

INTRODUCED: May 13, 2024

AN ORDINANCE No. 2024-129

To amend City Code § 2-1224, concerning compensation and expenses of the members of Council and President of the Council, to provide for salary increases authorized by Va. Code §§ 15.2-1414.5 and 15.2-1414.6.

Patrons – President Nye and Mr. Addison

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: JUNE 10 2024 AT 6 P.M.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That section 2-1224 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended, be and is hereby **amended** as follows:

Sec. 2-1224. Compensation and expenses of members of Council and President of the Council.

(a) Effective upon the taking of oath of office and the assumption of duties of the members of Council elected to office by the voters of the City, the salary of the members of

AYES: 8 NOES: 1 ABSTAIN: _____

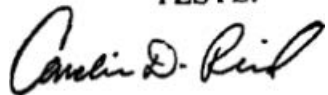
ADOPTED: JUN 10 2024 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

Council, other than the President of the Council, shall be [~~\$25,000.00~~] \$45,000.00 per year. Such salary shall be payable on a biweekly basis in accordance with Code of Virginia, § 15.2-1414.5.

(b) The salary of the President of the Council shall be [~~\$27,000.00~~] \$47,000.00 per year. Such salary shall be payable on a biweekly basis in accordance with Code of Virginia, § 15.2-1414.5.

(c) In addition to the salaries provided in this section, the members of the Council, in accordance with Section 4.01 of the Charter and Code of Virginia, § 15.2-1414.6, subject to the approval of the City Council, may also be allowed their reasonable actual expenses incurred in representing the City.

§ 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect July 1, 2025.

A TRUE COPY:
TESTE:

City Clerk



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Council Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Laura Drewry, Richmond City Attorney

THROUGH LaTasha S. Holmes, Council Chief of Staff

FROM Joyce L. Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Office of the Council Chief of Staff

COPY Kristen Nye, 4th District Council Member
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney
Adam Poser, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Timmy Sivered, 4th District Liaison

DATE May 3, 2024

PAGE/s 5

TITLE: Ordinance request to amend Richmond City Code Section 2-1224 to increase the salary for City Council compensation pursuant to 15.2-1414.5 and 15.2-1414.6 of the Code of Virginia.

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance** **Resolution**

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

President Kristen Nye

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Finance and Economic Development
Organizational Development

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

Amend Richmond City Code, Sec 2-1224, to increase the salary for City Council compensation in accordance with the 2024 amendments of Virginia Code Section 15.2-1416.6 relating to an increase in the salary cap for City of Richmond Councilmember salaries.

BACKGROUND

This Ordinance request is to amend Richmond City Code, Sec. 2-1224 to increase the salary for City Council compensation in accordance with the 2024 General Assembly amendments to the population brackets setting the salary caps for cities governed by 15.2-1414.5 and 15.2-1414.6 of the Code of Virginia as amended and reenacted in 2024.

The decisions by Council for proposed salary changes for the next governing body must be made by July 5, 2024, four months prior to the general election, November 5, 2024. The increased annual salary of elected councilmembers shall not take effect until July 1, 2025 and will apply to those members starting their four-year term, January 1, 2025.

The 2024 General Assembly session increased the annual salary cap for Council to a \$20,000 increase from the former salary of \$25,000 for an annual salary of \$45,000. For the Council President, the salary cap is \$47,000. Section 15.2-1414.6 establishes the procedure for establishing Council salaries. The adoption of an ordinance is required, and maximum salary levels are established according to population ranges for cities.

According to the Code of Virginia, cities within the 175,000 to 259,999 population brackets shall be allowed to set salaries for mayors, not to exceed \$47,000 for the Mayor/President of Council and \$45,000 for Councilmembers. The City of Richmond has a population of 229,392¹ (2022) falls within the population bracket of 175,000 to 259,000.

The patron is requesting Council to adopt the Ordinance to set the annual salary for Council President as \$47,000 and for Councilmembers as \$45,000 in accordance with the population brackets outlined in [15.2-1414.5](#).

Virginia Code Sections Governing Salary and Population Brackets

This Ordinance request is in accordance with Code of Virginia [15.2-1414.5](#), which governs the authority that Council can set the salaries of the Council President and Councilmembers within the population brackets outlined.

Cities within the following population brackets shall be allowed to set salaries for mayors, which includes presidents of council, and council members not to exceed the following:

Population	Annual Salary
260,000 and over	
Mayor	\$50,000

¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/richmondcityvirginia/PST045222>

Council	48,000
Richmond	
175,000 to 259,999	
Mayor/Council	47,000
President	
Council	45,000
75,000 to 174,999	
Mayor	45,000
Council	43,000
35,000 to 74,999	
Mayor	40,000
Council	38,000
20,000 to 34,999	
Mayor	33,000
Council	32,000
15,000 to 19,999	
Mayor	32,000
Council	31,500
14,999 and under	
Mayor	31,500
Council	31,000

Changes According to 2024 Virginia General Assembly Legislation

The 2024 Regular Session of the Virginia General Assembly passed House Bill 456, that amended §15.2-1414.6 of the Code of Virginia relating to city council salaries. The bill was signed by Governor Youngkin, April 8, 2024 and enacted as Chapter 608, Regular Session, 2024 Acts of Assembly Code with an effective date of July 1, 2024.

Chapter 608 changes the current city council salary statute as follows:

1. Increases the annual salary cap for Mayors and Council members according to the existing population brackets. Of Virginia, §15.2-1427. Adoption of ordinances and resolutions generally; amending or repealing ordinances.
2. Requires a public hearing prior to enactment of an ordinance increasing such salaries, pursuant to the notice procedures and form found in § 15.2-1426 and 15.2-1427, Code of Virginia.
3. Allows the maximum annual salaries provided in the population range brackets to be adjusted in any year or years by an inflation factor not to exceed five percent. Such adjustment must be enacted by

ordinance following the notice and public hearing requirements specified above. This provision does not allow further salary adjustments for council member salaries during their current term of office because of additional existing restrictions in the statute.

4. No increase in the salary of a councilmember shall take effect until July 1, 2025. Any proposed increase would have to be adopted at least four months prior to the date of the next Council election on November 5, 2024. This means such an ordinance must be adopted no later than July 5, 2024. Failure to do so would mean that the window for any action will then close until the next Council election cycle, November 2028.

The requested date of introduction is May 13, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes No

Budget Amendment Required Yes No

Fiscal Impact: There are no changes to the FY25 budget. The associated salary increases are \$20,000 x 9 members for a total of \$180,000. These costs would not be effective until July 1, 2025 and would be included in the FY26 budget. There may be additional costs related to medical insurance coverage if selected by Council members.

Attachment/s Yes No
Richmond City Council Ordinance/Resolution Request Form/updated 12.22.08/srs