DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Local Finance Notice



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Distribution

County CFOs
County
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Clerks – Boards of County
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County Constitutional Officers: 2025 Salary Reimbursement & 2026 Minimum Salaries

This Notice pertains to the State reimbursement of CY2025 salaries for county constitutional officers. Once the State Treasurer certifies the CPI adjustment for 2026 County Prosecutor and Superior Court Judge salaries, which awaits data delayed by the recent Federal government shutdown, counties will be notified through GovConnect.

Beginning on January 1, 2025, and on January 1 of each year for the next two years thereafter, <u>L. 2023, c.349</u> and <u>L. 2024, c.56</u>, respectively, require annual salary adjustments for Superior Court Judges and County Prosecutors pegged to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), with such adjustments not exceeding two percent per annum or reducing the prior year salary.

As the CPI adjustment for the period starting December 1, 2023 and ending October 31, 2024 exceeded two percent, the <u>2025 salary increase</u> for Superior Court Judges and County Prosecutors was limited to two percent (2%). Because <u>L. 2001, c. 370</u> sets the minimum salaries of County Sheriffs, Clerks, Surrogates, and Registers of Deeds and Mortgages at 65% of the statutory salary of a Superior Court Judge, the statutory salaries of said positions were correspondingly increased.

As with the implementation of salary increases required under <u>L. 2007</u>, <u>c.350</u> and <u>L. 2018</u>, <u>c.14</u> (see <u>Local Finance Notice 2024-19</u> for further background), L. 2023, c.349 and L. 2024, c.56 require the State to reimburse counties for increases required to meet the minimum salaries set by the law. Statutory salaries versus baseline amounts are as follows:

	2025 Statutory Salary	Baseline
County Prosecutor	\$208,249.83	\$100,000*
Other Constitutional Officers	\$135,362.39	\$96,850**

^{*} The baseline for County Prosecutor salary reimbursement was set by L. 1999, c.380.

^{**} The baseline for reimbursement of the salaries of other county constitutional officers was set by L. 2001, c.370, as the salary increases required therein were offset by statutory fee increases. However, L. 2007, c.350, L. 2018, c.14, L. 2023, c.349 and L.2024, c.56 did not include offsetting fee increases.

Counties will be reimbursed pursuant to the following conditions:

- 1) If the county has authorized by resolution a salary between the baseline and the statutory amount, and if a 2025 salary was at or above the baseline amount but below the 2025 statutory salary set by L. 2023, c.349 and L. 2024, c.56, the county will be reimbursed for the difference between **the baseline** and the 2025 statutory salary set by the above-referenced laws. No reimbursement will be provided if the salary authorized by resolution is less than the baseline amount.
- 2) There will be no reimbursement for salaries that were already at or in excess of \$208,249.83 for Prosecutors and \$135,362.39 for other Constitutional Officers prior to January 1, 2009 because those salary levels are already above the statutory minimum.
- 3) If the county had a State-paid Acting Prosecutor serving during the year, please provide the start and end dates for the State-paid Acting Prosecutor in the last row of the table for reimbursement so adjustments can be made to the reimbursement amount. Please leave this row blank if the county paid the Acting Prosecutor's salary.

The <u>2025 Constitutional Officer Reimbursement Form</u> is now available on the Division's website. After enabling macros, select the appropriate county from the drop-down menu and complete all grey-shaded fields. CFOs must check the certification box to certify the accuracy of the amounts entered. After completing the certification, CFOs should fill in the CFO information fields below, save the document using the "Save Form" button, and click the "Send to DLGS" button. After submitting, verify the transmittal by checking your email application's "Sent Items" folder.

County Finance Officers must have completed and returned the reimbursement form by no later than the close of business Friday December 5th to receive reimbursement in 2025. Reimbursement forms submitted after the due date will not be paid in 2025. Counties that anticipated constitutional officer reimbursement in the 2025 budget as revenue and established a receivable for said revenue should apply the revenue to the receivable. Counties that did not establish a receivable can anticipate the revenue in the 2026 budget. Please e-mail any questions to Jorge.Carmona@dca.nj.gov.

CY2026 Statutory Minimum Salaries for County Constitutional Officers

Based on the CPI adjustment for the period starting November 1, 2024 and ending October 31, 2025, the State Treasurer has certified the <u>2026 salary increase</u> for County Prosecutors at two percent (2%). Because <u>L. 2001, c.370</u> sets the minimum salaries of County Sheriffs, Clerks, Surrogates, and Registers of Deeds and Mortgages at 65% of the statutory salary of a Superior Court Judge (which is the same as a County Prosecutor), the statutory salaries of said positions are correspondingly increased.

CY2026 statutory salaries versus baseline amounts are as follows:

	2026 Statutory Salary	Baseline
County Prosecutor	\$212,414.83	\$100,000
Other Constitutional Officers	\$138,069.64	\$96,850

Approved: Michael F. Rogers, Director

Document	Internet Address
Reimbursement Form	https://www.nj.gov/dca/dlgs/programs/mc_budget_docs/2025_salary_reimbursement_request_form.xlsm
CPI Adj. 2025 Salaries	https://www.nj.gov/dca/dlgs/programs/mc_budget_docs/2025/DCA CPI Memo w attachment - CY2025.pdf
CPI Adj. 2026 Salaries	https://www.nj.gov/dca/dlgs/programs/mc_budget_docs/2026/DCA%20CPI%20Letter%20-%20Final.pdf
L. 2018, c.14	https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2018/PL18/14PDF
L. 2007, c.350	https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2006/PL07/350PDF
L. 2001, c.370	https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2000/PL01/370PDF
L. 2023, c.349	https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/PL23/349PDF
L. 2024, c.56	https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/PL24/56PDF