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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' ASSOCIATION WILL NOT SUPPORT ANY SALARY INCREASE FOR 2014

Decisive 70% of Membership Votes Against Salary Increase

Charleston, WV, October 8, 2013 - CCAWV Board Members convened September 22 - 23, 2013 in Barboursville to tackle a number of controversial topics, including the possibility of a 2014 salary increase bill. Commissioners understand that their fellow elected official have gone eight long years without a raise, and appreciate the sacrifices they have made and continue to make for their fellow citizens. However, after reviewing the voting results of all member county commissions on the issue, the board had to respect the will of the entire body. A decisive 70% of the CCAWV membership voted to NOT support any salary increase bill in 2014. Some of the primary reasons commissioners cited to support their decision included:

- The still-lagging economy
- Dire warnings from state leaders of impending money woes for 2014 for both State and local governments
- Continued decreases in coal severance monies
- Not the surge expected in oil & gas prices to make up the loss
- The rise of drug-related incarcerations and subsequent soaring jail bills
- Budget cuts on the state and federal levels that could reduce grant funding and other resources to counties
- Recent EPA regulations that will take a further toll on already reduced WV coal mining production
- Slowed production of plants and mines, leading to layoffs and shutdowns across the state, further reducing the counties' tax base and leaving many county taxpayers jobless
- Fallout from failed legislative attempts to control county lawsuits due to firing practices, and unfunded mandates

...to name just a few.

Even some counties that supported a raise in theory admitted that, due to some recent county budget constraints, they would not have enough money in the county coffers to cover the cost of a salary

hike. At the end of the day, Commissioners just could not support a salary increase for themselves and other elected officials when their fellow taxpayers face, in many counties, a 10% unemployment rate.

It was not a decision taken lightly. Commissioners began the discussion in August at the annual meeting. It was there they put the question to a county-by-county vote. The final results of the vote left no question - a full 70% of the membership voted against supporting any salary increase in 2014.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Vivian Parsons at County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia at (304) 345-4639 or Vivian@ccawv.org.