

# Wisconsin Court System

## Circuit Courts



Court Budget Request  
2021 – 2023 Biennium  
October 6, 2020

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## **COURT DESCRIPTION**

The Circuit Courts are Wisconsin's courts of general jurisdiction and consist of 249 judicial positions in 69 judicial circuits. 2019 Wisconsin Act 184 authorized the creation of 12 additional circuit court branches across two biennia. As of August 1, 2021 there will be 253 judicial positions and as of August 1, 2022 there will be 257 judicial positions. The last four circuit court branches are created in the 2023-2025 biennium on August 1, 2023 increasing judicial positions to 261.

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, 46 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 nine 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.

# Court Total by Fund Source

Circuit Courts

2123 Biennial Budget

ANNUAL SUMMARY						BIENNIAL SUMMARY					
Source of Funds		Prior Year Total	Adjusted Base	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE	Base Year Doubled (BYD)	Biennial Request	Change From (BYD)	Change From BYD %
GPR	L	\$25,812,136	\$27,076,800	\$27,515,500	\$27,954,200	0.00	0.00	\$54,153,600	\$55,469,700	\$1,316,100	2.4%
GPR	S	\$75,485,726	\$80,286,000	\$78,325,400	\$79,428,800	535.00	543.00	\$160,572,000	\$157,754,200	(\$2,817,800)	-1.8%
<b>Total</b>		\$101,297,862	\$107,362,800	\$105,840,900	\$107,383,000	535.00	543.00	\$214,725,600	\$213,223,900	(\$1,501,700)	-0.7%
PR	L	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	0.00	0.00	\$465,400	\$465,400	\$0	0.0%
PR	S	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>		\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	0.00	0.00	\$465,400	\$465,400	\$0	0.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>		\$101,530,562	\$107,595,500	\$106,073,600	\$107,615,700	535.00	543.00	\$215,191,000	\$213,689,300	(\$1,501,700)	-0.7%

# Court Total by Program

625 Circuit Courts

2123 Biennial Budget

Source of Funds	ANNUAL SUMMARY						BIENNIAL SUMMARY			
	Prior Year Actual	Adjusted Base	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE	Base Year Doubled (BYD)	Biennial Request	Change From (BYD)	Change From BYD %
<b>01 COURT OPERATIONS</b>										
Non Federal										
<b>GPR</b>	<b>\$101,297,862</b>	<b>\$107,362,800</b>	<b>\$105,840,900</b>	<b>\$107,383,000</b>	<b>535.00</b>	<b>543.00</b>	<b>\$214,725,600</b>	<b>\$213,223,900</b>	<b>(\$1,501,700)</b>	<b>-0.70%</b>
L	\$25,812,136	\$27,076,800	\$27,515,500	\$27,954,200	0.00	0.00	\$54,153,600	\$55,469,700	\$1,316,100	2.43%
S	\$75,485,726	\$80,286,000	\$78,325,400	\$79,428,800	535.00	543.00	\$160,572,000	\$157,754,200	(\$2,817,800)	-1.75%
<b>PR</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$465,400</b>	<b>\$465,400</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
L	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	0.00	0.00	\$465,400	\$465,400	\$0	0.00%
<b>Total - Non Federal</b>	<b>\$101,530,562</b>	<b>\$107,595,500</b>	<b>\$106,073,600</b>	<b>\$107,615,700</b>	<b>535.00</b>	<b>543.00</b>	<b>\$215,191,000</b>	<b>\$213,689,300</b>	<b>(\$1,501,700)</b>	<b>-0.70%</b>
L	\$26,044,836	\$27,309,500	\$27,748,200	\$28,186,900	0.00	0.00	\$54,619,000	\$55,935,100	\$1,316,100	2.41%
S	\$75,485,726	\$80,286,000	\$78,325,400	\$79,428,800	535.00	543.00	\$160,572,000	\$157,754,200	(\$2,817,800)	-1.75%
<b>PGM 01 Total</b>	<b>\$101,530,562</b>	<b>\$107,595,500</b>	<b>\$106,073,600</b>	<b>\$107,615,700</b>	<b>535.00</b>	<b>543.00</b>	<b>\$215,191,000</b>	<b>\$213,689,300</b>	<b>(\$1,501,700)</b>	<b>-0.70%</b>
<b>GPR</b>	<b>\$101,297,862</b>	<b>\$107,362,800</b>	<b>\$105,840,900</b>	<b>\$107,383,000</b>	<b>535.00</b>	<b>543.00</b>	<b>\$214,725,600</b>	<b>\$213,223,900</b>	<b>(\$1,501,700)</b>	<b>-0.70%</b>
L	\$25,812,136	\$27,076,800	\$27,515,500	\$27,954,200	0.00	0.00	\$54,153,600	\$55,469,700	\$1,316,100	2.43%
S	\$75,485,726	\$80,286,000	\$78,325,400	\$79,428,800	535.00	543.00	\$160,572,000	\$157,754,200	(\$2,817,800)	-1.75%
<b>PR</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$465,400</b>	<b>\$465,400</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
L	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	0.00	0.00	\$465,400	\$465,400	\$0	0.00%

