

## **Annual Pension Payouts in the House**

• Elinor Taylor	<b>\$130,896</b>	<b>(Deceased; 2010)</b>
• Merle Phillips	<b>\$120,000</b>	<b>(2010)</b>
• William DeWeese	<b>\$120,000</b>	<b>(Estimated; forfeited)</b>
• William Rieger	<b>\$114,900.</b>	<b>Deceased; 2009)</b>
• Mario Civera	<b>\$92,000</b>	<b>(Estimated)</b>
• Stephen Stetler	<b>\$87,510.84</b>	<b>(Forfeited*)</b>
• John Perzel	<b>\$85,653.24</b>	<b>(Forfeited)</b>
• George C. Hasay	<b>\$79,044</b>	<b>(2007)</b>
• Alfred Belardi	<b>\$69,610.92</b>	<b>(2012)</b>
• Ronald Buxton	<b>\$66,603.24.</b>	<b>(2012)</b>
• Richard A. Geist	<b>\$64,742.16.</b>	<b>(2012)</b>
• Babette Josephs	<b>\$63,260.40.</b>	<b>(2012)</b>
• David Levdansky	<b>\$57,311</b>	<b>(Estimated)</b>
• John Siptroth	<b>\$53,266</b>	<b>(2010)</b>
• Robert E. Belfanti, Jr.	<b>\$53,105</b>	<b>(Estimated)</b>
• Tony Melio	<b>\$52,741</b>	<b>(Estimated)</b>
• Russ Fairchild	<b>\$52,043</b>	<b>(Estimated)</b>
• James Shaner	<b>\$51,084</b>	<b>(2007)</b>
• Mike Veon	<b>\$50,340.24</b>	<b>(Forfeited)</b>

## **Annual Pension Payouts in the Senate**

- **Sen. Robert Mellow      \$138,958.92      (Forfeited)**

On June 15, 2012 decided Mr. Mellow's guilty plea has resulted in the forfeiture of his pension. SERS has been paying out a total of \$20,510.29 in monthly benefits, of which \$11,579.91 went to Mellow, and \$8,930.38 went to his former wife. Benefits were terminated on May 9, 2012.

- **Raphael Musto      \$127,032.60      (2012)**
- **Vincent Fumo      \$100,458.96      (Forfeited)**
- **Jeffrey Piccola      \$83,845.80.      (2012)**
- **Gerald LaValle      \$54,241.56      (2010)**

## Highest Lump Sum Pension Payouts in the House

• Frank Oliver	\$416,000	
• William Rieger	\$369,000	(Deceased)
• George Hasay	\$329,000	
• John Perzel	\$203,936.03	(Incarcerated)
• Elinor Taylor	\$187,000	(Deceased)
• Alfred Belardi	\$158,606.34	
• James Shaner	\$153,000	
• George Kenny	\$129,845	
• Mike Veon	\$128,267.03	(Incarcerated)
• Victor John Lescovitz	\$118,000	
• Kevin Blaum	\$115,000	
• Gaynor Cawley	\$113,000	
• Michael C. Gruitza	\$113,000	
• Frank LaGrotta	\$111,754.44	(Convicted)
• Robert Flick	\$107,000	
• Harold James	\$106,435.93	
• Sheila Miller	\$ 99,000	
• Todd Eachus	\$ 96,478.99	
• Stephen Stettler	\$ 75,758.62	(Incarcerated)
	\$ 8,865,42	(Incarcerated)

Mr. Stetler forfeited monthly annuity of \$3,499.37 December 1 2008, but records indicate monthly pension of \$3,793.20 is ongoing. as of July, 2012.

## Highest Lump Sum Pension Payouts in the Senate

• Robert Mellow	\$331,025.14	(Sentenced)
• Jeffrey Piccola	\$211,855.42	(Full)
• Charles Lemmond	\$120,000	(Deceased)

**Pension source:** State Employees Retirement System. Right to Know Requests were filed by Rock the Capital.

**Per diems sources:** Chief Clerk in the Senate and the Chief Clerk in the House of Representatives. Right to Know Requests were filed by Democracy Rising Pa.

