

<http://www.MSCNews.net/news/index.cfm?nk=8445>

Pay Increase Proposed For Nebraska State Senators

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) _ A Nebraska state senator says lawmakers need to be paid more because everyday people are being discouraged from serving in the Unicameral.

Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh of Omaha said Tuesday that he wants to boost lawmaker salaries from \$12,000 to \$32,000 a year.

He says the state Legislature is becoming a collection of retirees, the wealthy and those who own their own businesses.

There are many young, competent people who could run for office, Lautenbaugh says, but it is difficult to serve the public and hold a full-time job.

Nebraska's legislative compensation has not been adjusted for 24 years. By law, any salary change would have to be approved by voters.

Lautenbaugh says there is never a good time to ask taxpayers for more money, but lawmaker raises are long overdue.

Associated Press