Town of Dresden – Supervisor Meeting Statement (2025)

Tonight I want to address the compensation for the Town Supervisor and provide the Board and the Town with a clear, factual basis for determining an appropriate level going forward, drawing on both the actual workload of the position and a full comparison with the other towns in Washington County.

Over the past year, I documented the time I personally spent carrying out the duties of Supervisor as I performed them, recognizing that different Supervisors may approach the role differently depending on their methods, availability, and style. My work included payroll review and corrections, NYSLRS reporting, cash transfers, positive pay verification, preparation of monthly financials, annual financial reporting (AFR), budgeting and journal entries, meeting preparation, the meetings themselves, LRCC filings and site inspections, and several significant projects involving DEC, the Lake George Park Commission, attorneys, engineers, and contractors.

My documented time came to approximately 260 hours for the year. Of this total, roughly **150 hours** were routine administrative and financial responsibilities that recur annually, while approximately **110 hours** were tied to special projects unique to 2025. To ensure clarity and avoid any possibility of understating the workload, I rounded that total to **300 hours per year**, or about six hours per week—roughly twenty-five hours per month.

The special projects I took on this year included sewer burial funding, the landfill investigation, LGPC coordination, and the sewer superintendent transition, and other minor ones. While these specific tasks will not recur in the same form, it is true that project-based work can arise in any year, depending on the needs of the town and the Supervisor's initiative. The amount and nature of such work naturally vary with circumstances.

It is also worth noting that I spent between two and two-and-a-half times as many hours on county business as on town business. Every Town Supervisor in Washington County serves in both capacities, and the county pays each Supervisor the same amount—approximately \$22,230 per year. For every town in the county **except Dresden**, the county-level compensation exceeds the pay associated with managing the town. In practice, serving on the Board of Supervisors has historically been the primary compensated responsibility for most Supervisors.

I also reviewed compensation across Washington County. The publicly available data and scatterplots I am providing tonight show a clear pattern: more than half of the towns in the county—with populations far larger than Dresden—pay their Supervisors less than \$10,000 per year. Only Dresden and Putnam stand out as significant outliers where pay levels do not align with population, workload, or municipal scale.

There may be historical reasons for this disparity. While the full background is not entirely certain, one plausible scenario is that years ago a previous Supervisor increased his own salary while reducing the pay associated with a related family member's duties in the Supervisor's office. This shift would have moved compensation into the Supervisor's line, increasing Final Average Salary for retirement purposes. Whatever the circumstances at that time, the resulting compensation level persisted long after those considerations had passed.

With both workload and peer-town data in view, we have an opportunity to place Dresden's compensation structure on a sounder, more proportionate foundation.

Given this generous estimate of 300 hours per year, the clear countywide compensation data showing that the norm is below \$10,000, and the need for proportionality and responsible governance, I believe it is appropriate for the Town Board to consider whether Dresden's current compensation level remains justified. Rather than recommending a specific figure, I would encourage the Board to evaluate what level of compensation best aligns with the actual workload, our town's size and budget, and the compensation structures of our peer communities. My goal in presenting this information is not to set a number, but to provide the Board with a factual foundation from which to make a thoughtful, well-supported decision. At the same time, I believe it is important that we arrive at a clear compensation level tonight, rather than leaving the matter unresolved or open-ended. Settling this question now will allow the Town to move forward with clarity.

This adjustment will restore Dresden to responsible municipal practice and ensures that Supervisor compensation reflects the true needs of the position.

I offer this presentation in the interest of fairness, transparency, and careful stewardship of town resources.

Supervisor Hours Summary (Detail)

Routine Administrative & Financial Duties (~150 hours/year):

- Payroll Entry and Corrections 13 hours/year
- NYSLRS Monthly Retirement Reporting 6 hours/year
- Annual Financial Report (AFR) 6 hours/year
- Positive Pay Fraud-Prevention 19 hours/year
- Cash Management 8 hours/year
- Mail Handling 1 hour/year
- Agenda Preparation & Supervisor Narrative 48 hours/year
- Monthly Town Board Meetings 24 hours/year
- Monthly Financial Reports 12 hours/year
- Budget Tracking & Journal Entries 20 hours/year
- LRCC Filings and Inspections 2.5 hours/year

Special Project Work (~85 hours/year equivalent):

- Sewer Burial Funding & Planning 34 hours
- LGPC/LGAA Coordination & Field Work 26 hours
- · Landfill / DEC Investigation 16.5 hours
- Mini Solar Project Research 10 hours
- Sewer Superintendent Transition & Law Modification 25 hours

Round-Up Adjustment:

Additional hours to conservatively round total workload to 300 hours/year

Final Total Workload: 300 hours/year (≈6 hours/week or 25 hours/month).