# Court Total by Program

625 Circuit Courts									2123 Biennial Budget	
<b>TOTAL 01</b>	<b>\$101,530,562</b>	<b>\$107,595,500</b>	<b>\$106,073,600</b>	<b>\$107,615,700</b>	<b>535.00</b>	<b>543.00</b>	<b>\$215,191,000</b>	<b>\$213,689,300</b>	<b>(\$1,501,700)</b>	<b>-0.70%</b>
L	\$26,044,836	\$27,309,500	\$27,748,200	\$28,186,900	0.00	0.00	\$54,619,000	\$55,935,100	\$1,316,100	2.41%
S	\$75,485,726	\$80,286,000	\$78,325,400	\$79,428,800	535.00	543.00	\$160,572,000	\$157,754,200	(\$2,817,800)	-1.75%
<b>Court Total</b>	<b>\$101,530,562</b>	<b>\$107,595,500</b>	<b>\$106,073,600</b>	<b>\$107,615,700</b>	<b>535.00</b>	<b>543.00</b>	<b>\$215,191,000</b>	<b>\$213,689,300</b>	<b>(\$1,501,700)</b>	<b>-0.70%</b>

# Court Total by Decision Item

Circuit Courts

2123 Biennial Budget

Decision Item	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level	\$107,595,500	\$107,595,500	527.00	527.00
3003 Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits	(\$2,972,200)	(\$2,972,200)	0.00	0.00
4001 Act 184 positions and funding for Circuit Court Branches	\$1,450,300	\$2,992,400	8.00	16.00
4003 Transfer administration of Certifications of Qualifications of Employment	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$106,073,600</b>	<b>\$107,615,700</b>	<b>535.00</b>	<b>543.00</b>

# GPR Earned

2123 Biennial Budget

	CODES	TITLES
DEPARTMENT	625	Circuit Courts
PROGRAM	01	Court operations

DATE September 15, 2020

Revenue	Prior Year Actuals	Base Year Estimate	1st Year Estimate	2nd Year Estimate
Opening Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
REVENUE	\$35,427,400	\$35,454,200	\$35,188,700	\$34,080,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,427,400</b>	<b>\$35,454,200</b>	<b>\$35,188,700</b>	<b>\$34,080,100</b>

# Program Revenue

2123 Biennial Budget

	CODES	TITLES
DEPARTMENT	625	Circuit Courts
PROGRAM	01	Court operations
SUBPROGRAM		
NUMERIC APPROPRIATION	21	Court interpreters

Revenue and Expenditures	Prior Year Actuals	Base Year Estimate	1st Year Estimate	2nd Year Estimate
<b>Opening Balance</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Penalty surcharge	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level	\$0	\$0	\$232,700	\$232,700
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>	<b>\$232,700</b>
<u>Closing Balance</u>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

## **Decision Item (DIN) - 2000**

### **Decision Item (DIN) Title - Adjusted Base Funding Level**

#### **NARRATIVE**

Adjusted Base Funding Level

# Decision Item by Line

2123 Biennial Budget

	<b>CODES</b>	<b>TITLES</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	625	Circuit Courts
	<b>CODES</b>	<b>TITLES</b>
<b>DECISION ITEM</b>	2000	Adjusted Base Funding Level

