

# Capitol Alert

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## **Panel approves 3 percent pay raises for California Gov. Jerry Brown, legislators**

Brown to make nearly \$183,000, lawmakers more than \$100,000

California Citizens Compensation Commission notes officials still 19.6 percent below pre-recession pay

Commission chair: "How many people in the private sector are getting 19 percent?"



The California Citizens Compensation Commission voted Monday to grant 3 percent raises to Gov. Jerry Brown and legislators. | Christopher Cadelago [ccadelago@sacbee.com](mailto:ccadelago@sacbee.com)

By Christopher Cadelago

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Gov. Jerry Brown and California legislators will receive a 3 percent raise later this year under a unanimous decision Monday by the state panel that sets pay.

Citing a post-recessionary boom in revenues, the California Citizens Compensation Commission voted 4-0 to boost the pay of state politicians beginning Dec. 1, and also moved to restore previous cuts to the state's contribution to monthly health and dental premiums.

Brown is now set to earn nearly \$183,000 while rank-and-file lawmakers will see their pay rise again to over \$100,000 a year, through that doesn't include the roughly \$33,000 in annual tax-free per diem payments.

Chairman Tom Dalzell, who supported the increases, said he believed the raises were appropriate given the recovery.

"In bad times we needed to take into consideration that it is bad times. And while what we do has no effect whatsoever on the budget, there still is a leadership or symbolic importance," he said.

Dalzell noted that politician pay still lags nearly 20 percent behind pre-recession figures. Still, he said he understood that moving to a fuller restoration of the cuts could be difficult for a wary public to stomach.

"I think that to come in and say a 19.6 percent increase to get them back to 2007, that sounds like a nice idea, but that's a huge number," he added. "How many people in the private sector are getting 19 percent?"

Commissioners agreed to return next year with a more holistic approach to the raises, including possibly granting larger increases to statewide constitutional officers who in some cases earn far less than their counterparts at the city and county levels.

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State pay raise

Here is what California officials will make after a 3 percent raise kicks in Dec. 1.

Gov. Jerry Brown: \$182,791

Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom: \$137,093

Attorney General Kamala Harris: \$158,774

Controller Betty Yee: \$146,232

Treasurer John Chiang: \$146,232

Secretary of State Alex Padilla: \$137,093

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson: \$158,774

Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones: \$146,232

Board of Equalization members: \$137,093

Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins: \$115,129

Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León: \$115,129

Senate Republican Leader Bob Huff: \$115,129

Assembly Republican Leader Kristin Olsen: \$115,129

Other lawmakers: \$100,112

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