- **Rep. Fred Belardi (D-Lackawana)**

Kept the pay raise and voted to increase his salary 35% from \$79,417.61 to \$106,986.

Mr. Belardi was given a six-week, \$10,000 consulting job to help his successor as Democratic caucus administrator learn that job. Apparently, the House staff -- the largest of any state legislature -- isn't large enough to ensure a smooth transition." (*Daily Review*, March 14, 2007)

Rep. Belardi was hired by the House Democrats, and "makes \$116,000 annually -- about 36 percent more than he did as a lawmaker -- managing parking spaces and other personnel matters for his former House colleagues." (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 17, 2007) Mr. Belardi was listed as a House employee making \$116,826 a year as Director of Member Services. (*Pittsburgh Post Gazette*, February 7, 2009)

**Monthly pension:** \$5,800.91

**Lump-sum withdrawal:** \$158,606.34, (RTKR, April 23, 2012.)

- **Rep. Kevin D. Blaum (D-Luzerne)**

Mr. Blaum voted for the pay raise, and as minority caucus secretary (the fourth highest-ranking party job) he was flown from Iowa to Harrisburg (\$716) courtesy of Mr. DeWeese's "leadership account" on November 7 to vote on the pay raise repeal. (*Herald Standard*, May 12, 2006)

**Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:**

\$4,579 (\$115,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

**Update:** Retired from the legislature.

• **Rep. Robert E. Belfanti, Jr. (D-Columbia).** Smoking Bob kept the pay raise and voted to increase his salary 28% from \$69,648 to \$89,155. After the Supreme Court's decision, he committed to repay \$7,708 gross wages beginning in November 2006 after the election. House records indicated that Belfanti enrolled in the payroll deduction plan.

**Years of service: 33.**

**Pension:** "Former Rep. Robert Belfanti, D-Mount Carmel, is collecting a **\$53,105** annual pension and a \$157,161 lump-sum payment. He was elected in 1980. Belfanti's final salary was \$78,314."

**Source:** "Musto, Mellow reap big pension payouts," Robert Swift, Harrisburg Bureau Chief, December 22, 2010.

• **Rep. Karen Beyer, (R-Lehigh)**

**Pension: \$17,406.**

**Years of service: 9.**

**Source:** "List of Pennsylvania legislators' maximum yearly pensions" Jan Murphy, *The Patriot-News*, December 21, 2010.

Total maximum yearly pension calculated by using the average of their highest three salaries and a combined total of all their eligible years of service.

• **Rep. Ronald Buxton (D-Dauphin)** was elected to the House of Representatives in 1992 and retired in 2012. Mr. Buxton served as the Democratic Party's Caucus Administrator.

• **Years in office: 20.**

• **Supported** the 2001 pension increase.

• **Salary in 2012: \$85,738.07.**

• **Annual Pension Pay out: \$66,603.24.**

• **Lump Sum Payment Amount: \$0.**

(SERS, Right-to-Know Request, December 11, 2012)

- **Rep. James Casorio, (D- Westmoreland)**

**Pension: \$29,893.**

**Years of service: 13.**

**Source:** “List of Pennsylvania legislators' maximum yearly pensions”  
Jan Murphy, *The Patriot-News*, December 21, 2010.

Total maximum yearly pension calculated by using the average of their highest three salaries and a combined total of all their eligible years of service.

- **Rep. Gaynor Cawley (D- Lackawanna).** Not only did he vote for and take the “unconstitutional raise,” Mr. Cawley was the largest recipient of per diems from 2004-2005 - **\$53,030!**

**Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:**  
\$3,242 (\$113,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

**Update:** Retired with a “pension bounce.”

- **Rep. Mario Civera (R-Delaware)**  
**Years of service: 30.**

Mr. Civera was elected to Delaware County Council in 2009 while serving in the state House. “Mario Civera, a Delaware County Republican who served in the state House for 30 years before retiring in 2010, is eligible for an annual pension of more than **\$92,000.** (*PA Independent*, August 13, 2011.)

