	\$78,511	\$70,268
2024	7	\$62,088	\$63,792	\$67,196	\$80,112	\$87,047	\$72,020	\$65,459	\$67,256	\$70,845	\$84,463	\$91,774	\$75,931
2025	7	\$47,500	\$56,250	\$68,500	\$71,000	\$81,697	\$64,600	\$48,478	\$57,408	\$69,910	\$72,461	\$83,378	\$65,929

2025 Pay Distribution

Change

2024-2025	-1.32%
2021-2025	-7.86%
2016-2025	42.44%
2011-2025	2.28%
2006-2025	0.27%
2001-2025	-11.10%

Dollars in figures are in thousands.

Median Pay

Source: *Statement of Disbursements of the House*, as collated by LegiStorm, various years, and CRS calculations. Percentage change is based on change in median pay for the periods noted. In the visualizations, position pay information based on 2026 dollars in thousands of dollars, or change in those levels, is presented in solid teal. “—” indicates no data available. 2026 dollars are based on Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the first half of 2026.

Table 15. Staff Director

Year	#	Nominal, Current \$						Constant 2026 \$					
		Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average
2001	5	\$109,270	\$142,467	\$143,133	\$143,579	\$143,600	\$136,410	\$204,055	\$266,048	\$267,293	\$268,125	\$268,165	\$254,737
2006	10	\$134,000	\$145,637	\$162,916	\$163,700	\$163,700	\$154,948	\$219,826	\$238,917	\$267,264	\$268,549	\$268,549	\$254,192
2011	8	\$165,006	\$145,481	\$166,696	\$172,500	\$172,500	\$155,248	\$242,605	\$213,898	\$245,090	\$253,624	\$253,624	\$228,258
2016	20	\$136,000	\$167,614	\$172,500	\$172,500	\$172,500	\$167,253	\$187,405	\$230,968	\$237,701	\$237,701	\$237,701	\$230,470
Most Recent Five Years													
2021	13	\$142,933	\$173,411	\$177,900	\$184,483	\$184,483	\$175,914	\$174,453	\$211,651	\$217,130	\$225,165	\$225,165	\$214,707
2022	19	\$173,925	\$188,883	\$198,241	\$201,867	\$202,233	\$194,150	\$196,549	\$213,454	\$224,029	\$228,126	\$228,540	\$219,406
2023	10	\$179,387	\$204,675	\$208,844	\$212,053	\$212,100	\$205,833	\$194,707	\$222,155	\$226,680	\$230,163	\$230,214	\$223,412
2024	26	\$148,833	\$199,431	\$212,100	\$212,100	\$212,100	\$203,813	\$156,916	\$210,261	\$223,618	\$223,618	\$223,618	\$214,882
2025	17	\$174,167	\$203,619	\$223,433	\$225,700	\$225,700	\$215,543	\$177,752	\$207,810	\$228,032	\$230,346	\$230,346	\$219,980

2025 Pay Distribution

Salary Range (\$K)	Percentage (%)
\$160 - \$170	~5%
\$170 - \$180	~5%
\$180 - \$190	~15%
\$190 - \$200	~25%
\$200 - \$210	~35%
\$210 - \$220	~45%

Change

2024-2025	1.97%
2021-2025	5.02%
2016-2025	-4.07%
2011-2025	-6.96%
2006-2025	-14.68%
2001-2025	-14.69%

Dollars in figures are in thousands.

Median Pay

Source: *Statement of Disbursements of the House*, as collated by LegiStorm, various years, and CRS calculations. Percentage change is based on change in median pay for the periods noted. In the visualizations, position pay information based on 2026 dollars in thousands of dollars, or change in those levels, is presented in solid teal. 2026 dollars are based on Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the first half of 2026.

Table 16. Subcommittee Staff Director

Nominal, Current \$								Constant 2026 \$					
Year	#	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Q1	Q2, Median	Q3	Maximum	Average
2001	8	\$64,694	\$100,494	\$115,331	\$122,515	\$134,891	\$108,922	\$120,813	\$187,667	\$215,373	\$228,790	\$251,902	\$203,405
2006	14	\$91,761	\$131,415	\$135,406	\$151,311	\$161,745	\$138,231	\$150,534	\$215,586	\$222,133	\$248,225	\$265,342	\$226,768
2011	6	\$106,500	\$139,111	\$156,823	\$167,553	\$168,411	\$148,816	\$156,585	\$204,532	\$230,574	\$246,351	\$247,612	\$218,801
2016	12	\$110,000	\$128,000	\$133,917	\$160,175	\$168,411	\$140,225	\$151,577	\$176,381	\$184,534	\$220,717	\$232,066	\$193,226
Most Recent Five Years													
2021	8	\$123,000	\$131,204	\$140,125	\$148,458	\$173,411	\$141,712	\$150,124	\$160,137	\$171,025	\$181,196	\$211,651	\$172,963
2022	13	\$99,750	\$137,200	\$154,667	\$172,367	\$193,752	\$152,140	\$112,726	\$155,047	\$174,786	\$194,788	\$218,956	\$171,931
2023	10	\$156,304	\$172,480	\$187,934	\$195,425	\$200,000	\$183,287	\$169,653	\$187,210	\$203,984	\$212,114	\$217,080	\$198,940
2024	20	\$131,025	\$171,704	\$185,824	\$197,338	\$204,000	\$180,775	\$138,140	\$181,029	\$195,916	\$208,055	\$215,078	\$190,592
2025	10	\$133,169	\$162,787	\$193,009	\$198,438	\$208,567	\$180,736	\$135,910	\$166,138	\$196,982	\$202,522	\$212,860	\$184,456

2025 Pay Distribution

Change

2024-2025	0.54%
2021-2025	15.18%
2016-2025	6.75%
2011-2025	-14.57%
2006-2025	-11.32%
2001-2025	-8.54%

Dollars in figures are in thousands.

Median Pay

Source: *Statement of Disbursements of the House*, as collated by LegiStorm, various years, and CRS calculations. Percentage change is based on change in median pay for the periods noted. In the visualizations, position pay information based on 2026 dollars in thousands of dollars, or change in those levels, is presented in solid teal. 2026 dollars are based on Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the first half of 2026.

Author Information

R. Eric Petersen
Specialist in American National Government

Jane M. Wright
Research Assistant

Acknowledgments

A number of CRS staff made substantial contributions to this report. William T. Egar, former Analyst in American National Government, provided technical assistance and authored a section of the report. Sandra L. Edwards, User Support Specialist, and Andrew M. Schaefer, Editor, provided formatting, editorial, and production support.

Previous versions of the report were supported by the following. Tyler L. Wolanin, former Research Assistant, collected data and was a coauthor. Barbara L. Schwemle, Analyst in American National Government, provided technical assistance. Casey Burgat, former Research Assistant, provided update support. Jonathan P. Kardashian, User Support Specialist, Michael M. McCarthy, Editor, Claudia Guidi, formerly a User Support Specialist, and Alex Marine, former Editor, provided formatting, editorial, and production support. Jacobo Licon, Brian Hamel, Joe Wisniewski, and Claire Laurence, former CRS interns, collected data for this report.

Disclaimer

This document was prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). CRS serves as nonpartisan shared staff to congressional committees and Members of Congress. It operates solely at the behest of and under the direction of Congress. Information in a CRS Report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to Members of Congress in connection with CRS's institutional role. CRS Reports, as a work of the United States Government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS Report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS Report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain the permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.