



▶1999 Magistrates' total monetary compensation = \$17,709



▶2003 Magistrates' total monetary compensation = \$31,637



▶2010 Commissioners' total monetary compensation = \$36,183

Hardin County focus

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF OUR CITIZENS
FROM THE DESK OF JUDGE/EXECUTIVE HARRY L. BERRY

October 11, 1999 Fiscal Court approved an 86.3% increase in the Magistrates' base pay from \$13,421 to \$25,000 effective January 2003

“How much should we pay 8 magistrates?”



Your County Government just completed its belt-tightening budget process for FY 2009/2010 and is about to embark upon a FY 2010/2011 budgeting decision—**setting its own salary for 2011!**

As you know in 2008, Hardin County voters elected to return the county fiscal court back to the former 8-magistrate composition rather than the current 3-commissioners

That decision lead to the question—how to pay for the increased cost associated with the former fiscal court composition—In 2011 we will have 8 people doing the job of the current 3 people. How much should we pay them?

Today the annual cost to taxpayers equals \$52,711.35 x 3 commissioners or **\$158,134 currently.**

At the current base pay plus benefits adjusted for cost of living, the 2011 taxpayer cost would equal **\$445,429 in 2011** for 8 magistrates. This means a \$278,392 increase in the cost of representation on fiscal court.

An option would be to reduce magistrates' salaries to \$20,000 plus benefits, or \$42,232 x 8 magistrates for a total cost to taxpayers of **\$337,856 in 2011**, a \$170,820 increase in the cost of representation on fiscal court and \$107,572 savings to taxpayers.

Our Kentucky statues require the current commissioners to fix the compensation not later than May 2010, while no change can be made to the current commissioners' salaries.

Similar Salaries:

- Elizabethtown Council = \$12,500
- Radcliff Council = \$10,193
- Surrounding counties average between \$4,993 and \$18,000