- **Rep. William DeWeese (D-Greene)**

**Pension:** DeWeese was stripped of his annual pension by the State Employers Retirement System estimated to be almost \$120,000 annually. Mr. DeWeese was booted from state provided health care.

- **Rep. Todd Eachus (D-Luzerne)**

- **Never repaid the pay raise of 2005.**
- **Years in office: 11.**
- **Voted for** 2001 pension increase.
- **Monthly Pension Pay out: \$2,864.30**
- **Lump Sum Payment Amount: \$ 96,478.99**  
(SERS, Right-to-Know Request, December 18, 2012)

• **Rep. Russ Fairchild (R-Union)** noted on May 3, 2006 in an interview with RTC that the proceeds of the “unvouchered expenses” he accepted were donated to local charities in his district and made public. “Mr. Fairchild, R-85 of Lewisburg, said he is **repaying \$4,826 in expense money** over a period of three months. House payroll records show the amount in gross expense money that Mr. Fairchild collected is \$7,708. Mr. Fairchild said he too is basing his repayment on the net amount that showed up in his paycheck after income taxes and Social Security were deducted. He said he wanted to make the repayment in one sum, but was advised that a scheduled repayment was necessary” (*The Daily Item*, October 08, 2006.)

**Years of service: 34.**

**Pension:** “Reps. Robert E. Belfanti Jr., D-107 of Mount Carmel, Russell H. Fairchild, R-85 of Lewisburg, and Merle H. Phillips, R-108 of RR2 Sunbury, will receive pensions from the State Employees’ Retirement System, which take into consideration such factors as how long they have been in office, whether they have had leadership duties and the highest average compensation received during any three non-overlapping periods of four consecutive calendar quarters.”

“According to calculations, Belfanti will receive at least \$73,535 after retirement, Fairchild will receive at least **\$52,043** and Phillips will receive at least \$84,523.”

**Source:** “Retiring lawmakers to get \$52-84K pensions,” Gina Morton, *The Daily Item*, March 3, 2010.)



- **Rep. Robert Flick (R-Chester)**. Mr. Flick voted for the pay raise and kept the “unvouchered expenses.”

**Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:**  
\$3,183 (\$107,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

**Update:** Retired with a “pension bounce.”

- **Rep. Teresa Forcier (R-Crawford)**. Voted ‘no’ on the pay-raise bill but accepted the “unvouchered expenses.” *RockTheCapital.org* spoke with her staff on May 3, 2006, and is still awaiting staff response on repayment terms. On March 3, 2006, Rep. Forcier stated she would not violate the privacy of the three dozen charities [to which] she gave \$5,400. “This is a reversal of her [previous] decision to release the information.” (*Meadeville Tribune*, March 3, 2006β)

**Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:**  
\$2,768 (\$84,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

- **Senator Vincent J. Fumo (D- Philadelphia)**

**Pension:** Mr. Fumo began to receive a monthly annuity of \$8,371.58 on December 1, 2008. He was stripped of his annual pension on July 14, 2009.

(Source: SERS, Right-to-Know Request, July 24, 2012)

• **Rep. Will Gabig (R-Cumberland).** Voted "no" on the pay-raise bill but accepted \$1,402.38. unvouchered expenses" and led an effort to repeal the raises. Gabig said he was "leaning against repaying the extra pay he received" for one month. In the weeks after the salary bill had passed, Gabig announced plans to give his extra pay to charity. After donating his initial \$1,288 check to the Keystone Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Gabig declined extra pay. (*Patriot News*, November 15, 2005)

**Pension: \$19,843.**

**Years of service: 13.**

**Source:** "List of Pennsylvania legislators' maximum yearly pensions"  
Jan Murphy, *The Patriot-News*, December 21, 2010.

