

## REGION'S TOP 50 GOVERNMENT SALARIES IN 2020

RANK	NAME	JURISDICTION	TITLE	SALARY	OVERTIME
1	James Stripe	Van Wert County	Ta Edison Superintendent	159,471	
2	Glenn Derryberry	Allen County	Probate Judge	150,183	
2	Terri Kohrieser	Allen County Common Pleas	Judge	150,183	
2	Jeffrey Reed Allen	County Common Pleas	Judge	150,183	
2	Matt Charles Staley	Allen County Domestic	Judge	150,183	
2	Frederick D Pepple	Auglaize County Common Pleas	Judge	150,183	
2	Michael A. Borer	Putnam County	Probate/Juvenile Judge	150,183	
2	Keith H. Schierloh	Putnam County Common Pleas	Judge	150,183	
2	Marty Burchfield	Van Wert County Common Pleas	Judge	150,183	
2	Kevin H. Taylor	Van Wert County Probate	Judge	150,183	
11	Chad C. Niese	Putnam County Municipal Court	Judge	142,729	
12	Tammie Hursh	Allen County City Of Lima Munipal Court	Judge	141,229	
12	David Rodabaugh	Allen County City Of Lima Munipal Court	Judge	141,229	
12	R. Andrew Augsburg	Auglaize County Municipal	Judge	141,229	
15	Juergen Waldick	Allen County County	Prosecutor	140,638	
16	Stephen Kayatin	Allen County Sanitary	Engineer	139,771	
17	Steven J Stechschulte Jr.	Lima Police	Detective	134,932	70,063
18	Anthony Geiger	Lima	Law Director	134,701	
19	Edwin A Pierce	Auglaize County	Prosecuting Attorney	132,605	
20	Gary L. Lammers	Putnam County	Prosecutor	126,577	
21	John H Elstro	Lima Public Works	Director	126,417	
22	Eva Yarger	Van Wert County	Prosecuting Attorney	125,885	
23	David J Berger	Lima	Mayor	125,811	
24	Steven V Cleaves	Lima	Finance/Purchasing Director	125,537	
25	Brian J Berheide	Lima Fire	Deputy Chief	123,260	868
26	Douglas P Reinhart	Auglaize County	Engineer, Sanitary Engineer	121,726	
27	Michael H Caprella	Lima	Utilities Director	118,888	
28	Bradley T Miller	Lima Fire	Captain	116,629	34,038
29	Joseph Patton	Allen County DJFS	Administrator	116,175	
30	David L Schnipke	Lima	Environmental Compliance Manager	114,930	2,610
31	Tammie Colon	Allen County Mental Health	Executive Director	114,720	
32	Gregory S Kirkendall	Lima Fire	Battalion Chief	114,503	26,223
33	Kevin J Martin	Lima Police	Chief	112,735	
34	Theresa Schnipke	Allen County	DD Superintenant	111,426	
35	Saul E Allen	Lima	Deputy Utilities Director	111,152	
36	Kelly Stevenson	Allen County	Adult Probation Director	110,047	
37	Kevin L Clark	Lima Fire	Captain	109,909	22,261
38	Donald W. Harrod	Minster	Village Administrator	108,650	
39	Thomas Hull	Allen County Juvenile Court	Clinical Director	108,588	
40	Dale W Schultheis	Lima Fire	Captain	108,456	32,395
41	Brian D Stewart	Lima Fire	Deputy Chief	106,863	12,365
42	George Davis III	Lima Fire	Battalion Chief	106,032	26,570
43	Brion Rhodes	Allen County	County Engineer	105,562	
44	Christopher Karcz	Allen County Mental Health	Chief Operating Officer	105,358	
45	Michael D. Boaz	Putnam County	Superintendent	104,829	
46	Randall S Bartels	Lima	Auditor	104,634	
47	James L Baker	Lima Police	Major	104,441	
48	Angel L Cortes	Lima Police	Major	104,423	
49	Brent Burk	Allen County	Worth Executive Director	104,358	
50	Patrick L Coon	Lima Police	Major	104,342	

Source: Area governments

## Salaries

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last year. Tops on the list was Detective Steven Stechschulte, who doubled his salary with a whopping \$70,063 in overtime. Factor that into his base pay, and Stechschulte was the highest paid person on the Lima city payroll at \$134,931.

