

A close-up photograph of a person's torso and hands. The person is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a blue patterned tie. Their hands are holding a thick stack of Canadian 100 dollar bills, fanned out slightly. The background is blurred.

The Subnational Politician Pay Report

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Canadian Taxpayers Federation

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About the Canadian Taxpayers Federation

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is a federally incorporated, not-for-profit citizen's group dedicated to lower taxes, less waste and accountable government. The CTF was founded in Saskatchewan in 1990 when the Association of Saskatchewan Taxpayers and the Resolution One Association of Alberta joined forces to create a national organization. Today, the CTF has hundreds of thousands of supporters nation-wide.

The CTF maintains a federal office in Ottawa and regional offices in British Columbia, Alberta, Prairie (SK and MB), Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic. Regional offices conduct research and advocacy activities specific to their provinces in addition to acting as regional organizers of Canada-wide initiatives.

CTF offices field hundreds of media interviews each month, hold press conferences and issue regular news releases, commentaries, online postings and publications to advocate on behalf of CTF supporters. CTF representatives speak at functions, make presentations to the government, meet with politicians, and organize petition drives, events and campaigns to mobilize citizens to affect public policy change.

Any Canadian taxpayer committed to the CTF's mission is welcome to join at no cost and receive Action Update emails. Financial supporters can additionally receive the CTF's flagship publication *The Taxpayer* magazine published three times a year.

The CTF is independent of any institutional or partisan affiliations. All CTF staff, board and representatives are prohibited from holding a membership in any political party. In 2024-25 the CTF raised [\\$6.6 million](#) on the strength of 75,231 donations. Donations to the CTF are not deductible as a charitable contribution. The CTF does not accept foreign funding.

Prepared by

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> Introduction

Provincial politicians in Canada are taking salaries about twice the size of their American counterparts. And most Canadian provinces have higher taxes and less prosperous economies.

However, many politicians continue to argue increasing their salaries will lead to benefits for taxpayers by attracting smarter and more effective people into politics. If that were the case, taxpayers with higher-paid politicians would be doing better, but the opposite is true.

The Subnational Politician Pay Report highlights the salaries of Canada's provincial legislators and the United States of America's state legislator salaries.

The report shows how American state legislators generally take lower salaries for similar work.

The report also demonstrates the lack of correlation between politician pay and positive outcomes for taxpayers.

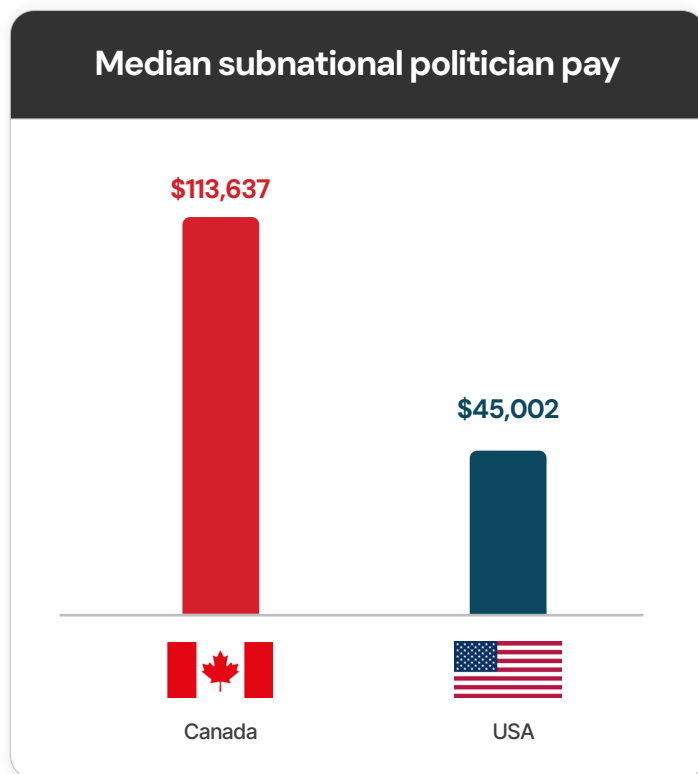
The report compares the 2025 salaries of Canadian and American subnational politicians, converted into Canadian dollars. In states where politicians aren't paid an annual salary, the CTF makes reasonable estimates for a legislator's annual pay.