Expenditure items		1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	\$55,052,400	\$55,052,400
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$1,151,500	\$1,151,500
05	Fringe Benefits	\$22,394,900	\$22,394,900
06	Supplies and Services	\$1,679,600	\$1,679,600
07	Permanent Property	\$7,600	\$7,600
08	Unalloted Reserve	\$0	\$0
09	Aids to Individuals Organizations	\$0	\$0
10	Local Assistance	\$27,309,500	\$27,309,500
11	One-time Financing	\$0	\$0
12	Debt Service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
<b>17</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$107,595,500</b>	<b>\$107,595,500</b>
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	527.00	527.00

# Decision Item by Numeric

## Circuit Courts

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	<b>2000</b>	<b>Adjusted Base Funding Level</b>			
<b>01</b>	<b>Court operations</b>				
	01 Circuit courts	\$80,286,000	\$80,286,000	527.00	527.00
	05 Circuit court costs	\$27,076,800	\$27,076,800	0.00	0.00
	21 Court interpreters	\$232,700	\$232,700	0.00	0.00
	<b>Court operations SubTotal</b>	<b>\$107,595,500</b>	<b>\$107,595,500</b>	<b>527.00</b>	<b>527.00</b>
	<b>Adjusted Base Funding Level SubTotal</b>	<b>\$107,595,500</b>	<b>\$107,595,500</b>	<b>527.00</b>	<b>527.00</b>
	<b>Court Total</b>	<b>\$107,595,500</b>	<b>\$107,595,500</b>	<b>527.00</b>	<b>527.00</b>

# Decision Item by Fund Source

## Circuit Courts

	Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
Decision Item	2000	Adjusted Base Funding Level				
	GPR	L	\$27,076,800	\$27,076,800	0.00	0.00
	GPR	S	\$80,286,000	\$80,286,000	527.00	527.00
	PR	L	\$232,700	\$232,700	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$107,595,500</b>	<b>\$107,595,500</b>	<b>527.00</b>	<b>527.00</b>
<b>Court Total</b>			<b>\$107,595,500</b>	<b>\$107,595,500</b>	<b>527.00</b>	<b>527.00</b>

## **Decision Item (DIN) - 3003**

### **Decision Item (DIN) Title - Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits**

#### **NARRATIVE**

Standard Budget Adjustment - Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits

# Decision Item by Line

2123 Biennial Budget

	<b>CODES</b>	<b>TITLES</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	625	Circuit Courts
	<b>CODES</b>	<b>TITLES</b>
<b>DECISION ITEM</b>	3003	Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits

	<b>Expenditure items</b>	<b>1st Year Cost</b>	<b>2nd Year Cost</b>
01	Permanent Position Salaries	(\$1,234,600)	(\$1,234,600)
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$0	\$0
05	Fringe Benefits	(\$1,737,600)	(\$1,737,600)
06	Supplies and Services	\$0	\$0
07	Permanent Property	\$0	\$0
08	Unalloted Reserve	\$0	\$0
09	Aids to Individuals Organizations	\$0	\$0
10	Local Assistance	\$0	\$0
11	One-time Financing	\$0	\$0
12	Debt Service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
<b>17</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>(\$2,972,200)</b>	<b>(\$2,972,200)</b>
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

# Decision Item by Numeric

## Circuit Courts

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	<b>3003</b>	<b>Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits</b>			
<b>01</b>	<b>Court operations</b>				
	01 Circuit courts	(\$2,972,200)	(\$2,972,200)	0.00	0.00
	<b>Court operations SubTotal</b>	<b>(\$2,972,200)</b>	<b>(\$2,972,200)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<b>Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits SubTotal</b>	<b>(\$2,972,200)</b>	<b>(\$2,972,200)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<b>Court Total</b>	<b>(\$2,972,200)</b>	<b>(\$2,972,200)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

# Decision Item by Fund Source

## Circuit Courts

	Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
<b>Decision Item</b>	<b>3003</b>	<b>Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits</b>				
	GPR	S	(\$2,972,200)	(\$2,972,200)	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>(\$2,972,200)</b>	<b>(\$2,972,200)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Court Total</b>			<b>(\$2,972,200)</b>	<b>(\$2,972,200)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

## **Decision Item (DIN) - 4001**

### **Decision Item (DIN) Title - Act 184 positions and funding for Circuit Court Branches**

#### **NARRATIVE**

2019 Wisconsin Act 184, which was enacted March 5, 2020, added 12 circuit court branches and requires that the Director of State Courts request position authority and funding for eight circuit court branches in the 2021-23 biennial budget. Companion DIN to 680 Supreme Court DIN 4001 requesting the funding authority for one-time and ongoing costs.

