



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

Matt Sawyers
COMMISSIONER

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January 27, 2026

Dear County Attorney:

In accordance with the provisions of KRS 15.765, the Department for Local Government calculates, by the second Friday in February of each year, the maximum allowable annual compensation for the office of County Attorney.

The county attorney, although a county constitutional officer under section 99 of the Kentucky Constitution and KRS 69.210, has been given a statewide function in his prosecutorial role. KRS 15.765(3), in conjunction with section 246 of the Kentucky Constitution, provides for the indexing of the \$12,000 maximum base compensation for this office. This adjusted compensation level shall be the maximum allowable compensation for the county attorney regardless of what he/she receives from the fiscal court as county attorney, the county's civil advisor, and from the state as a state prosecutor. This point has been established as early as 1928 in Coleman v. Hurst, 226 Ky. 501, 11 S.W.2d 133. The court ruled that the constitutional limit of compensation for constitutional officers applies whether such services are rendered in one position or more than one position.

The calculation below presents the maximum allowable salary for this office in 2026, and represents an adjustment of the constitutionally mandated \$12,000 maximum compensation for this office. This adjustment is conducted according to the conventional application of the Consumer Price Index as adopted by the courts in Matthews v. Allen, KY, 360 S.W.2d 135 (1962), and results in a maximum allowable annual compensation of \$163,146.55 for the office of County Attorney for 2026. The percentage increase over the previous twelve-month period is 2.7%.

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \frac{970.722}{71.4} & = & \frac{X}{\$12,000} \\ \\ 71.4X & = & (970.722) (\$12,000) \\ \\ X & = & \$163,146.55 \end{array}$$

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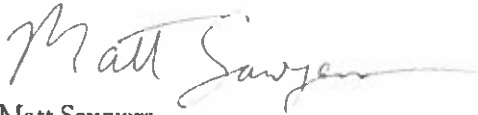
KRS 15.765 provides, in effect, for the indexing of the \$7,200 compensation level for the prosecutorial duties of the county attorney. Thus, the maximum allowable compensation that the county attorney may receive from the Commonwealth for performing prosecutorial duties in calendar 2026 is \$97,887.93 as calculated below. The percentage increase over the previous twelve-month period is 2.7%.

$$\frac{970.722}{71.4} = \frac{x}{\$7,200} \quad 71.4 X = (970.722) (\$7,200)$$

$$X = \$97,887.93$$

If you have questions, Robert Brown in the Office of Financial Management and Administration will welcome your call at 502-892-3433.

Sincerely,



Matt Sawyers
Commissioner