Total maximum yearly pension calculated by using the average of their highest three salaries and a combined total of all their eligible years of service:

• **Rep. Richard A. Geist (R-Blair)** was a first elected to the House of Representatives in 1978, and was defeated in 201. Mr. Geist and served as Chairman of the Transportation Committee.

• **Never repaid the pay raise of 2005.**

• **Years in office: 34.**

• **Sponsored** the 2001 pension increase.

• **Salary in 2012: \$75,190.61.**

• **Annual Pension Pay out: \$64,742.16.**

• **Lump Sum Payment Amount: \$3,381.09 (partial)**

• **Rep. Richard Grucela (D- Northampton)**

**Pension: \$27,668.**

**Years of service: 11.**

**Source:** "List of Pennsylvania legislators' maximum yearly pensions"  
Jan Murphy, *The Patriot-News*, December 21, 2010.

Total maximum yearly pension calculated by using the average of their highest three salaries and a combined total of all their eligible years of service.

• **Rep. Michael C. Gruitza (D-Mercer)** Mr. Gruitza voted for the pay raise, accepted “unvouchered expenses,” and spent the raise on chimney work. "It's not worth the aggravation," Gruitza said. "I feel bad that there is a sense out there that you are just trying to take care of yourself, when all these years my main priority has been helping others." (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 1, 2005)

Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal: \$3,466 (\$113,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

**Update:** Retired with a “pension bounce.”

• **Rep. George C. Hasay (R-Luzerne)**. Mr. Hasay voted for the pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.”

**Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:** (\$6,587 \$329,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

**Update:** Retired with a “pension bounce.” Mr. Hasay confessed: "I spent 34 years in public service, and when I first ran for the job, I never even thought about the pension plan or anything like that," said former state Rep. George C. Hasay, (R-Luzerne), whose annual pension is \$79,000 and lump-sum withdrawal was \$329,000. (*Morning Call*, Bill White Blog, February 9, 2007)

• **Rep. Harold James (D-Philadelphia)**. Voted for the pay hike, voted to repeal the raise, but took the money. “The only lawmaker who appeared conflicted about what to do was Rep. Harold James (D., Phila.)” James said yesterday that he would seek the advice of House leadership and counsel before making a decision. Still, he stressed: "I earned it and I worked for it." (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Inquirer* September 16, 2006.) He kept the money.

**Pension: \$33,950.64.**

**Lump sum payment: \$106,435.93.**

**Years of service: 20.**

**Source: (RTK Request, August 11, 2011)**

- **Rep. George Kenney** (R-Philadelphia). Mr. Kenney voted for the raise, voted to repeal the raise, and took the money.

**Update:** Mr. Kenney vacated his seat.

**Monthly pension:** \$3,441.13

**Lump-sum withdrawal:** \$129,845.49.

(SERS, Right-to-Know Request, July 19, 2010)

- **Rep. Babette Josephs (D-Philadelphia)** was elected to the House of Representatives in 1984. Ms. Josephs served as Chairwoman of the State Government Committee and was defeated in 2012.

- **Never repaid the pay raise of 2005.**

- **Years in office: 28.**

- **Supported** the 2001 pension increase.

- **Salary in 2012: \$79,82.48.**

- **Annual Pension Pay out: \$63,260.40.**

- **Lump Sum Payment Amount: \$0.**

- **Rep. Frank LaGrotta (D-Lawrence)**

Mr. LaGrotta is the only legislator that began paying back “unvouchered expenses” and changed his mind. “After losing the primary in 2006, I decided to stop having the amount of the pay raise deducted from my salary. I also was reimbursed for the months I did pay back. It was perfectly legal, according to House Comptroller Alexis Brown,’ Mr. LaGrotta said yesterday.

Earnings from the 2005 pay raise will help boost Mr. LaGrotta's annual pension by roughly \$740 a year, according to estimates by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.” (Clerk’s Office, February 21, 2008 and *Post Gazette*, February 29, 2008.)

