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Executive Summary

Comparison of Salaries and Benefits of Elected Municipal Officials in Onondaga County

Community Benchmarks Program
April 2000

Introduction

This study provides a comparison of the salaries and benefits of elected officials in 35 municipalities throughout Onondaga County. This research project is part of an ongoing effort by the Community Benchmarks Program (CBP) at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

Methods

Data were primarily obtained by conducting mail and phone surveys of the 35 municipalities in Onondaga County. Additional data were obtained from the League of Women Voters, Onondaga County Department of Finance, and the 1999 Municipal Reference Guide-New York, published by National Resource Directories, Inc. The salary data in this study are reported for 1995 and 1999. The term current fiscal year, as used in the study, refers to 1999. Information on benefits, budget, mileage and party affiliation used in this study are reported for 1998 and 1999. The number of parcels for each municipality is for the current year.

Findings

1. The average annual salary for town supervisors is \$19,341.00, excluding the City of Syracuse, ranging from \$3,675.00 in the Town of Otisco to \$41,500.00 in the Town of Salina.
2. The average annual salary for village mayors is \$6,980.86, ranging from \$1,000.00 in the Village of Fabius to \$17,379.00 in the Village of North Syracuse.
3. The average annual salary for town board members is \$5,364.47, excluding the City of Syracuse, ranging from \$1,200.00 in the towns of Otisco and Spafford to \$9,000.00 in the Town of Camillus.
4. The average annual salary for village trustees is \$3,046.19, ranging from \$800.00 in the Village of Fabius to \$5,785.00 in the Village of North Syracuse.
5. The average per capita cost for the annual salary of the town supervisor/city mayor is \$1.58, ranging from \$.54 in the City of Syracuse to \$3.38 in the Town of Tully.
6. The average per capita cost for the annual salary of the village mayor is \$2.56, ranging from \$1.24 in the Village of Solvay to \$4.04 in the Village of Tully.
7. The average per capita cost for the annual salaries of the town board/city council members is \$2.06, ranging from \$.81 in the Town of Clay to \$4.22 in the Town of Tully.
8. The average per capita cost for the annual salaries of the village trustees is \$4.76, ranging from \$2.71 in the Village of Baldwinsville to \$8.65 in the Village of Tully.
9. The average per parcel cost for the annual salary of town supervisor/city mayor is \$3.07, ranging from \$1.83 in the Town of Clay to \$5.70 in the Town of Van Buren.

10. The average per parcel cost for the annual salary of the village mayor is \$6.46, ranging from \$3.12 in the Village of Solway to \$10.08 in the Village of Minoa.
11. The average per parcel cost for the annual salaries of the town board/city council members is \$4.12, ranging from \$2.30 in the Town of Cicero to \$6.85 in the Town of Van Buren.
12. The average per parcel cost for the annual salaries of the village trustees is \$12.14, ranging from \$6.83 in the Village of Skaneateles to \$21.55 in the Village of Tully.
13. 1999 Annual Salary of Town Supervisors Compared to 1995 Salary Accounting for Inflation
14. 1999 Annual Salary of Village Mayors Compared to 1995 Salary Accounting for Inflation
15. 1999 Annual Salary of Town Board Members Compared to 1995 Salary Accounting for Inflation
16. 1999 Annual Salary of Village Trustees Compared to 1995 Salary Accounting for Inflation
17. 55% of the towns/city provide health benefits for their town supervisors/city mayor and 50% provide retirement benefits.
18. 60% of the villages do not provide health or retirement benefits for their mayors.
19. 70% of the towns/city do not provide health benefits for their board/council members and 40% do not provide retirement benefits.
20. 53% of the villages do not provide health or retirement benefits for their trustees.
21. 66% of the mayors/supervisors and trustees/board members in Onondaga County run for office on the Republican ticket.

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