

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Enrolled

Committee Substitute

for

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 587

BY SENATORS CLEMENTS, CHAPMAN, CHARNOCK,
DEEDS, GRADY, HAMILTON, HELTON, PHILLIPS, TAKUBO,
TARR, THORNE, MORRIS, ROSE, WELD, ROBERTS, AND Z.

MAYNARD

[Passed March 14, 2026; to take effect July 1, 2026]

1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §7-7-1 and §7-7-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as
2 amended, relating to providing increased salaries for county commissioners, sheriffs,
3 county clerks, circuit clerks, county assessors and prosecuting attorneys; making
4 legislative findings; eliminating requirement for the Auditor to certify that the fiscal
5 condition of the county has sufficiently improved over the previous fiscal years so that
6 there exists an amount sufficient for payment of the increase in salaries and related
7 employment taxes; and eliminating requirement that who desire to receive increased
8 salary must prior to effective date of salary increase have filed in the office of clerk of the
9 county commission his or her written request for the salary increase.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 7. COMPENSATION OF ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIALS.

§7-7-1. Legislative findings and purpose.

1 (a) The Legislature finds that it has, since January 1, 2023, consistently and annually
2 imposed upon the county commissioners, sheriffs, county and circuit clerks, assessors, and
3 prosecuting attorneys in each county new and additional duties by the enactment of new
4 provisions and amendments to this code. The new and additional duties imposed upon the
5 aforesaid county officials by these enactments are such that they would justify the increases in
6 compensation as provided in §7-7-4 of this code, without violating the provisions of W. Va. Const.
7 Art. VI, §38.

8 (b) The Legislature further finds that there are, from time to time, additional duties imposed
9 upon all county officials through the acts of the Congress of the United States and that such acts
10 constitute new and additional duties for county officials and, as such, justify the increases in
11 compensation as provided by §7-7-4 of this code, without violating the provisions of W. Va. Const.
12 Art. VI, §38.

13 (c) The Legislature further finds that there is a direct correlation between the total
14 assessed property valuations of a county on which the salary levels of the county commissioners,

15 sheriffs, county and circuit clerks, assessors, and prosecuting attorneys are based, and the new
16 and additional duties that each of these officials is required to perform as they serve the best
17 interests of their respective counties. Inasmuch as the reappraisal of the property valuations in
18 each county has now been accomplished, the Legislature finds that a change in classification of
19 counties by virtue of increased property valuations will occur on an infrequent basis. However, it
20 is the further finding of the Legislature that when such change in classification of counties does
21 occur, that new and additional programs, economic developments, requirements of public safety
22 and the need for new services provided by county officials all increase, that the same constitute
23 new and additional duties for county officials as their respective counties reach greater heights of
24 economic development, as exemplified by the substantial increases in property valuations and,
25 as such, justify the increases in compensation provided in §7-7-4 of this code, without violating
26 the provisions of W. Va. Const. Art. VI, §38.

27 (d) The Legislature further finds and declares that the amendments enacted to this article
28 are intended to modify the provisions of this article so as to cause the same to be in full compliance
29 with the provisions of the Constitution of West Virginia and to be in full compliance with the
30 decisions of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

**§7-7-4. Compensation of elected county officials and county commissioners for each class
of county; effective date.**

1 (1) The increased salaries to be paid to the county commissioners and the other elected
2 county officials described in this section on and after July 1, 2014, on and after July 1, 2022, and
3 on and after July 1, 2026, are set out in subsections (2) and (4) of this section. Every county
4 commissioner and elected county official in each county, whose term of office commenced prior
5 to or on or after July 1, 2014, shall receive the same annual salary by virtue of legislative findings
6 of extra duties as set forth in §7-7-1 of this code.

7 (2) Prior to July 1, 2014:

8 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

9 Class I \$36,960

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10 Class II \$36,300

11 Class III \$35,640

12 Class IV \$34,980

13 Class V \$34,320

14 Class VI \$28,380

15 Class VII \$27,720

16 Class VIII \$25,080

17 Class IX \$24,420

18 Class X \$19,800

19 After June 30, 2014:

20 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

21 Class I \$41,395

22 Class II \$40,656

23 Class III \$39,917

24 Class IV \$39,178

25 Class V \$38,438

26 Class VI \$31,786

27 Class VII \$31,046

28 Class VIII \$28,090

29 Class IX \$27,350

30 Class X \$22,176

31 After June 30, 2022:

32 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

33 Class I \$45,535

34 Class II \$44,722

35 Class III \$43,909

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36 Class IV \$43,096

37 Class V \$42,282

38 Class VI \$34,965

39 Class VII \$34,151

40 Class VIII \$30,899

41 Class IX \$30,085

42 Class X \$24,394

43 After June 30, 2026:

44 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

45 Class I \$47,812

46 Class II \$46,958

47 Class III \$46,104

48 Class IV \$45,251

49 Class V \$44,396

50 Class VI \$36,713

51 Class VII \$35,859

52 Class VIII \$32,444

53 Class IX \$31,589

54 Class X \$25,614

55 (3) For the purpose of determining the salaries to be paid to the elected county officials of
56 each county, the salaries for each county office by class, set out in subsection (4) of this section,
57 are established and shall be used by each county commission in determining the salaries of each
58 of their county officials other than salaries of members of the county commission.