Figure 1 — Total Hours Worked by Category (with Round-Up)

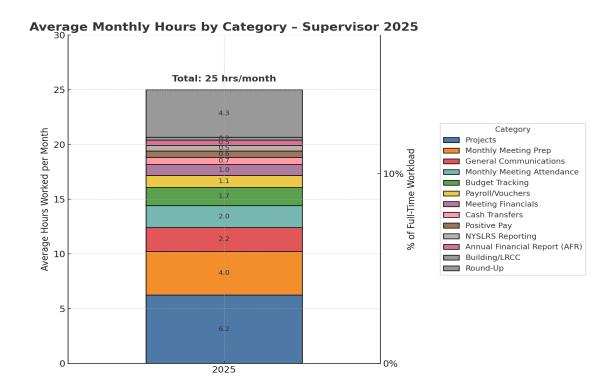


Figure 2 — Average Monthly Hours by Category (with Round-Up)

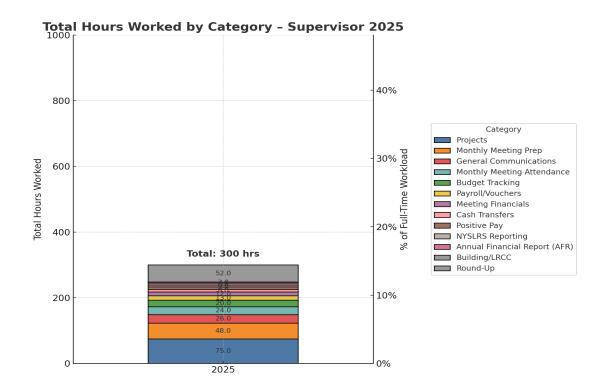
