

CIRCUIT COURTS

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Source of Funds	FY15 Adjusted Base	FY16 Recommended	% Change Over FY15	FY17 Recommended	% Change Over FY16
GPR	95,603,500	97,470,300	2.0	97,470,300	0.0
PR-S	232,700	232,700	0.0	232,700	0.0
TOTAL	95,836,200	97,703,000	1.9	97,703,000	0.0

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION SUMMARY

Source of Funds	FY15 Adjusted Base	FY16 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY15	FY17 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY16
GPR	527.00	527.00	0.00	527.00	0.00
TOTAL	527.00	527.00	0.00	527.00	0.00

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Circuit Courts are Wisconsin's courts of general jurisdiction and consist of 249 judicial positions in 69 judicial circuits. Each county in the state is a circuit, with the exception of Pepin and Buffalo, Menominee and Shawano, and Forest and Florence, which are paired to form three circuits. A circuit may consist of more than one branch (judge) where the volume of litigation warrants. Of the 69 circuits, 41 contain multiple branches.

The Circuit Courts have original jurisdiction in all criminal, civil, juvenile, family and probate cases unless exclusive jurisdiction has been given to another court. The courts have appellate jurisdiction over orders and judgments of the municipal courts and the responsibility to review decisions and orders of state administrative agencies.

For purposes of management, the Circuit Courts are divided into ten administrative districts. Each district has a chief judge appointed by the Supreme Court and a district court administrator, who administers the business of the judicial branch in that district in cooperation with the director of state courts at the direction of the chief justice. The first judicial district (Milwaukee County) also has an assistant district court administrator.

CIRCUIT COURTS

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Circuit Court Block Grant
2. Transfer Court Interpreters Appropriation Authority
3. Standard Budget Adjustments

ITEMS NOT APPROVED

4. Per Diem for Court Interpreter Reimbursement
5. Two-Year Centralized Interpreter Pilot
6. Increased Funding for County Payment Programs

Circuit Courts

**Table 1
Department Budget Summary by Funding Source (in thousands of dollars)**

	ACTUAL FY14	ADJUSTED BASE FY15	AGENCY REQUEST FY16	AGENCY REQUEST FY17	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY16	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY17
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	\$89,692.3	\$95,603.5	\$106,344.4	\$106,344.4	\$97,470.3	\$97,470.3
State Operations	67,866.7	70,926.7	72,793.5	72,793.5	49,467.5	49,467.5
Local Assistance	21,825.7	24,676.8	33,550.9	33,550.9	48,002.8	48,002.8
PROGRAM REVENUE (2)	\$232.7	\$232.7	\$232.7	\$232.7	\$232.7	\$232.7
Local Assistance	232.7	232.7	232.7	232.7	232.7	232.7
TOTALS - ANNUAL	\$89,925.0	\$95,836.2	\$106,577.1	\$106,577.1	\$97,703.0	\$97,703.0
State Operations	67,866.7	70,926.7	72,793.5	72,793.5	49,467.5	49,467.5
Local Assistance	22,058.4	24,909.5	33,783.6	33,783.6	48,235.5	48,235.5

(2) Includes Program Revenue-Service and Program Revenue-Other

**Table 2
Department Position Summary by Funding Source (in FTE positions) (4)**

	ADJUSTED BASE FY15	AGENCY REQUEST FY16	AGENCY REQUEST FY17	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY16	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY17
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00
State Operations	527.00	527.00	527.00	249.00	249.00
Local Assistance	0.00	0.00	0.00	278.00	278.00
TOTALS - ANNUAL	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00
State Operations	527.00	527.00	527.00	249.00	249.00
Local Assistance	0.00	0.00	0.00	278.00	278.00

(2) Includes Program Revenue-Service and Program Revenue-Other

(4) All positions are State Operations unless otherwise specified

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**Table 3
Department Budget Summary by Program (in thousands of dollars)**

	ACTUAL FY14	ADJUSTED BASE FY15	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY16	FY17	FY16	FY17
1. Court operations	\$89,925.0	\$95,836.2	\$106,577.1	\$106,577.1	\$97,703.0	\$97,703.0
TOTALS	\$89,925.0	\$95,836.2	\$106,577.1	\$106,577.1	\$97,703.0	\$97,703.0

**Table 4
Department Position Summary by Program (in FTE positions) (4)**

	ADJUSTED BASE FY15	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY16	FY17	FY16	FY17
1. Court operations	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00
TOTALS	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00

(4) All positions are State Operations unless otherwise specified

Circuit Courts

1. Circuit Court Block Grant

The Governor recommends the creation of a new appropriation for circuit court costs. The Governor also recommends transferring funding from the appropriations for court interpreter fees, circuit court support payments and guardian ad litem costs to the new appropriation. The Governor further recommends transferring funding and position authority from the circuit courts sum sufficient appropriation to the circuit court costs appropriation, to reflect the transfer of court reporters from the circuit courts sum sufficient appropriation to the circuit court costs appropriation. In addition, the Governor recommends the repeal of the appropriations for statutory court interpreter fees, circuit court support payments, guardian ad litem costs, and violent crime court costs and programs. Finally, the Governor recommends the repeal of statutory language requiring counties to report circuit court revenues and expenditures to the Director of State Courts Office.

2. Transfer Court Interpreters Appropriation Authority

The Governor recommends transferring expenditure authority for the court interpreters appropriation from the justice information fee receipts appropriation to the penalty surcharge receipts appropriation.

3. Standard Budget Adjustments

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY16		FY17		FY16		FY17	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	1,866,800	0.00	1,866,800	0.00	1,866,800	0.00	1,866,800	0.00
TOTAL	1,866,800	0.00	1,866,800	0.00	1,866,800	0.00	1,866,800	0.00

The Governor recommends adjusting the agency's base budget for full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits (\$1,866,800 in each year).

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ITEMS NOT APPROVED

The following requests are not included in the Governor's budget recommendations for the Circuit Courts.

Decision Item	Source of Funds	FY16		FY17	
		Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
4. Per Diem for Court Interpreter Reimbursement	GPR	225,000	0.00	225,000	0.00
5. Two-Year Centralized Interpreter Pilot	GPR	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6. Increased Funding for County Payment Programs	GPR	8,649,100	0.00	8,649,100	0.00
TOTAL OF ITEMS NOT APPROVED	GPR	8,874,100	0.00	8,874,100	0.00