

**STATE OF TEXAS**

**RESOLUTION**

**of the**

**TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL**

**Judicial Compensation Commission Recommendations**

WHEREAS, the Texas Judicial Council is the policymaking body for the Texas Judicial Branch, created under Chapter 71, Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Council is charged with improving the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, the Judicial Compensation Commission was created by the 80th Legislature to recommend the proper salaries to be paid by the state for all justices and judges of the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, and the District Courts; and

WHEREAS, the salary of Texas' Supreme Court justices and Court of Criminal Appeals judges ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation when compared with the salary of other high court judges; and

WHEREAS, the salary of Texas' Court of Appeals justices ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation when compared with the salary of other appellate judges; and

WHEREAS, the salary of Texas' District Court judges ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation when compared with the salary of other general-jurisdiction court judges; and

WHEREAS, the state base salary for justices and judges of the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, and the District Courts has not been increased since 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Judiciary, having neither the "sword nor the purse,"<sup>1</sup> relies upon the legislative and executive branches to provide sufficient funding to carry out its constitutional and statutory purposes; and

WHEREAS, to maintain the high quality of our judicial system, it is important that judicial compensation be sufficient to attract the most able attorneys to the bench and to retain experienced judges;

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<sup>1</sup> Alexander Hamilton, *Federalist #78*, THE FEDERALIST (New York: Fine Creative Media).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Judicial Council supports the recommendations of the Judicial Compensation Commission and urges the Legislature to:

1. Increase by 30%, in fiscal year 2026, the state base salary for justices and judges of the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, and the District Courts;
2. Include the increase as an exceptional item request submitted in the Comptroller Judiciary Section's legislative appropriations request;
3. Provide a mechanism for cost-of-living adjustment increases; and
4. Provide an appropriation for judicial officers who are awarded the Judicial Administration Specialization under Government Code Section 82.101.



Honorable Nathan L. Hecht  
Chair, Texas Judicial Council