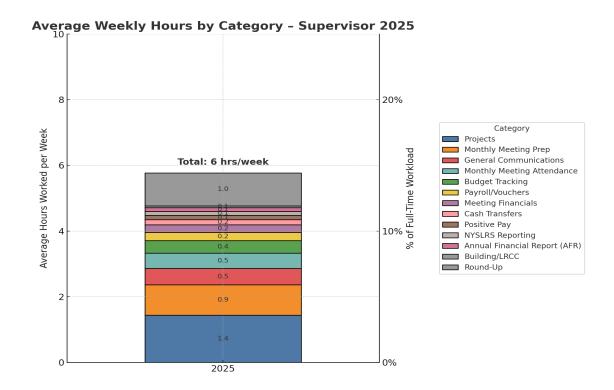
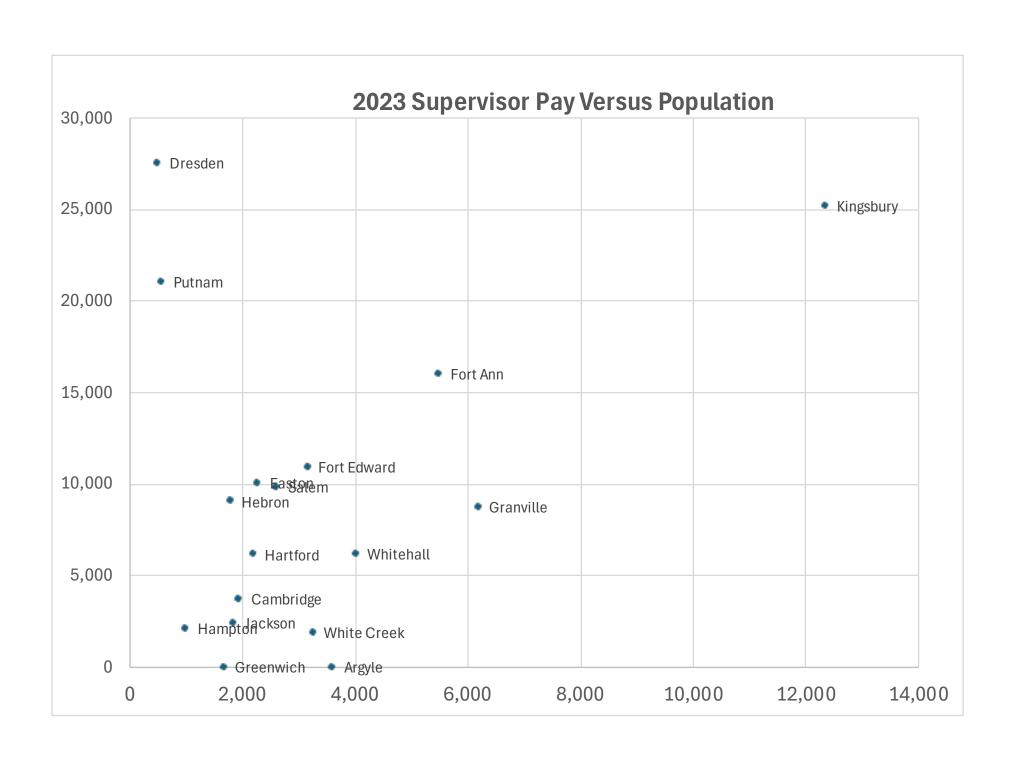
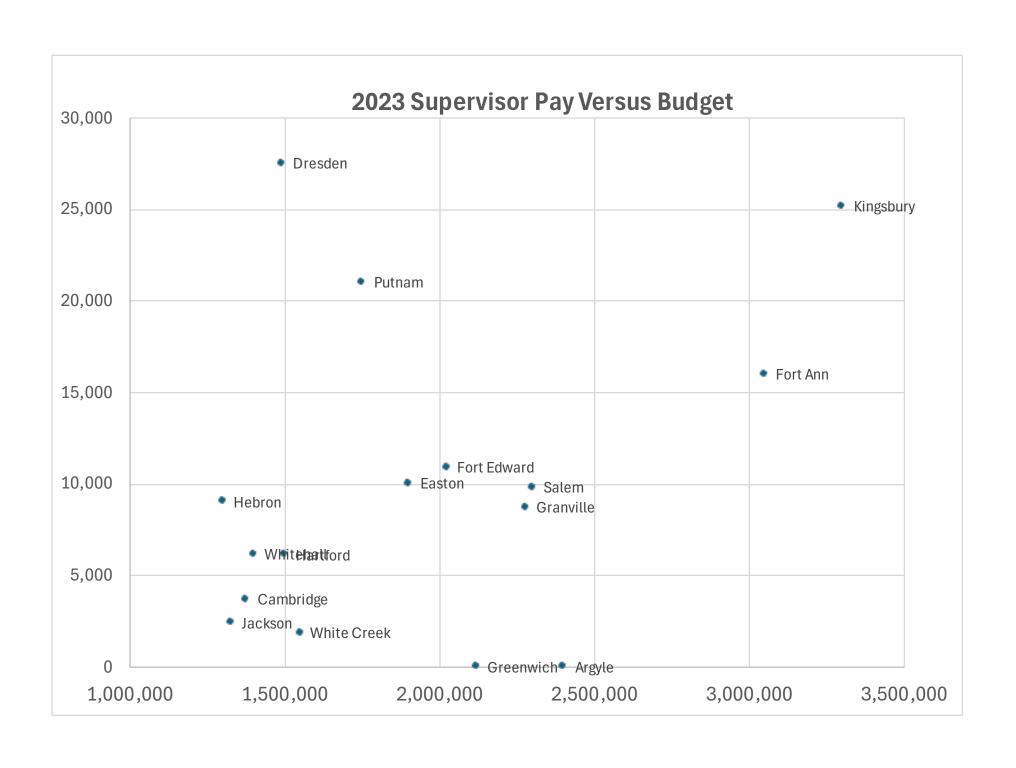
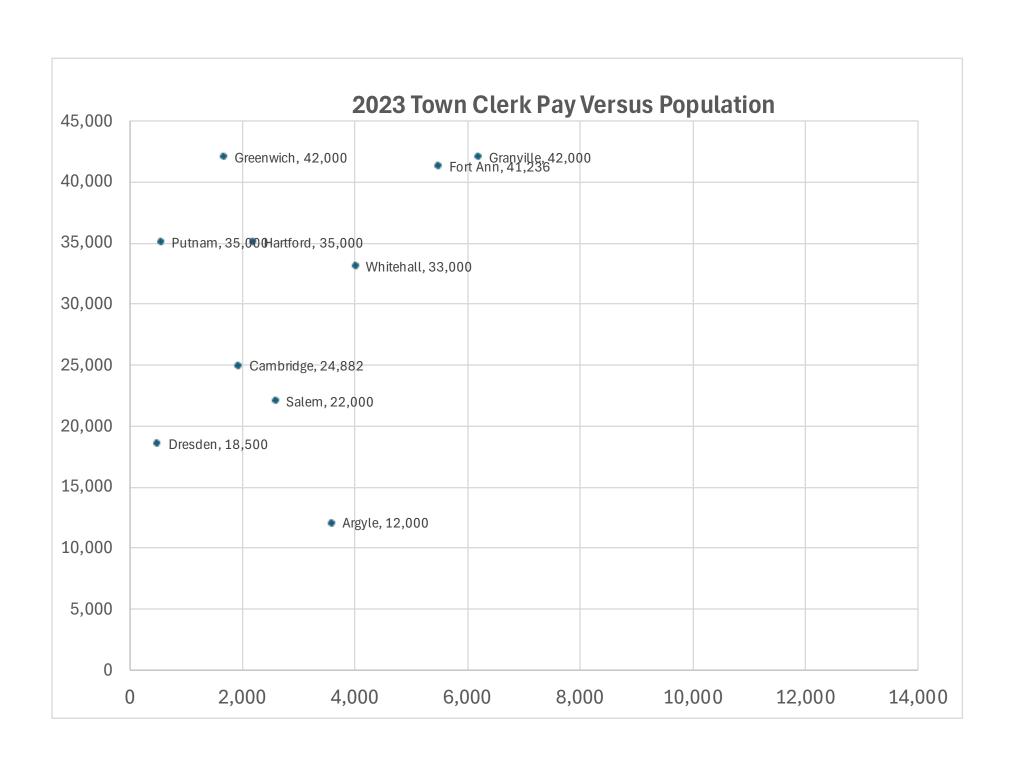