# Decision Item by Line

2123 Biennial Budget

	<b>CODES</b>	<b>TITLES</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	625	Circuit Courts
	<b>CODES</b>	<b>TITLES</b>
<b>DECISION ITEM</b>	4001	Act 184 positions and funding for Circuit Court Branches

Expenditure items		1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	\$716,300	\$1,497,700
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$10,900	\$22,700
05	Fringe Benefits	\$274,600	\$574,200
06	Supplies and Services	\$9,800	\$20,400
07	Permanent Property	\$0	\$0
08	Unalloted Reserve	\$0	\$0
09	Aids to Individuals Organizations	\$0	\$0
10	Local Assistance	\$438,700	\$877,400
11	One-time Financing	\$0	\$0
12	Debt Service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
<b>17</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$1,450,300</b>	<b>\$2,992,400</b>
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	8.00	16.00

# Decision Item by Numeric

## Circuit Courts

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	<b>4001</b>	<b>Act 184 positions and funding for Circuit Court Branches</b>			
<b>01</b>	<b>Court operations</b>				
	01 Circuit courts	\$1,011,600	\$2,115,000	8.00	16.00
	05 Circuit court costs	\$438,700	\$877,400	0.00	0.00
	<b>Court operations SubTotal</b>	<b>\$1,450,300</b>	<b>\$2,992,400</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>16.00</b>
	<b>Act 184 positions and funding for Circuit Court Branches SubTotal</b>	<b>\$1,450,300</b>	<b>\$2,992,400</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>16.00</b>
	<b>Court Total</b>	<b>\$1,450,300</b>	<b>\$2,992,400</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>16.00</b>

# Decision Item by Fund Source

## Circuit Courts

	Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
<b>Decision Item</b>	<b>4001</b>	<b>Act 184 positions and funding for Circuit Court Branches</b>				
	GPR	L	\$438,700	\$877,400	0.00	0.00
	GPR	S	\$1,011,600	\$2,115,000	8.00	16.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,450,300</b>	<b>\$2,992,400</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>16.00</b>
<b>Court Total</b>			<b>\$1,450,300</b>	<b>\$2,992,400</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>16.00</b>

## **Decision Item (DIN) - 4003**

### **Decision Item (DIN) Title - Transfer administration of Certifications of Qualifications of Employment**

#### **NARRATIVE**

2019 Wisconsin Act 123, which was enacted March 3, 2020, created a procedure for granting certificates of qualification for employment for persons convicted of a crime. It also created an appropriation in the Circuit Courts for receipt of moneys from applications by offenders for a certificate of qualification of employment. The application fee is \$20. This item would transfer the appropriation authority to the Department of Corrections and makes statutory changes to clarify current law and improve administration.

# Decision Item by Line

2123 Biennial Budget

	<b>CODES</b>	<b>TITLES</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	625	Circuit Courts
	<b>CODES</b>	<b>TITLES</b>
<b>DECISION ITEM</b>	4003	Transfer administration of Certifications of Qualifications of Employment

Expenditure items		1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$0	\$0
05	Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0
06	Supplies and Services	\$0	\$0
07	Permanent Property	\$0	\$0
08	Unalloted Reserve	\$0	\$0
09	Aids to Individuals Organizations	\$0	\$0
10	Local Assistance	\$0	\$0
11	One-time Financing	\$0	\$0
12	Debt Service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
<b>17</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

# Decision Item by Numeric

## Circuit Courts

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	<b>4003</b>	<b>Transfer administration of Certifications of Qualifications of Employment</b>			
<b>01</b>	<b>Court operations</b>				
	23 Certificate qualification empl	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
	<b>Court operations SubTotal</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<b>Transfer administration of Certifications of Qualifications of Employment SubTotal</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<b>Court Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

# Decision Item by Fund Source

## Circuit Courts

	Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
<b>Decision Item</b>	<b>4003</b>	<b>Transfer administration of Certifications of Qualifications of Employment</b>				
	PR	S	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Court Total</b>			<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>