

**Summary: Executive Budget Recommendation
for Fiscal Year 2025-26
JUDICIARY**



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	FY 2024-25 Year-to-Date as of 2/5/25	FY 2025-26 Executive	Difference: FY 2025-26 vs. FY 2024-25	
			Amount	%
IDG/IDT	\$2,402,300	\$1,902,300	(\$500,000)	(20.8)
Federal	7,132,600	7,270,900	138,300	1.9
Local	0	0	0	--
Private	1,905,300	1,906,400	1,100	0.1
Restricted	95,887,300	96,645,800	758,500	0.8
GF/GP	266,113,900	287,288,200	21,174,300	8.0
Gross	\$373,441,400	\$395,013,600	\$21,572,200	5.8
FTEs	643.5	684.5	41.0	6.4

Note: Appropriation figures for all years include all proposed appropriation amounts, including amounts designated as "one-time."

Overview

Article VI of the State Constitution of 1963 forms the basis for Michigan's judicial branch of government. The Judiciary budget provides operational funding for the Michigan Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the State Appellate Defender Office, and other judicial agencies. The budget funds the salaries of justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the appeals, circuit, probate, and district courts according to constitutional and statutory requirements. Funding assistance for local trial court operations is provided through a variety of grant programs. The largest of these, the Court Equity Fund Reimbursement program, reimburses counties for trial court operations based on a statutory formula that recognizes circuit and probate caseloads and the number of judgeships.

Major Budget Changes from FY 2024-25 Year-to-Date (YTD) Appropriations	FY 2024-25 YTD (as of 2/5/25)	Executive Change from YTD
1. Statewide Case Management System	FTE 67.0	12.0
Includes an additional \$7.2 million GF/GP and an additional 12.0 FTE positions for continued support of the statewide judicial case management system as trial courts continue to transition to the system from locally managed systems. Of the total, \$2.7 million would be allocated to support ongoing personnel costs and \$4.6 million would be allocated for operating costs. (Funding proposed by the executive would be in addition to \$13.5 million of ongoing funding and \$150.0 million of one-time funding appropriated in FY 2023.)	Gross \$13,499,100	\$7,200,000
	GF/GP \$13,499,100	\$7,200,000
2. Additional Staff for Supreme Court and SCAO	FTE 0.0	12.0
Includes a total of \$4.7 million Gross (\$4.6 million GF/GP) to support the following:	Gross \$0	\$4,749,200
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2.6 million to expand capacity for conducting financial audits of local trial courts \$1.2 million for 5.0 human resources staff and 2.0 finance staff to implement the administrative structure of SCAO recommended by the National Center for State Courts \$355,000 for 2.0 field service staff for SCAO to support court programs and trial court operations \$210,000 for 1.0 grants officer position to research, apply for, and administer federal and private grant funding \$177,500 for 1.0 field service staff position for the Office of Dispute Resolution within SCAO 	Restricted 0	177,500
	GF/GP \$0	\$4,571,700

