

EMPIRE CENTER

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CONTACT: Ken Girardin
(518) 434-3100

TOWN POLICE TOP CAPITAL REGION PAY RANKING

The Empire Center for Public Policy today released the 2014 edition of “What They Make,” an overview of local government payrolls (outside New York City) for the period of April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.

The following table shows the five highest-paying employers in the Capital Region, which includes Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington counties, for general employees and police or firefighters:

General Employees			Police or Firefighters		
Employer	#	Avg.	Employer	#	Avg.
Glenville (town)	72	\$46,617	Bethlehem (town)	37	\$93,561
Schenectady (county)	1,413	\$46,592	Colonie (town)	109	\$92,789
Albany (county)	2,379	\$45,645	Guilderland (town)	34	\$89,928
Saratoga (county)	1,366	\$45,239	Rotterdam (town)	47	\$86,816
Colonie (town)	555	\$44,151	Watervliet (city)	50	\$85,747

The highest-paid local government employee in the region was Brian P. Lutz, an Albany police officer who, according to news accounts, received \$112,635 in retroactive pay after an appellate court reversed his 2011 dismissal. His total pay was \$177,397. The second highest-paid was Timothy D. Landis, a psychiatrist who was paid \$176,325 by Rensselaer County. The names, employers and pay of the 10 highest-paid local government employees in the region are attached.

The amounts listed in the report do not include fringe benefits such as health insurance or pension contributions, which can add more than 35 percent to the cost for taxpayers.

“The Empire Center produces this report because it is committed to protecting the right of taxpayers to know how their money is being spent,” said Executive Director Tim Hofer. “Employee compensation is the single largest component of most municipal budgets. Pairing this pay data with the localized spending data in SeeThroughNY’s Benchmarking NY tool, taxpayers can get a real sense of how their local governments are spending their tax dollars.”

The Empire Center is an independent, non-partisan, 501(c)3 think tank based in Albany. Each year, the Empire Center obtains and processes payroll information from public employers across the state. To read the full report, visit empirecenter.org/publications/wtm14. The Benchmarking New York tool, as well as individual payroll records, are posted at the Empire Center’s transparency website SeeThroughNY.net.

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Top 10 Municipal Employee Pay in the Capital Region April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014

Employee	Employer	Pay
Brian P. Lutz	City of Albany	\$177,397
Timothy D. Landis	Rensselaer County	\$176,325
Joel R. Fatato	Rensselaer County	\$164,016
Raymond R. Gillen	Schenectady County	\$162,604
Raymond J. Davis	City of Troy	\$161,879
Paul David Soares	Albany County	\$159,842
James B. Crucetti	Albany County	\$158,093
Mark M. McCracken	City of Schenectady	\$157,660
Thomas B. Rush	Village of Scotia	\$156,799
Thomas W. Culbert	Town of Rotterdam	\$156,341

Source: *SeeThroughNY.net*