

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION REQUEST

Please email requests to the Mayor's Legislative Team
at MileHighOrdinance@DenverGov.org by **3:00pm on Monday**. For any questions please contact Skye Stuart.

****All fields must be completed.****
Incomplete request forms will be returned to sender which may cause a delay in processing.

Date of Request: January 6, 2015

Please mark one: Bill Request or Resolution Request

1. Has your agency submitted this request in the last 12 months?

Yes No

If yes, please explain:

2. **Title:** *(Include a concise, one sentence description – please include name of company or contractor and contract control number - that clearly indicates the type of request: grant acceptance, contract execution, contract amendment, municipal code change, supplemental request, etc.)*

Amendment to Chapter 18, D.R.M.C., to set elected officials salaries for the 2015-2019 term of office

3. **Requesting Agency:** City Attorney

4. **Contact Person:** *(With actual knowledge of proposed ordinance/resolution.)*

- **Name:** David W. Broadwell, Asst. City Attorney
- **Phone:** 720-865-8754
- **Email:** david.broadwell@denvergov.org

5. **Contact Person:** *(With actual knowledge of proposed ordinance/resolution who will present the item at Mayor-Council and who will be available for first and second reading, if necessary.)*

- **Name:** SAME
- **Phone:**
- **Email:**

6. **General description/background of proposed ordinance including contract scope of work if applicable:**

Per §9.2.2 of the Charter, Council is obligated to set the salary for all Denver elected officials once every four years for the ensuing term of office, via an ordinance to be adopted between January 1 and the City's general election date (which this year falls on May 5). Because elected officials salaries cannot be increased or decreased during a term of office, salary changes must be enacted before the beginning of the term of office, to be paid only to officials who are elected or reelected after the changes are adopted.

In 2003 the charter was amended to adopt an entirely new formula for salary setting. Previously, the Career Service Authority was required once every four years to survey salaries paid to elected officials in "cities comparable to Denver" and to develop an array of those salaries, with Denver officials being paid the "median" salary in the array. Additionally, under prior law elected officials were granted interim, automatic annual increases in their salaries commensurate with the average increases in career service salaries on a year to year basis.

The 2003 charter amendment did away with the interim increases, and provided a fixed limitation on increases to be determined once every four years. The limit is the lesser of the cumulative increases in inflation over the preceding four years, or the cumulative increase in the median salary in the career service over the preceding four years.

This formula will allow an increase of 10.3% i.e. the cumulative increase in median Career Service salaries over the preceding four years) in elected officials salaries starting in July of 2015. In each of the last two quadrennial cycles, the salary-setting ordinance adopted the full percentage salary increase allowed by the Charter. In the 2007 cycle, the increase became effective on the first day of the term. In the 2011 cycle, the increase was phased in and did not become fully

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effective until the fourth year of the term. The attached Council Bill proposes a salary increase that will be effective on the first day of the 2015-2019 term of office, i.e. July 20, 2015.

****Please complete the following fields:** (Incomplete fields may result in a delay in processing. If a field is not applicable, please enter N/A for that field – please do not leave blank.)

- a. **Contract Control Number:**
- b. **Contract Term:**
- c. **Location:**
- d. **Affected Council District:**
- e. **Benefits:**
- f. **Contract Amount (indicate amended amount and new contract total):**

7. Is there any controversy surrounding this ordinance? (Groups or individuals who may have concerns about it?) **Please explain.**

Laws increasing elected official salaries are always potentially controversial. However, recent history has shown that the formulaic cap now imposed by the charter on salary increases has engendered less controversy than did the system utilized prior to 2003 when salary-setting was more subjective based upon “comparable” cities.

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