59 (4) Prior to July 1, 2014:

60 OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

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	Sheriff	County Clerk	Circuit Clerk	Assessor	Prosecuting Attorney
Class I	\$44,880	\$55,440	\$55,440	\$44,880	\$96,600
Class II	\$44,220	\$54,780	\$54,780	\$44,220	\$94,400
Class III	\$43,890	\$53,460	\$53,460	\$43,890	\$92,200
Class IV	\$43,560	\$53,154	\$53,154	\$43,560	\$90,000
Class V	\$43,230	\$52,800	\$52,800	\$43,230	\$87,800
Class VI	\$42,900	\$49,500	\$49,500	\$42,900	\$59,400
Class VII	\$42,570	\$48,840	\$48,840	\$42,570	\$56,760
Class VIII	\$42,240	\$48,180	\$48,180	\$42,240	\$54,120
Class IX	\$41,910	\$47,520	\$47,520	\$41,910	\$50,160
Class X	\$38,280	\$42,240	\$42,240	\$38,280	\$46,200

61 After June 30, 2014:

62 OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

	Sheriff	County Clerk	Circuit Clerk	Assessor	Prosecuting Attorney
Class I	\$50,266	\$62,093	\$62,093	\$50,266	\$108,192
Class II	\$49,526	\$61,354	\$61,354	\$49,526	\$105,728
Class III	\$49,157	\$59,875	\$59,875	\$49,157	\$103,264
Class IV	\$48,787	\$59,536	\$59,536	\$48,787	\$100,800
Class V	\$48,418	\$59,136	\$59,136	\$48,418	\$98,336
Class VI	\$48,048	\$55,440	\$55,440	\$48,048	\$66,528
Class VII	\$47,678	\$54,701	\$54,701	\$47,678	\$63,571
Class VIII	\$47,309	\$53,962	\$53,962	\$47,309	\$60,614
Class IX	\$46,939	\$53,222	\$53,222	\$46,939	\$56,179
Class X	\$42,874	\$47,309	\$47,309	\$42,874	\$51,744

63 After June 30, 2022:

64 OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

	Sheriff	County Clerk	Circuit Clerk	Assessor	Prosecuting Attorney
Class I	\$56,793	\$68,302	\$68,302	\$56,793	\$119,011
Class II	\$55,979	\$67,489	\$67,489	\$55,979	\$116,301
Class III	\$55,573	\$65,863	\$65,863	\$55,573	\$113,590
Class IV	\$55,166	\$65,485	\$65,485	\$55,166	\$110,880
Class V	\$54,760	\$65,050	\$65,050	\$54,760	\$108,170
Class VI	\$54,353	\$60,984	\$60,984	\$53,853	\$73,181
Class VII	\$53,946	\$60,171	\$60,171	\$53,446	\$69,928
Class VIII	\$53,540	\$59,358	\$59,358	\$52,940	\$66,675
Class IX	\$53,133	\$58,544	\$58,544	\$52,533	\$61,797
Class X	\$48,661	\$52,040	\$52,040	\$47,811	\$56,918

65 After June 30, 2026:

66 OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

	Sheriff	County Clerk	Circuit Clerk	Assessor	Prosecuting Attorney
Class I	\$59,633	\$71,717	\$71,717	\$59,633	\$124,962
Class II	\$58,778	\$70,863	\$70,863	\$58,778	\$122,116
Class III	\$58,352	\$69,156	\$69,156	\$58,352	\$119,270
Class IV	\$57,924	\$68,759	\$68,759	\$57,924	\$116,424
Class V	\$57,498	\$68,303	\$68,303	\$57,498	\$113,579
Class VI	\$57,071	\$64,033	\$64,033	\$56,546	\$76,840
Class VII	\$56,643	\$63,180	\$63,180	\$56,118	\$73,424
Class VIII	\$55,167	\$62,326	\$62,326	\$55,587	\$70,009
Class IX	\$55,790	\$61,471	\$61,471	\$55,160	\$64,887
Class X	\$51,094	\$54,642	\$54,642	\$50,202	\$59,764

67 (5) Any county clerk, circuit clerk, county assessor, prosecuting attorney, or sheriff of a
 68 Class I through Class V county, inclusive, any assessor or any sheriff of a Class VI through Class
 69 IX county, inclusive, shall devote full time to his or her public duties to the exclusion of any other
 70 employment: *Provided*, That any public official whose term of office begins when his or her
 71 county's classification imposes no restriction on his or her outside activities may not be restricted
 72 on his or her outside activities during the remainder of the term for which he or she is elected.

The Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Delegates hereby certify that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

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Clerk of the Senate

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Clerk of the House of Delegates

Originated in the Senate.

To take effect July 1, 2026.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is this the.....
Day of, 2026.

.....
Governor