

FW: Press Inquiry: Forbes Requesting Comment Regarding Public Employee Compensation In Texas

Nan Tolson <Nan.Tolson@gov.texas.gov>

Tue 7/28/2020 2:58 PM

To: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Hi Adam,

Here is a statement you can attribute to me:

“Governor Abbott is a responsible steward of the money appropriated to his office. The Texas Legislature appropriates a set amount for staff salaries within the Office of the Governor, and we are currently operating well under budget. In fact, the Office of the Governor has operated under budget since Governor Abbott first took office in 2015. Governor Abbott has achieved these savings while continuing to attract premier talent to work for the people of Texas. It's also important to note that the Texas Governor's office includes 30 different divisions ranging from the Public Safety Office to the Office of Economic Development and Tourism to the Texas Military Preparedness Commission. Throughout these various offices, the Governor recruits and retains talented and dedicated individuals who work around the clock to build a better future for every Texan.”

Best,

Nan Tolson

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Nan Tolson

Deputy Press Secretary

Office of the Governor

Press Office: 512-463-1826



From: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 4:40 PM

To: Britt Snipes <Britt.Snipes@gov.texas.gov>

Cc: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Subject: IMPORTANT: FORBES REQUEST FOR COMMENT

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

Dear Britt,

My name is Adam Andrzejewski, a senior policy contributor at Forbes. We are working on a piece exploring six-figure public employee compensation across the local and state Texas governments. The deadline for comment is Tuesday, July 28th, 2020 at 5pm EST.

If you miss our deadline, **we will do our best to update the piece after you respond.**

In these times of national crisis, please provide us with an on-the-record justification, comment, or context.

Here is the section(s) where your entity is mentioned:

In the Office of the Governor alone, 48 employees earned six-figure salaries and eleven out-earned their boss (\$153,750). This included four deputy directors who made \$265,000 each. In fact, [ranked](#) against the 50 states, the Texas governor's office has the largest staff at a headcount of 277.

Any context, feedback, or comment would be important to our readers at Forbes. The amount of compensation comes via open records request of the Texas Comptroller's Office for 2019.

Sincerely,

Adam
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