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# Salary Increases Coming in 2024 for Many Special Purpose District Officials

December 18, 2023 by [Cheryl Grant](#)

*Editor's note: This article has been updated since its original publication as follows:*

- *May 20, 2024: To reflect [SSB 5925](#), allowing the elected commissioners of any fire protection district with an operating budget of \$10 million or more to receive up to 144 per diem payments annually.*
- *February 2, 2024: To clarify that port districts are authorized to set their own salary schedules in lieu of following the OFM salary schedule.*

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As those of you knowledgeable in special purpose districts may be aware, elected commissioners, board members, supervisors, and directors of special purpose districts receive increases in compensation every five years as established by the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM).

OFM is required to calculate the new dollar threshold and transmit it to the Office of the Code Reviser for publication in the Washington State Register at least one month before the new dollar threshold is to take effect. In prior years, these increases became effective on July 1. As of 2024, these increases now take effect on January 1, with adjustments occurring every five years thereafter.

## Background

OFM recently released the Notice of Dollar Threshold Adjustment for all special purpose districts (see [WSR 23-23-158](#)). As OFM states in the notice:

The adjustment is to be based upon changes in the consumer price index for “wage earners and clerical workers, all items” compiled by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor during that time period. The new dollar threshold shall be transmitted to the Office of the Code Reviser for publication in the Washington State Register at least one month before the new threshold takes effect. Over the five-year period from October 2018 to October 2023, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA area as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, increased by 26.16 percent.

- **Port Districts ([RCW 53.12.260](#)):** Port districts may either follow the OFM salary schedule or, alternatively, set higher or lower compensation by board resolution – see [RCW 53.12.260](#)(3). For ports following the OFM schedule, payment of compensation for each commissioner *shall* be at a rate of \$161 per day, with compensation for each commissioner not to exceed \$15,456 per year, or \$19,320 per year for districts with a gross operating income of \$25 million or more in the preceding calendar year. Commissioners also receive a salary of \$899 for districts with a gross operating income of \$25 million or more in the preceding calendar year, or \$360 for districts with a gross operating income of from \$ 1 million to less than \$25 million in the preceding calendar year.