> Salaries of Canadian and American subnational politicians compared

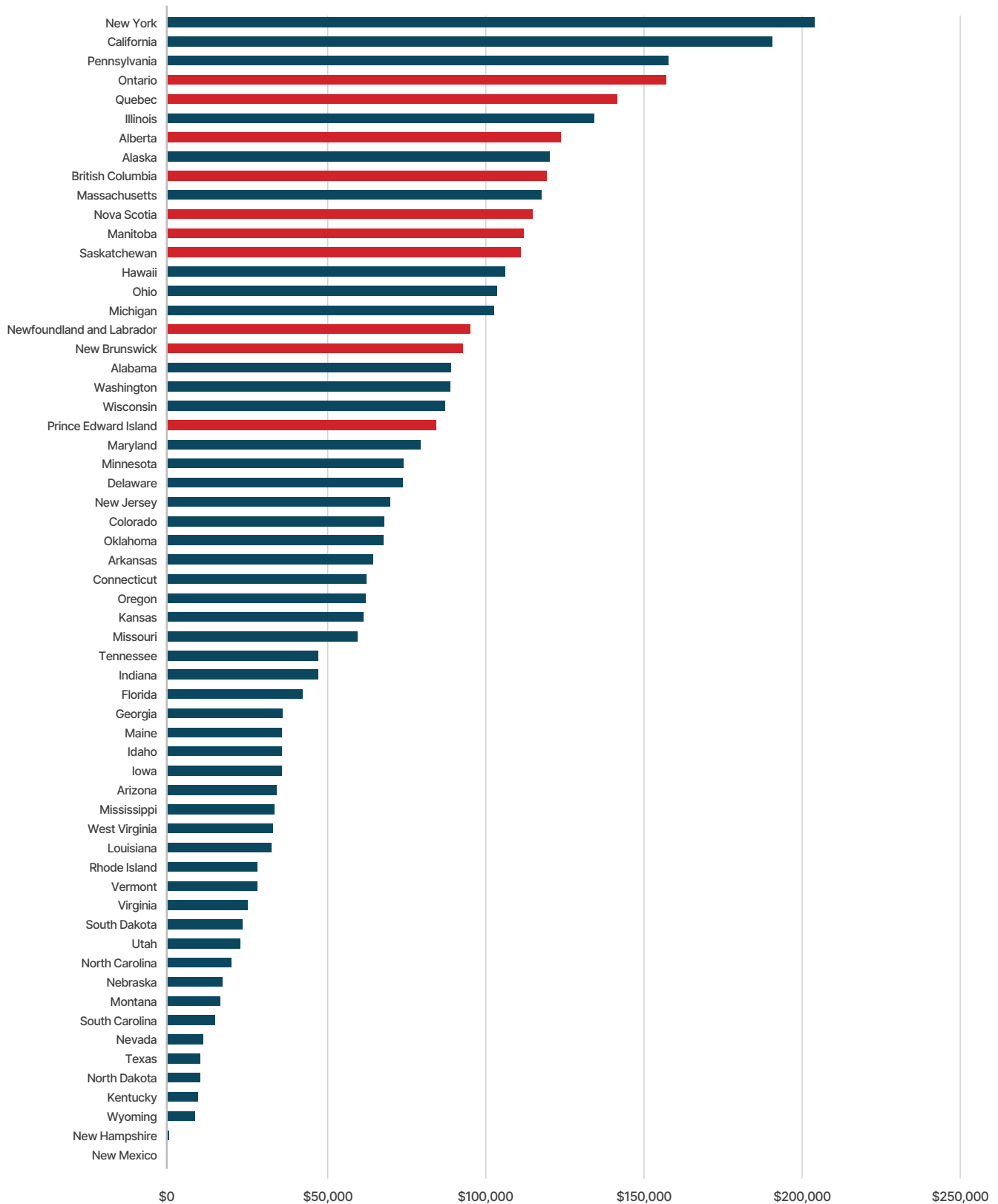
Canada's subnational politicians are paid more than their American colleagues. Ontario MPPs draws the highest salary among Canadian provincial politicians at \$157,350. Legislators from only three of the United States' 50 states take a higher salary than Ontario MPPs — New York, California and Pennsylvania. However, these states are outliers within the U.S.