2/3/08: Frank LaGrotta pleaded guilty to two felony conflict-of-interest charges for putting his sister and niece on the state payroll in no-work jobs. He was sentenced to six months of house arrest, 30 months of probation and 500 hours of community service. He was also ordered to pay \$27,000 in restitution for the money paid to his relatives and fined \$10,000. Mr. LaGrotta was allowed to keep his pension.

- **Rep. Frank LaGrotta (Continued)**

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**Pension:** Mr. LaGrotta's monthly pension payment is \$3,048.88 and he did receive a "pension bounce" for keeping unvouchered expenses. LaGrotta's lump-sum withdrawal was for \$111,754.44), (RTK Request, April 23, 2012.)

- **Senator Gerald LaValle (D-Beaver)**

Took the pay raise and did not pay it back. Mr. LaValle retired in 2008.

**Monthly pension:** \$4,520.13.

**Lump-sum withdrawal:** Declined option.  
(SERS, Right-to-Know Request, July 19, 2010)

- **Rep. Marie A. Lederer (D- Philadelphia).** Ms. Lederer voted for the pay raise, kept the money, and retired after 14 years.

**Update:** Retired with a "pension bounce."

**Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:**  
\$3,051.54 (\$0). (Right to Know Request, August 11, 2011)

- **Sen. Charles Lemmond (R-Luzerne)**

Mr. Lemmond voted for the 2005 pay raise and accepted "unvouchered expenses." Lemmond did **not** repay "unvouchered expenses" retired after his term expired at the end of 2006.

**Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:**  
\$2,337 (\$120,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007).

**Update:** Mr. Lemmond passed away on May 30, 2012.

• **Rep. Victor John Lescovitz (D-Washington & Allegheny)** voted for the pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.”

**Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:**  
\$3,897 (\$118,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

• **Rep. David Levdansky (D- Allegheny)**

**Pension: \$57,311.**  
**Years of service:25.**

**Source:** “List of Pennsylvania legislators' maximum yearly pensions”  
Jan Murphy, *The Patriot-News*, December 21, 2010.

Total maximum yearly pension calculated by using the average of their highest three salaries and a combined total of all their eligible years of service.

• **Rep. Stephen Maitland (R-Adams)** voted for the pay raise, accepted “unvouchered expenses,” and used the \$5,148 raise to attend law school. Even though Maitland voted to repeal the raise, he said keeping the money is not hypocritical. "I think it would [be] if the money were merely extra salary. Again, in my case it's actual reimbursement for actual expenses," Maitland said. (WGAL-Channel 8, January 11, 2006)

Mr. Maitland was defeated in the primary, and even after the Supreme Court declared “unvouchered expenses” were unconstitutional, said he had no plans to repay the money because he used the money for law school tuition which he termed a “legitimate reimbursement.” (*York Daily Record*, September 15, 2006)

**Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:**  
\$1,445 (\$65,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

**Update:** Lost election, retired with a “pension bounce”, and claimed \$11,368 in per diems, much of it retroactive, before he left office (*York Daily Record*, January 30, 2007). Mr. Maitland completed law school, and took the bar exam. (Sources: *Patriot-News* and *The Associated Press*)

• **Rep. Kathy Manderino, (D)**

**Pension: \$39,032.**

**Years of service: 17.**

**Source:** “List of Pennsylvania legislators' maximum yearly pensions”  
Jan Murphy, *The Patriot-News*, December 21, 2010.

Total maximum yearly pension calculated by using the average of their highest three salaries and a combined total of all their eligible years of service.

• **Rep. Tony Melio, (D-Bucks)**

**Pension: \$52,741.**

**Years of service: 23.**

**Source:** “List of Pennsylvania legislators' maximum yearly pensions”  
Jan Murphy, *The Patriot-News*, December 21, 2010.