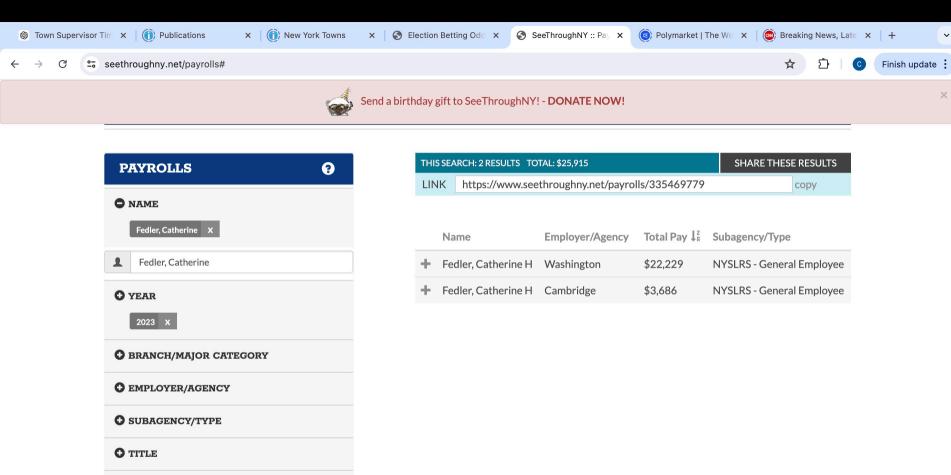
Figure 3 — Average Weekly Hours by Category (with Round-Up)