The average salary for a provincial politician in Canada is \$115,378 while the average salary for a state politician in America is \$58,241. The median salary for provincial politicians in Canada is more than double what the median American representative makes, at \$113,637 and \$45,002 respectively.

Among the jurisdictions with the top 10 highest salaries for subnational legislators, Canadian provinces occupy four of the top 10 spots. No provincial politician in Canada takes a lower salary than the average American state representative. Only 18 per cent of American representatives make over \$100,000 CAD while 70 per cent of Canada's provincial politicians earn more than \$100,000.



Base salary (CAD)



> Salaries and outcomes

Politicians often argue they should give themselves bigger salaries to attract talented people to run for political office. If it's true, jurisdictions with high-paid politicians should perform better.

In reality, there is little correlation between jurisdictions that pay politicians handsomely and better outcomes for taxpayers.

Many American states are outperforming Canadian provinces while strictly limiting the salaries of its politicians.

Texas is America's second largest state with a population around 31.7 million, far greater than any Canadian province. Texas pays its state representatives a \$10,331 salary, 91 per cent lower than the average salary of a Canadian provincial legislator. Despite this, Texas is wealthier on a per-person basis than any Canadian province, with a GDP per capita of \$88,517.

North Dakota pays its politicians \$10,193 and is a wealthier state on a per-person basis than every Canadian province. Of the 19 American states with a higher GDP per capita than all Canadian provinces, 13 of those states pay their representatives less than any Canadian province.

New Mexico, the only subnational jurisdiction across Canada and the United States that doesn't pay its representatives, is wealthier than eight of 10 Canadian provinces.

Politicians' salaries have little to no correlation with their constituents' wealth

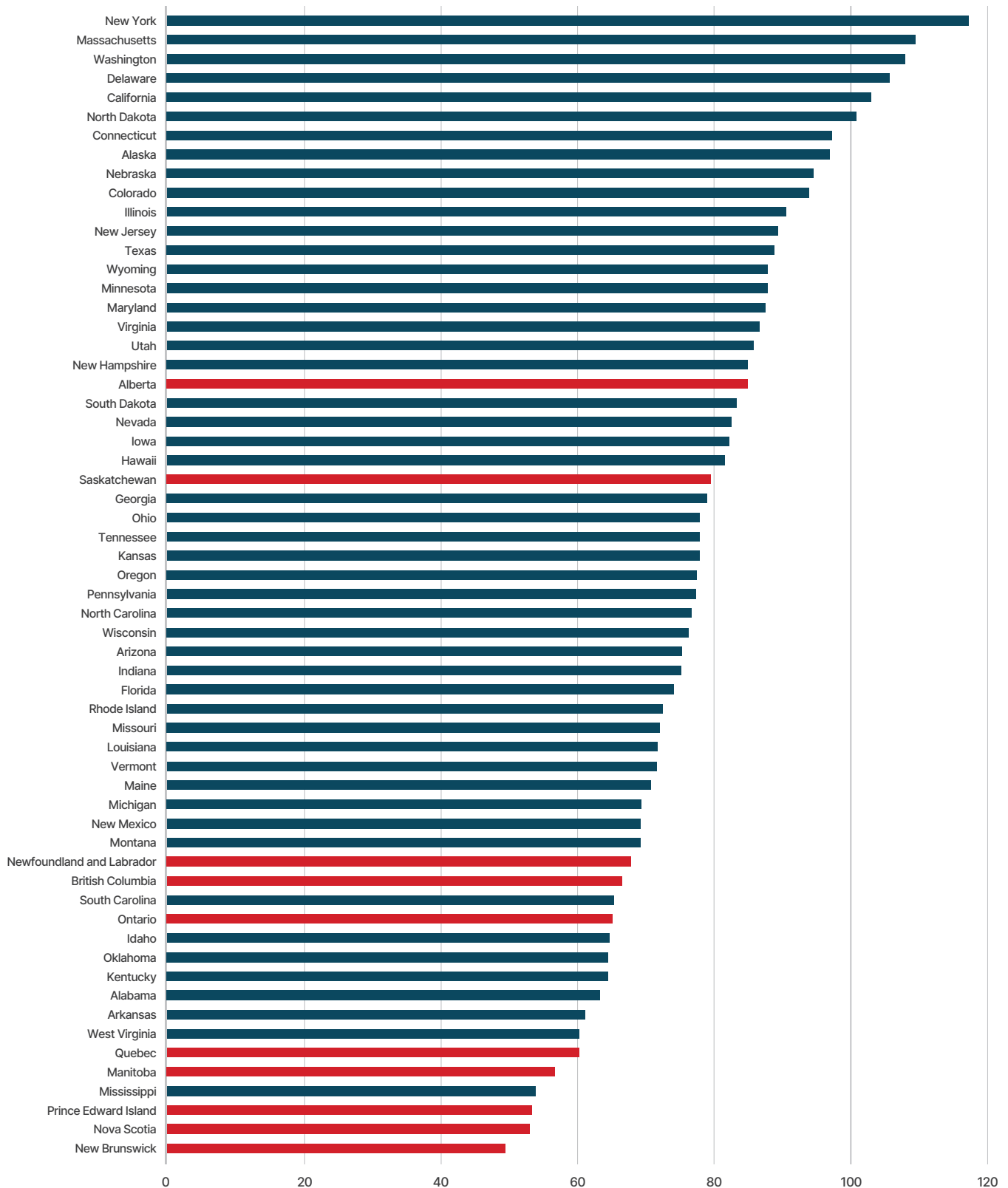
However, higher politician pay does correlate with higher taxes.