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<u>Major Budget Changes from FY 2024-25 Year-to-Date (YTD) Appropriations</u>	FY 2024-25 YTD (as of 2/5/25)	Executive Change from YTD
2. Additional Staff for Supreme Court and SCAO (continued)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$167,400 for 1.0 legal editor position in the Office of Reporter of Decisions to support ongoing caseloads and reduce the backlog of decisions awaiting editing and publication. 		
3. Problem-Solving Courts		
Includes a total of \$1.6 million GF/GP and 2.0 FTE positions to support problem-solving courts. Of the total:	FTE	NA
	Gross	NA
	GF/GP	NA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$642,000 would support establishing new problem-solving court programs \$389,000 would support economic increases for local trial courts \$355,000 would support 2.0 new staff within SCAO to support oversight and management of the problem-solving courts program \$198,000 would support increased wages for behavioral health workers. 		2.0
		\$1,584,000
		\$1,584,000
4. FTE and Funding Adjustment		
Reflects a net 0 transfer of funding and FTE positions from drug treatment courts (2.0 FTEs and \$349,200) and mental health courts (1.0 FTE and \$150,800) to SCAO (3.0 FTEs and \$500,000). With this transfer, problem-solving court line items would include funding only for grant awards for local courts and would not include funding for SCAO staff that administer the grant programs. Funding for staff would be included in the SCAO line item.	FTE	NA
	Gross	NA
	GF/GP	NA
		0.0
		\$0
		\$0
5. Federal Funds Adjustment for Drug Treatment Courts		
Includes authorization to receive an additional \$100,000 in federal grant funding from the Office of Highway Safety Planning. Funding would be used to support drug treatment courts.	Gross	\$2,258,700
	Federal	2,258,700
	GF/GP	\$0
		\$100,000
		100,000
		\$0
6. Drug Court Case Management System		
Includes \$265,000 GF/GP to support increased contractual costs of maintaining the drug court case management information system.	Gross	NA
	GF/GP	NA
		\$265,000
		\$265,000
7. Training for Judges and Court Staff		
Includes \$533,700 GF/GP and authorization for 3.0 additional FTE positions for the Michigan Judicial Institute to expand training provided to judges and court staff.	FTE	NA
	Gross	NA
	GF/GP	NA
		3.0
		\$533,700
		\$533,700
8. Michigan Legal Help		
Includes \$400,000 GF/GP to support increased salary costs for program personnel and increased information technology costs for hosting the Michigan Legal Help website.	Gross	\$600,000
	GF/GP	\$600,000
		\$400,000
		\$400,000
9. Judgeship Changes		
Includes a total of \$539,200 Gross (\$123,500 GF/GP) to support costs of judgeship changes. Funding would support annualizing costs of one probate court judgeship in Macomb County and one district court judgeship in Kent County, authorized under Public Acts 310 and 311 of 2023, respectively. Funding for three quarters of the fiscal year was included in the FY 2024-25 budget. Funding would also support the addition of two circuit court judgeships, one in Kalamazoo County and one in Allegan County, authorized under 2022 PA 277. The effective date of the judgeship changes was January 1, 2025.	Gross	\$305,500
	Restricted	133,800
	GF/GP	\$171,700
		\$539,200
		415,700
		\$123,500

<u>Major Budget Changes from FY 2024-25 Year-to-Date (YTD) Appropriations</u>		FY 2024-25 YTD (as of 2/5/25)	Executive Change from YTD
10. SOCC Recommendations for Supreme Court Justices	Gross	\$166,600	(\$166,600)
Removes \$166,600 GF/GP that was included in the FY 2024-25 budget to support recommendations made by SOCC in May 2023 to provide a 7% salary increase for Supreme Court justices in 2025 and 2026, and a \$10,000 expense allowance for each justice. Recommendations needed legislative approval via a concurrent resolution prior to the November 2024 general election in order to take effect. The resolution did not make it all the way through the legislative process.	GF/GP	\$166,600	(\$166,600)
11. Appellate Indigent Defense Workload Standards	FTE	23.0	12.0
Includes \$2.3 million GF/GP to support costs of 12.0 new attorney and support staff positions for SADO for year two of the phased implementation of workload standards, based on a workload assessment conducted by the National Center for State Courts. Standards are developed by the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission in parallel with separate workload standards for trial-level public defenders.	Gross	\$3,259,000	\$2,325,000
	GF/GP	\$3,259,000	\$2,325,000
12. SADO Salary Adjustments	Gross	NA	\$591,000
Includes a total of \$591,000 GF/GP to cover costs of pay increases for SADO employees. Of the total, \$488,500 is included to cover costs of negotiated pay increases for UAW-represented employees and \$102,500 is included to cover costs of pay increases for non-represented employees to keep pace with adjustments provided to union-represented employees.	GF/GP	NA	\$591,000
13. Removal of FY 2024-25 One-Time Appropriations	Gross	\$2,500,000	(\$2,500,000)
Removes \$2.5 million Gross (\$2.0 million GF/GP) of one-time funding that was included in the FY 2024-25 budget to support the following:	IDG	500,000	(500,000)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eviction Diversion Pilot program (\$500,000) • Operation Drive (\$1.0 million) • Prescription Compliance Through Oral Fluid Testing program (\$500,000) • Status Offender Pilot program (\$500,000). 	GF/GP	\$2,000,000	(\$2,000,000)
14. Economic Adjustments	Gross	NA	\$5,951,700
Reflects a net increase in costs of \$6.0 million Gross (\$5.7 million GF/GP) for negotiated salary and wage increases (3.0% on October 1, 2025), insurances, actuarially required retirement contributions, worker's compensation, building occupancy charges, and rent.	Federal	NA	38,300
	Private	NA	1,100
	Restricted	NA	165,300
	GF/GP	NA	\$5,747,000

Major Boilerplate Changes from FY 2024-25

Sec. 209. Report on State Restricted Funds – DELETED

Requires the judicial branch to work with the state budget office to report annually on estimated state restricted fund balances, state restricted fund projected revenues, and state restricted fund expenditures.