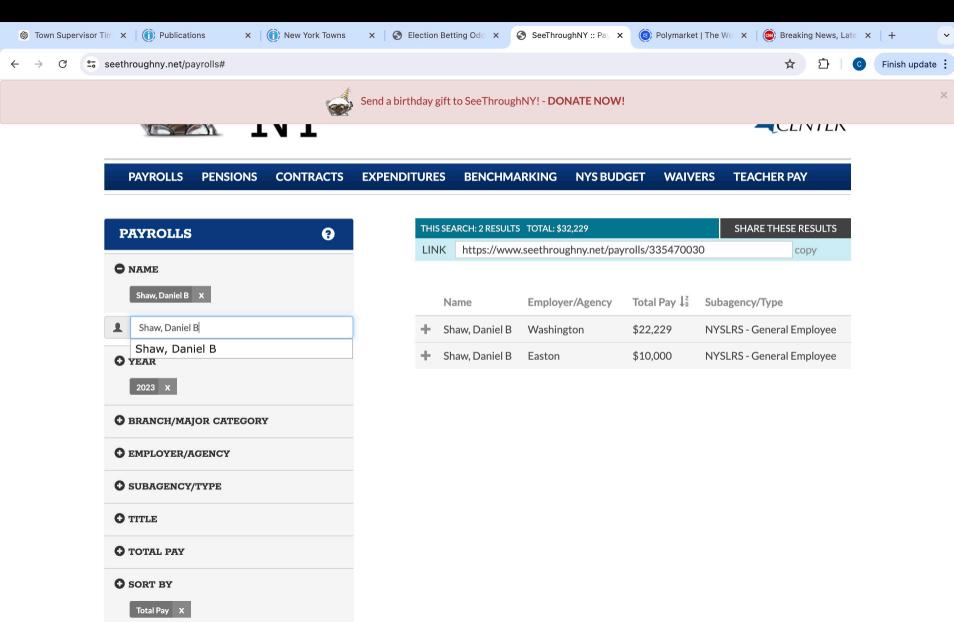
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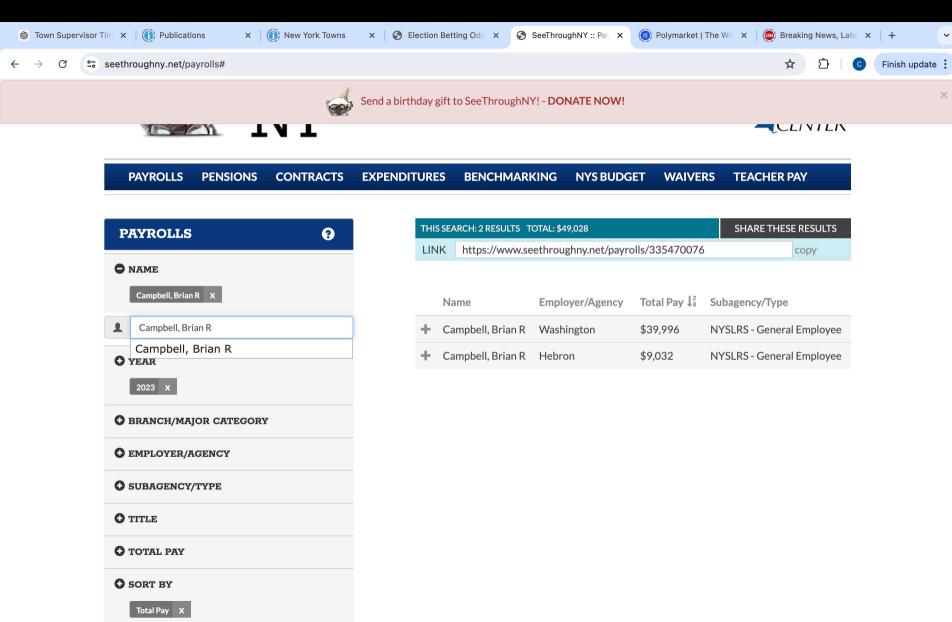
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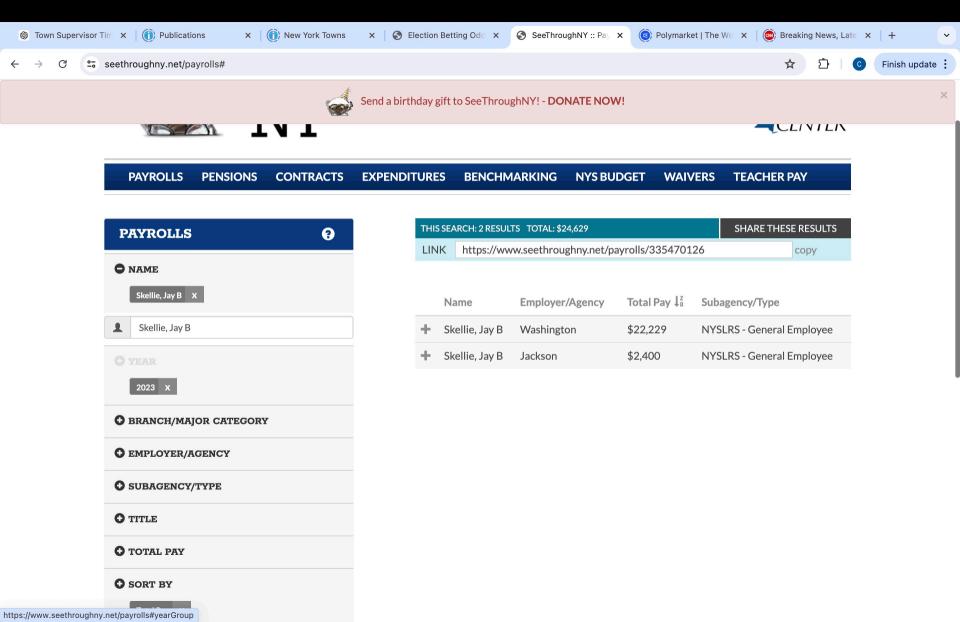