In fact, politicians in high-tax jurisdictions tend to pay themselves more. Many of the highest paying provinces and states are also some of the jurisdictions with the highest top marginal tax rates; California, Hawaii, New York, Ontario, Quebec, etc.

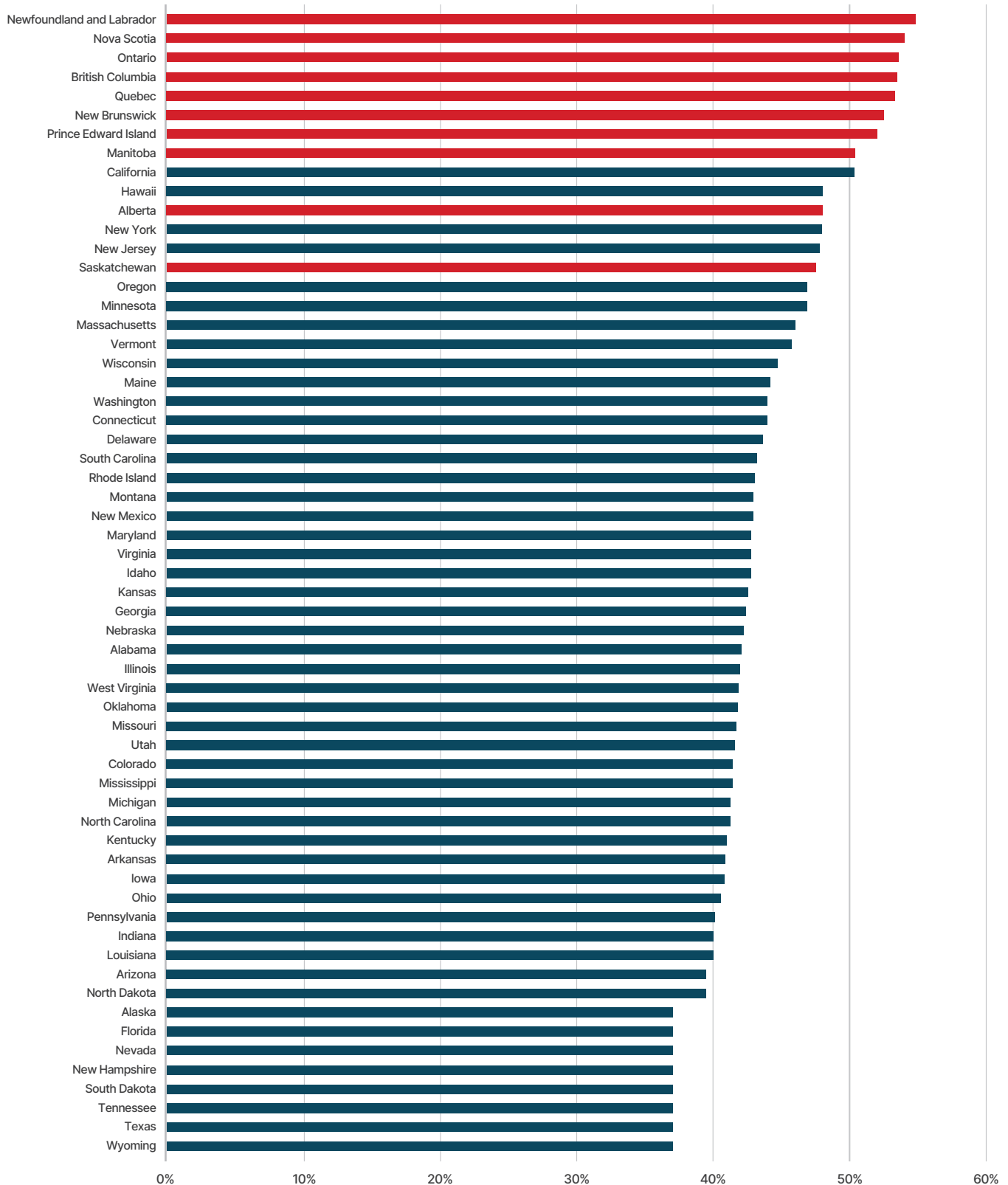
Conversely, states with low salaries for politicians take disproportionately less money from taxpayers. Among the 10 American states with a top marginal tax rate lower than 40 per cent, only one state (Alaska) pays their politicians more than \$50,000 a year. The average politician salary among these states is \$30,892.