Lima Police Chief Kevin Martin said the high numbers in overtime were a reflection of several things:

- The uncertainty of the pandemic, which brought about a hiring freeze. The freeze meant others on staff would need to absorb the workload.

- The social unrest that spread across the country.

- Unexpected employee attrition.

- An increase in violent crime.

“The police department actually found itself in a position where our staffing was much, much shorter than what we had originally planned for the year,” Martin said. “We had to deal with the decrease in staffing, while at the same time dealing with an increase in juvenile crime and violent crime.”

That was underscored by the work done by

Stechschulte.

His tireless work was credited as the key to obtaining the first-ever conviction in Allen County of an individual for participating in a criminal gang. For that and other efforts, Stechschulte was presented in January with the Ohio Prosecuting Attorney Association’s Outstanding Peace Officer award for 2020.

“Yeah, you can say the extra dollars are nice for people, but it really is a sacrifice to work all that overtime, not just for the officers, but for their families as well,” Martin said. “Their families have to sacrifice because dad or mom just isn’t around as much as they would like to be.”

### Other findings

Other findings in the salary study:

- Eight members of the Lima Fire Department were paid more than the fire chief.

- Allen County Board of Elections director Kathy Meyer earned \$5,179 in overtime.

- The 13 Allen County employees who made more than \$100,000 in 2020 were almost double the number of five years ago, when seven people crossed the century mark.

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ranked Ohio’s 1,213 cities by population. A public information request was then made to officials from those four cities, who didn’t hesitate to comply.

Lima was found to pay a higher wage in every category.

The findings and city population rankings:

### • No. 35 Lima

Population: 37,117  
Mayor salary: \$125,811  
Police chief: \$112,735  
Fire chief: \$99,580  
City council: \$12,875

### • No. 22 Mansfield

Population: 46,576  
Mayor salary: \$86,481  
Police chief: \$97,056  
Fire chief: \$95,031  
City council: \$7,988

### • No. 27 Findlay

Population: 41,325  
Mayor salary: \$81,352  
Police chief: \$103,334  
Fire chief: \$97,178  
City council: \$7,616

### • No. 33 Warren

Population: 39,037  
Mayor salary: \$87,788  
Police chief: \$90,870  
Fire chief: \$90,870  
City council: \$11,110

### • No. 37 Marion

Population 36,188

**“I don’t know of any elected position, from federal to local, where the new person starts at anything different than the old person.”**

— **Tony Geiger,**  
Lima city law director

Mayor salary: \$69,900  
Police chief: \$118,368, which includes longevity payouts.  
Fire chief: \$101,105  
City council: \$7,300

### New Lima mayor

While the Lima mayoral salary is already significantly higher than the comparable-sized cities above, the difference in pay could grow.

“The new mayor’s salary will be whatever the current mayor leaves at, plus whatever the cost of living increase will be. We won’t know that number until November because we use the October number to determine the increase,” said Lima City Auditor Randall Bartels.

Lima City Law Director Tony Geiger said it is common practice for new government employees to assume the rate of pay of the person whose job they are taking.

“I don’t know of any elected position, from federal to local, where the new person starts at anything different than the old person,” Geiger said.

In Findlay, however, the mayor’s salary is set by an ad-hoc committee chaired by one of the city council members and composed of an outside human

resource professional, the city law director, the city human resource director and two other city council members, said Don Essex, the city’s human resource director.

That was last done prior to Christina Muryn winning the Findlay mayoral election in 2019 and taking office in 2020.

“A salary review was conducted, and the committee made recommendations based on extensive research. An ordinance was voted on and approved by council. This was last done at the end of 2018 and sets the mayoral salary for 2020-2023” at \$81,352, Essex said.

Greg Lawson, a research fellow for The Buckeye Institute, an independent free-market think tank, said the system used by Findlay works well as long as the pay rate is established in a non-election year.

“Every city establishes pay a little bit differently under home rule, but typically the person who is succeeding an outgoing mayor takes over at the current pay level,” Lawson said. “What Findlay is doing raises the more interesting question, which is, what can be done to modify a salary if it is believed to be too high or too low.”