

CIRCUIT COURTS

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Source of Funds	FY11 Adjusted Base	FY12 Recommended	% Change Over FY11	FY13 Recommended	% Change Over FY12
GPR	95,790,000	90,248,400	-5.8	90,248,400	0.0
PR-S	0	134,000	0.0	232,700	73.7
TOTAL	95,790,000	90,382,400	-5.6	90,481,100	0.1

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION SUMMARY

Source of Funds	FY11 Adjusted Base	FY12 Recommended	FTE Change From FY11	FY13 Recommended	FTE Change From FY12
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. Where the volume of litigation warrants, a circuit consists of more than one branch (judge). 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 administer 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.

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GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Increase Employee Contributions to Pension and Health Insurance
2. Budget Efficiencies
3. Court Interpreter Funding
4. Court System Self-Help Centers
5. Create Program Revenue Receipts Appropriation
6. Standard Budget Adjustments

ITEMS NOT APPROVED

7. Financial Assistance Programs

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

	ACTUAL FY10	ADJUSTED BASE FY11	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY12	FY13	FY12	FY13
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	\$92,421.8	\$95,790.0	\$115,879.2	\$115,977.9	\$90,248.4	\$90,248.4
State Operations	67,893.6	71,113.2	71,671.7	71,671.7	68,039.3	68,039.3
Local Assistance	24,528.2	24,676.8	44,207.5	44,306.2	22,209.1	22,209.1
PROGRAM REVENUE (2)	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$134.0	\$232.7
Local Assistance	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	134.0	232.7
TOTALS - ANNUAL	\$92,421.8	\$95,790.0	\$115,879.2	\$115,977.9	\$90,382.4	\$90,481.1
State Operations	67,893.6	71,113.2	71,671.7	71,671.7	68,039.3	68,039.3
Local Assistance	24,528.2	24,676.8	44,207.5	44,306.2	22,343.1	22,441.8

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

Table 2
Department Position Summary by Program (in FTE positions) (4)

	ADJUSTED BASE FY11	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY12	FY13	FY12	FY13
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00
TOTALS - ANNUAL	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00

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

(4) All positions are State Operations unless otherwise specified

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

	ACTUAL FY10	ADJUSTED BASE FY11	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY12	FY13	FY12	FY13
1. Court operations	\$92,421.8	\$95,790.0	\$115,879.2	\$115,977.9	\$90,382.4	\$90,481.1
TOTALS	\$92,421.8	\$95,790.0	\$115,879.2	\$115,977.9	\$90,382.4	\$90,481.1

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

	ADJUSTED BASE FY11	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY12	FY13	FY12	FY13
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

1. Increase Employee Contributions to Pension and Health Insurance

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendation			
	FY12		FY13		FY12		FY13	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	-3,632,400	0.00	-3,632,400	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	-3,632,400	0.00	-3,632,400	0.00

The Governor recommends increasing state employee contributions towards pension and health insurance costs. Employees will generally pay 50 percent of the total required retirement contribution, which for calendar year 2011 equals 5.8 percent of salary. The Governor further recommends increasing employee contributions for health insurance from approximately 6 percent of the premium to 12.6 percent of the premium. These modifications are necessary to bring state employee compensation in line with private sector employment and reduce compensation costs.

2. Budget Efficiencies

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendation			
	FY12		FY13		FY12		FY13	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	-2,467,700	0.00	-2,467,700	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	-2,467,700	0.00	-2,467,700	0.00

The Governor recommends reducing funding, excluding salary and fringe benefits, in most GPR and PR appropriations by 10 percent to create additional efficiencies and balance the budget.

3. Court Interpreter Funding

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendation			
	FY12		FY13		FY12		FY13	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	134,000	0.00	232,700	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
PR-S	0	0.00	0	0.00	134,000	0.00	232,700	0.00
TOTAL	134,000	0.00	232,700	0.00	134,000	0.00	232,700	0.00

The Governor recommends increasing funding for reimbursement of court interpreter costs incurred by the counties for interpreter services, with funding supported by revenues generated from the justice information fee. See Department of Administration, Item #27.

4. Court System Self-Help Centers

The Governor recommends authorizing a county board to direct its clerk of courts to operate a self-help center to provide individuals with information on the court system, including guidance on court proceedings and where to find legal assistance and forms. The Governor also recommends authorizing a county to impose a fee for services provided by a self-help center.

5. Create Program Revenue Receipts Appropriation

The Governor recommends creating a program revenue continuing appropriation to collect revenues the Circuit Courts may receive for providing materials and services.

6. Standard Budget Adjustments

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendation			
	FY12		FY13		FY12		FY13	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	558,500	0.00	558,500	0.00	558,500	0.00	558,500	0.00
TOTAL	558,500	0.00	558,500	0.00	558,500	0.00	558,500	0.00

The Governor recommends adjusting the agency's base budget for: (a) full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits (\$558,900 in each year); and (b) full funding of lease and directed moves costs (-\$400 in each year).

ITEMS NOT APPROVED

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

Decision Item	Source of Funds	FY12		FY13	
		Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
7. Financial Assistance Programs	GPR	19,396,700	0.00	19,396,700	0.00
TOTAL OF ITEMS NOT APPROVED	GPR	19,396,700	0.00	19,396,700	0.00