Canadian provinces are disproportionately represented among the highest tax jurisdictions. Among the top 10 highest tax jurisdictions, eight of the top 10 are Canadian provinces. Alberta is the 11th highest tax jurisdiction in Canada and the United States while Saskatchewan ranks 14th.

GDP per capita population parity adjusted 2024



Combined top marginal tax rate



> Conclusion

Canada's provincial politicians are generally being paid more than their American counterparts without the results to justify this pay gap. While provincial politicians in Canada give themselves salaries twice the average of American state representatives, Canadians are poorer and pay more state tax than American taxpayers. Increasing salaries for politicians do not result in better outcomes for their constituents. There is no evidence to suggest that higher paid politicians deliver lower taxes or better economic conditions than politicians earning modest incomes.

A March 2026 [poll](#) from Leger found that 75 per cent of Ontarians opposed members of provincial parliament giving themselves a pay raise that April. Among decided respondents, 86 per cent of Ontarians opposed MPPs giving themselves a pay raise in 2026.

Similar results can be found for opposing pay raises for federal politicians, with taxpayers across the country [consistently opposed](#) to their annual pay raises.

Paying politicians more has not made Canadians richer or their taxes lower. If higher pay bought better results, the data would show it. It does not.

> Methodology notes

This report uses 2025 salaries for Canadian and American legislators. The CTF used estimates for American states with irregular payment structures.

<https://www.ncsl.org/about-state-legislatures/2025-legislator-compensation>

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1005974/ontario-adjusting-compensation-for-members-of-provincial-parliament-with-all-party-support>

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/montreal/article/quebec-mna-salaries-jumped-by-10000-in-2025/>

<https://www.assembly.ab.ca/members/related-resources/mla-remuneration/2025-2026-mla-remuneration>

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/bc-provincial-and-federal-politicians-receive-pay-raises-8537219>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/nova-scotia-mla-pay-raise-1.7462061>

https://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/members/manual/appendix_remuneration.pdf

<https://www.assembly.nl.ca/Members/Compensation/>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9746921/new-brunswick-mla-pay-raise/>

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/atlantic/prince-edward-island/article/prince-edward-island-mlas-are-the-lowest-paid-in-canada-report/>

This report uses 2024 GDP data from Statistics Canada and the U.S Bureau of Economics, compiled by economist Trevor Tombe.

This report uses 2025 income tax levels across Canadian and American subnational governments. Data on Canadian provinces' top marginal tax rates is based on a KPMG report while data American states' top marginal tax rates comes from the Tax Foundation.

<https://taxfoundation.org/data/all/state/state-income-tax-rates/>

<https://assets.kpmg.com/content/dam/kpmg/ca/pdf/2025/10/ca-combined-top-marginal-tax-rates-for-individuals-2025.pdf>