Sec. 210. Appropriation of Additional Revenue – NEW

Appropriates an additional \$2.5 million in federal revenue, \$2.5 million in state restricted revenue, and \$500,000 in private revenue should the revenue become available; requires a report on amounts appropriated, sources of funding appropriated, and purposes of appropriations.

Sec. 211. Disciplinary Action Against State Employees – DELETED

Prohibits the judicial branch from taking disciplinary action against employees for communicating with legislators or their staff unless the communication is prohibited by law and the judicial branch is exercising its authority.

Major Boilerplate Changes from FY 2024-25

Sec. 212. Receipt and Retention of Required Reports – DELETED

Requires the judicial branch to receive and retain copies of all required reports; requires federal and state guidelines to be followed for short- and long-term retention of records; authorizes the judicial branch to electronically retain copies of reports unless otherwise required by federal and state guidelines.

Sec. 314. Medication-Assisted Treatment Program – DELETED

Requires judiciary to maintain a medication-assisted treatment program to provide treatment for opioid- and alcohol-addicted individuals who are referred to and who voluntarily participate in the program; requires judiciary to report on the program, including itemized spending by court, number of participants, and statistics that indicate average program participation duration and success rates.

Sec. 401. Eviction Diversion Pilot Program – DELETED

Requires one-time appropriation to be used to support an eviction diversion pilot program in 14A District Court in Washtenaw County; requires funds to be used to assist tenants experiencing financial hardship through a collaborative program designed to settle landlord-tenant disputes and prevent eviction and homelessness; requires SCAO to report on the number of program participants, the number of disputes settled, the number of evictions avoided, and other program outcomes, including the benefit of the program to participants and the benefit of the program to the state; designates unexpended funding as a work project appropriation.

Sec. 402. Status Offender Pilot Program – DELETED

Requires SCAO to establish a grant program to award 5 eligible courts with grants of up to \$100,000 for innovative, community-based diversion programs and services that work solely with youth for who the court receives a complaint, referral, or petition for what is alleged to be a status offense; authorizes SCAO to partner with DHHS; designates unexpended funding as a work project account.

Sec. 403. Operation Drive – DELETED

Requires \$500,000 to be allocated to the 52nd District Court in Oakland County and \$500,000 to be allocated to district courts statewide that want to establish a program; requires courts receiving funding to work with the 44th District Court in Royal Oak on establishing a program; requires the program to provide individuals with guidance on how to address underlying issues that led to driver license suspension, guidance on how to maintain the individual's responsibility, and guidance on how to address traffic tickets, warrants, court appearances, and payment of fees and fines; designates unexpended funding as a work project appropriation.

Sec. 404. Prescription Compliance through Oral Fluid Testing Program – DELETED

Requires \$500,000 to be used to continue the program in veterans, mental health, and drug treatment courts that want to participate; requires SCAO to report on the number of programs, the number of program participants in each jurisdiction, the number of tests completed, program testing and results, program treatment, and program outcomes, including rearrest rate of participants, and the benefit of the program to the state; designates unexpended funding as a work project appropriation.

		<u>FY 2024-25 Recommendation</u>
<u>Supplemental Recommendations for FY 2024-25 Appropriations</u>		
<i>1. Judgeship Changes</i>	Gross	\$316,200
Includes \$316,200 Gross (\$45,100 GF/GP) to support the addition of two circuit court judgeships, one in Kalamazoo County and one in Allegan County, authorized under 2022 PA 277. The effective date of the judgeship changes was January 1, 2025, so funding is needed to cover costs for three-quarters of the fiscal year.	Restricted	271,100
	GF/GP	\$45,100
<i>2. Federal Funds Adjustment for Drug Treatment Courts</i>	Gross	\$100,000
Includes authorization to receive an additional \$100,000 in federal grant funding from the Office of Highway Safety Planning. Funding would be used to support drug treatment courts.	Federal	100,000
	GF/GP	\$0
<i>3. Funding Adjustment for Status Offender Pilot Program</i>	Gross	\$12,100
Includes authorization to receive an additional \$12,100 in federal grant funding through an IDG from the Department of Health and Human Services for the Status Offender Pilot program. Funding was awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention and is being used by eligible courts to provide services for diverted youth.	IDG	12,100
	GF/GP	\$0