

SUFFOLK CO. WARDEN HIGHEST-PAID LOCAL GOV'T EMPLOYEE IN NY *Highest-Paid Employees, Highest Average Salaries Found on Long Island*

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 Center’s analysis revealed that the state’s highest-paid local government employee was Suffolk County jail warden Charles E. Ewald, who was paid \$414,527. The data from Long Island also show:

- The 22 police officers of the village of Kings Point were the highest-paid group of municipal employees in the state, receiving an average pay of \$196,143.
- Eight local government employees on Long Island were paid more than \$300,000.
- The Long Beach Police Department had 11 employees on the 50 highest-paid list.

The following table shows the five highest-paying employers in Long Island for general employees and police or firefighters:

General Employees			Police or Firefighters		
Employer	#	Avg.	Employer	#	Avg.
Sands Point (village)	11	\$93,942	Kings Point (village)	22	\$196,143
Thomaston (village)	4	\$91,558	Kensington (village)	5	\$190,080
Kings Point (village)	17	\$80,179	Floral Park (village)	34	\$177,326
Old Brookville (village)	9	\$70,452	Lloyd Harbor (village)	12	\$175,601
Northport (village)	37	\$68,645	Long Beach (city)	101	\$175,536

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.

“Police and firefighter pay has increased at three times the rate of other public-sector pay,” said Executive Director Tim Hofer. “This is the result of antiquated policies and laws that discourage fair negotiations between public employers and unions and necessitate further tax increases on already-burdened homeowners and businesses.”

“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 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 on Long Island April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014

Employee	Employer	Pay
Charles E. Ewald	Suffolk County	\$414,527
Robert A. Piazza	Nassau County	\$414,171
Stanley K. Wojis	Nassau County	\$317,095
Daniel S. Papele	Suffolk County	\$315,534
Michael Tangney	City of Long Beach	\$304,089
Thomas J. Hennessey	Suffolk County	\$303,421
Robert P. Hervan, Jr.	Suffolk County	\$302,436
Daniel E. Duggan	Village of Old Westbury	\$301,840
Michael J. Bulik	City of Long Beach	\$299,907
Walter W. Munsterman	City of Long Beach	\$291,831

Source: *SeeThroughNY.net*