Total maximum yearly pension calculated by using the average of their highest three salaries and a combined total of all their eligible years of service.

• **Sen. Robert Mellow (D-Lackawanna)**

**Pension:** On June 15, 2012 decided Mr. Mellow’s guilty plea has resulted in the forfeiture of his pension. SERS has been paying out a total of \$20,510.29 in monthly benefits, of which \$11,579.91 went to Mellow, and \$8,930.38 went to his former wife. Benefits were terminated on May 9, 2012.

Mr. Mellow was able to keep his lump sum withdrawal of \$331,025.14.

- **Rep. Sheila Miller (R-Berks)** voted for the pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.”

**Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:**

\$2,743 with a \$99,000 lump sum. (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

- **Sen. Raphael Musto (D-Luzerne)** Musto voted for the 2005 pay raise and accepted “unvouchered expenses.” “When the pay raise issue first came up I felt in my case it was justified and I voted for it,” Musto said. “This issue varied throughout the state. In some areas of the state it was unpopular, in some areas it was mediocre and in some areas it was not an issue” (*Citizens Voice*, November 3, 2005.)

“A federal grand jury has indicted longtime state Sen. Raphael J. Musto, the latest legislator to be caught up in an overlapping series of corruption investigations.” “The indictment announced Tuesday alleges that Mr. Musto, D-Luzerne, accepted bribes, gifts and construction work from an unnamed contractor in return for his help in obtaining state grants and loans.” ( *Inquirer Harrisburg Bureau*, November 24, 2010.)

**Pension** Musto began collecting a \$10,586.05 monthly annuity on December 1, 2010.

- **Rep. Frank Oliver (D-Philadelphia)**. Mr. Oliver voted for the raise, voted to repeal the raise, and took the money. “Oliver said he voted for the raise, he took the money, he deserved the money, he worked hard for it, his constituents knew he worked hard for it, and he wasn't in any way ashamed of voting for the raise or taking it. ‘If that pay-raise issue came up tomorrow, I would support it,’ he said. ‘I know I deserve it. Most members deserve it. We're underpaid as it is.’”

**Retirement:** Mr. Oliver was a member of the House since 1973 and is in a special class when it comes to pension benefits covered by a pension system in effect before 1974. This system requires a higher "multiplier" to calculate benefits for the pre-1974 class than for lawmakers elected since that year. Mr. Oliver's pension will be calculated based on his 40 years in office, a 7.5 % multiplier of the average salary of the three highest years and other factors.



• **Rep. Frank Oliver** (Continued)

**Monthly pension:** Projected at \$235,686.

**Lump-sum withdrawal:** \$416,000.

(Sources: *Patriot News*, December 21, 2010 & “Tackling large government pensions”,

<http://www.whptv.com:80/news/local/story/Tackling-large-government-pensions/NCv5hmFbOoyuOBSud5GPEw.csp?rss=50>

• **Rep. John Pallone ( R-Armstrong)**

**Pension:** \$17,295.

**Years of service:** 9.

**Source:** “List of Pennsylvania legislators' maximum yearly pensions”  
Jan Murphy, *The Patriot-News*, December 21, 2010.

Total maximum yearly pension calculated by using the average of their highest three salaries and a combined total of all their eligible years of service.

• **Rep. John Perzel** (R-Philadelphia)

**Pension** As a result of the criminal conviction, Mr. Perzel forfeited his annual pension and was stripped of state healthcare benefits. As of May 11, 2011, Mr. Perzel was receiving a monthly annuity of \$7,137.77. Payments were terminated on August 3, 2011.

However, Mr. Perzel was allowed to keep his lump sum withdrawal of \$203,936.03. (RTK Request, April 11, 2011)

• **Rep. Merle Phillips** (R-Northumberland). Mr. Phillips saw his salary increase by 35% from \$79,417.61 to \$106,986. Mr. Phillips donated the money to charity, and was scheduled to pay back the entire \$6,500 by November 2008.

