

9/1/09

Dear Mr. Braun [of the Mackinac Center],

I support your efforts to get state and local governments to post employee salaries and other financial data on the web. Salaries are not enough, however. Citizens also need to know what public employees actually earn. A few months ago, I asked the Lansing Board of Water and Light for total 2008 earnings for all of their employees in addition to their salaries. The data revealed that 2008 earnings for 86 employees exceeded their salaries by at least \$30,000. The average excess for those 86 employees was \$40,115. The highest was \$66,067. The excess was from shift differential and overtime. Overtime at LBWL is 170% of regular pay rather than time and a half, as the law requires.

I posted my findings, including a list of all 727 employees and their salaries and earnings, on my website, steveharrypublicpolicy.com.

Steve Harry