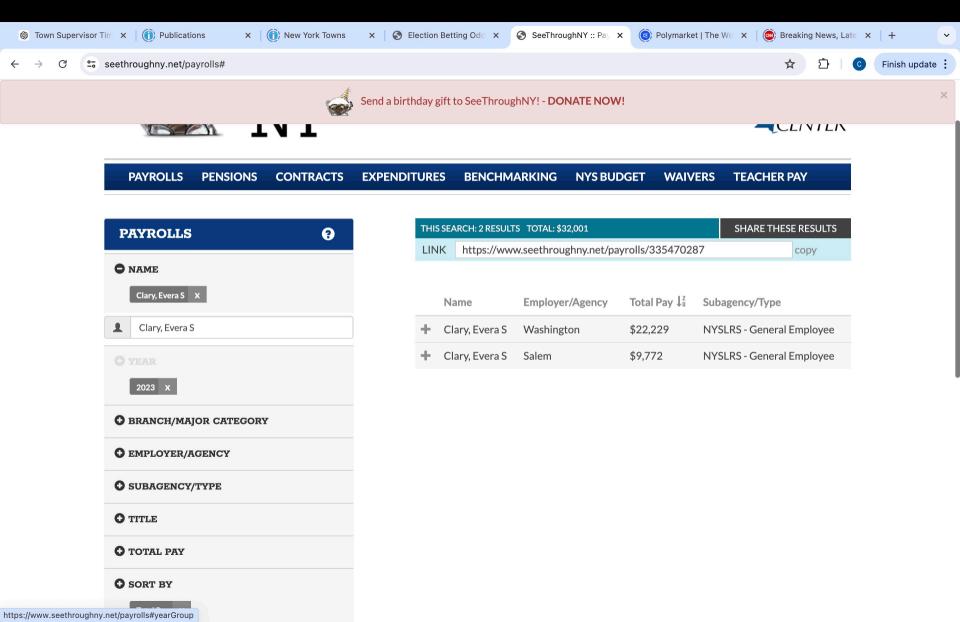


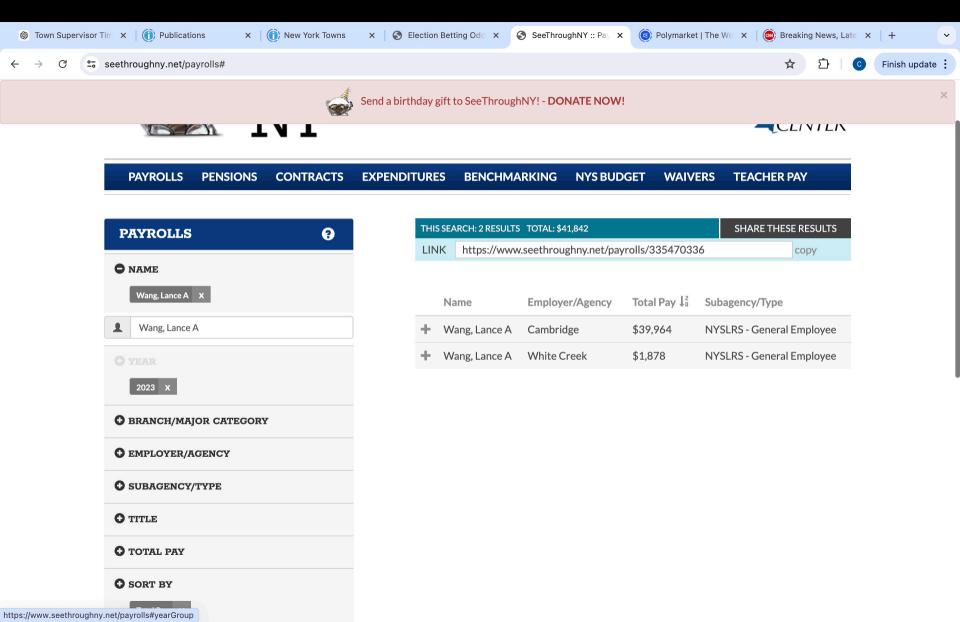
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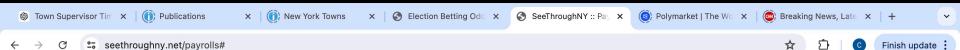


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♣ Ferguson, Paul D) Washington	\$22,229	NYSLRS - General Employee











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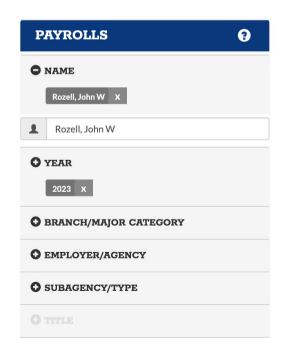






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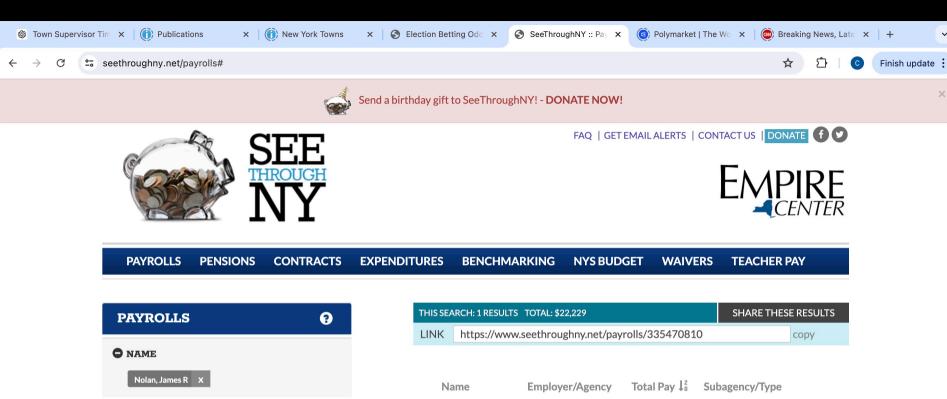




PAYROLLS PENSIONS CONTRACTS EXPENDITURES BENCHMARKING NYS BUDGET WAIVERS TEACHER PAY

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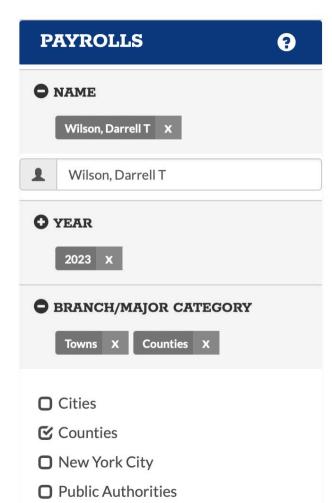
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+	Hogan, Dana	Washington	\$22,229	NYS	SLRS - General Employee







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SHARE THESE THIS SEARCH: 2 RESULTS **RESULTS** TOTAL: \$43,229 Total Pay 12 Subagency/Type Name Employer/Agency Wilson, Washington \$22,229 NYSLRS - General Darrell T Employee \$21,000 Wilson, Putnam NYSLRS - General Darrell T Employee