**Years of service: 34.**

**Pension:** “Former Rep. Merle Phillips, R-Upper Augusta Township, is collecting a \$120,621 annual pension and a \$2,113 lump sum payment. Phillips was in the House for 29 years and served in lower-run leadership posts. Phillips' final salary was \$89,300.”

(**Source:** “Musto, Mellow reap big pension payouts,” Robert Swift, Harrisburg Bureau Chief, December 22, 2010.)

• **Sen. Jeffery E. Piccola (R-Dauphin)** was elected to the House of Representatives in 1976. He held his seat until he was elected to the Senate in 1994. Mr. Piccola was made Majority Caucus Administrator of the State Senate in 1999 and elected Majority Whip in 2001.

• **Years in office: 36.**

• **Voted for** the 2001 pension increase.

• **Salary in 2012: \$75,190.61.**

• **Annual Pension Pay out: \$83,845.80.**

• **Lump Sum Payment Amount: \$211,855.42 (full)**

• **Congressman Joe Pitts (R-Chester)**

“When he retires or loses an election, Congressman Joe Pitts will receive a federal pension as much as 80 percent of his \$174,000 annual salary.”

“That will be in addition to the more than **\$90,000** a year in state pension payments Pitts, R-16th, of East Marlborough, is drawing on top of his congressional salary.”

“That amount exceeds that of three other members of southeast Pennsylvania's delegation who, as former state legislators, were highlighted in a recent USA Today report critical of how state legislators pad their pensions.” (Evan Brandt, ebrandt@journalregister.com ( October 10, 2011)

- **Rep. William W. Rieger** (D-Philadelphia). Mr. Rieger voted against the pay raise but took the money. He served the 179th legislative district from 1966 to 2006, and only passed **two bills into law over a 40 year career.**

“In 2004, Mr. Rieger drew scrutiny for being recorded as voting on a number of measures while traveling by car back to his North Philadelphia district...He admitted wedging a piece of paper into the "yea" button in the voting apparatus that each House member uses so that he would be recorded as voting in favor of several measures even though he was absent...In 2006, Mr. Rieger's former aide, community leader Barbara Landers, pleaded guilty to faking invoices and misappropriating tens of thousands of dollars in state grants. Prosecutors charged that Landers had cashed 101 checks that she had written to herself for more than \$68,000. The checks were written on bank accounts of a nonprofit agency whose purpose was to fund neighborhood cleanups and field trips for at-risk children.” (*Inquirer*, December 14, 2009)

**Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:**

Mr. Rieger retired with a “pension bounce.

Monthly annuity of \$9,575 and lump-sum payout of \$369,000. (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

**Update:** Mr. Rieger passed away on December 11, 2009.

- **Rep. Sam Rohrer, ( R-Berks).**

**Pension: \$39,032.**

**Years of service: 17.**

Source: “List of Pennsylvania legislators' maximum yearly pensions”  
Jan Murphy, *The Patriot-News*, December 21, 2010.

Total maximum yearly pension calculated by using the average of their highest three salaries and a combined total of all their eligible years of service.

• **Rep. T.J. Rooney** (D-Northampton). The head of the Democratic Party took the money, and will not pay the “unvouchered expenses” back unless the Supreme Court deems the measure unconstitutional. "The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has taken another view on several occasions. Until the Supreme Court tells me differently, I will follow the law of Pennsylvania." (*Morning Call*, Harrisburg Bureau, November 17, 2005) As of January 22, 2008, the House Clerk reported that Mr. Rooney had not returned the money.

