



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

November 12, 2024

SPONSORED BY

Anna Callahan, City Councilor

AGENDA ITEM

24-491 - Resolution to Discuss Compensation Ordinance for Elected Officials

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

Whereas only the City Council can change the salaries of Medford's elected officials (Mayor, City Council, and School Committee); and

Whereas there is no way for elected officials to adjust elected officials' salaries for inflation or general cost of living increases without the City Council voting to change elected officials' salaries; and

Whereas there is personal incentive for city councilors to increase their own salaries; and

Whereas the City Council increasing their own salaries or increasing the salaries of other sitting elected officials is often viewed as a form of impropriety/corruption; and

Whereas the Medford School Committee recently went 24 years without a cost of living adjustment (COLA); now therefore:

Be it Resolved that the Governance Committee take up an ordinance to disallow the City Council from passing any salary changes that affect sitting elected officials and to encourage the City Council to consider regular COLA adjustments for elected officials in the next cycle.

Potential language:

No change in the salary of any elected official (Mayor, City Council, or School Committee) shall be effective unless it shall have been adopted during the first 18 months after the biennial election of the City Council members and unless it provides that the salary change is to take effect upon the organization of the city government following the next biennial election.

After the budget has been approved, the City Council shall put on the agenda of an upcoming meeting scheduled to occur before the end of the first 18 months of the City Council term a motion

considering any changes to the salaries of any elected officials (Mayor, City Council, or School Committee).

Language from other cities:

Everett

Section 4-4, School Committee, Compensation; Expenses.
The members of the school committee shall receive such salary for their services as may from time to time be set by ordinance. No ordinance increasing the salary of school committee members shall be effective unless it shall have been adopted by a 2/3 vote of the full city council during the first 18 months of the term for which the school committee is elected and unless it provides that the salary increase is to take effect upon the organization of the city government following the next municipal election. No member of the school committee shall be eligible to participate in the city's group health or life insurance programs. Subject to appropriation, school committee members shall be entitled to reimbursement of their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Actual and necessary expense shall be defined in the school committee's rules and regulations.

Watertown

Article 4, Other Elected Offices, School Committee
4-1, School Committee, d.4
Salary - The school committee may provide an annual salary for its members within the annual school department appropriation. No increase in such salary shall be effective, however, unless it shall have been adopted during the first eighteen months after the biennial election of members, and it provides that such salary is to take effect with the organization of the city government following the next biennial election.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None