**Promise-breaker:** After the “Supreme Court told Mr. Rooney differently,” he went back on his word and kept the cash

**Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:**  
\$318.76 (\$42,353.11). (RTKR, August 11, 2011)

• **Rep. Larry O. Sather** (R-Blair & Huntingdon). Mr. Sather voted for the pay raise and kept the money. “You would have to call the district office at 814-643-9633.” Response from district office: “Representative Sather is not even running for reelection and I would not even dignify you by responding.” (May 3, 2006)

**Update:** Retired with a “pension bounce”.

**Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:**  
\$2,285.01 (\$0). (Right to Know Request, August 11, 2011)

• **Rep. James Shaner** (D-Fayette). Voted ‘no’ on the pay-raise bill but accepted "unvouchered expenses" so that he could collect the extra money immediately. He donated the pay to charity and received a “pension bounce.”

**Road trip:** Mr. Shaner who retired after 12 years in office, attended the four-day National Conference of State Legislatures event, Aug. 15-18, which costs a minimum of \$425 to attend for those who pre-registered, plus hotel and travel costs. “I'm entitled to go to it,” Shaner said. “And I'm on the (finance) committee and I'm still going to fulfill my obligations to the committee.” (*Herald Standard*, August 1, 2006)

• **Rep. James Shaner** (Continued)

**Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:**  
\$4,257 (\$153,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

• **Rep. John Siptroth (D-Monroe).** Mr. Siptroth is a veteran and worked for the Federal Aviation Administration and was also a Township supervisor.

**Years of service: 32.**

**Pension:** Former Rep. John Siptroth, D-Smithfield Township, is collecting a \$53,266 annual pension. He didn't take a lump sum payment. Siptroth was in the House five years before losing his reelection bid last November. He worked for the Delaware River Toll Bridge Commission, an interstate agency, for 23 years. Siptroth's final salary was \$78,314."

(**Source:** "Musto, Mellow reap big pension payouts," Robert Swift, Harrisburg Bureau Chief, December 22, 2010.)

• **Rep. Stephen Stetler** (D-York)

**Lump sum payout in 2006 :** \$75,758.62

**Lump Sum payout in 2009:** \$ 8,865,42

**Pension:** Mr. Stetler forfeited monthly annuity of \$3,499.37 December 1 2008, but records indicate monthly pension of \$3,793.20 is ongoing. as of July, 2012.

• **Rep. Mike Veon** (D-Beaver)

**Pension:** Mr. Veon cashed out with a \$126,614 pension pay out, but was forfeited his annual pension of \$50,340 state subsidized health care plan as a result of his initial Bonusgate convictions. (*Post-Gazette*, April 07, 2007)

- **Rep. Jewell Williams** (D-Philadelphia). Rep. Williams voted for the raise and kept the cash. "I'm going to give it back when a bill is passed that says we have to give it back." (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 1, 2005)

**Update:** Mr. Williams was elected sheriff of Philadelphia on November 9, 2011.

**Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:**  
\$1,729.91 (\$70,875.12) (RTKR, April 23, 2012)

- **Rep. Elinor Z. Taylor** (R-Chester). Ms. Taylor voted for the pay raise and donated her expenses of approximately \$12,000 to charity. "That's the way the system works," said Taylor, 84. "I worked hard for my pension." (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 26, 2006)

**Representative: 1976-2006. (30)**

**Monthly pension & approximate lump-sum withdrawal:**  
\$10,908 (\$187,000). (*The Associated Press*, February 8, 2007)

**Update:** Ms. Taylor passed away at age 89 in 2010.

- **Rep. Katie True, (R-Lancaster)**

**Pension: \$35,357.**

**Year of service: 17.**

**Source:** "List of Pennsylvania legislators' maximum yearly pensions"  
Jan Murphy, *The Patriot-News*, December 21, 2010.

Total maximum yearly pension calculated by using the average of their highest three salaries and a combined total of all their eligible years of service.

- **Jim Wansacz (D- Lackawanna.)**

Voted for the pay raise and initially took the money before enrolling in a payroll deduction. Rep. Jim Wansacz also used his per diem funds to purchase a home in Harrisburg

**Pension: \$21,794.**  
**Years of service :9**

**Source:** “List of Pennsylvania legislators' maximum yearly pensions”  
Jan Murphy, *The Patriot-News*, December 21, 2010.