

SUPREME COURT

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Source of Funds	FY25 Adjusted Base	FY26 Recommended	% Change Over FY25	FY27 Recommended	% Change Over FY26
GPR	20,660,900	21,933,500	6.2	21,854,000	-0.4
PR-F	1,054,700	529,000	-49.8	529,500	0.1
PR-S	279,800	396,400	41.7	584,000	47.3
PR-O	15,814,900	18,257,500	15.4	18,339,100	0.4
SEG-O	339,700	338,800	-0.3	339,100	0.1
TOTAL	38,150,000	41,455,200	8.7	41,645,700	0.5

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION SUMMARY

Source of Funds	FY25 Adjusted Base	FY26 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY25	FY27 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY26
GPR	115.50	123.90	8.40	123.90	0.00
PR-F	5.00	5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00
PR-S	2.75	4.50	1.75	7.50	3.00
PR-O	108.25	108.25	0.00	108.25	0.00
SEG-O	1.60	1.60	0.00	1.60	0.00
TOTAL	233.10	243.25	10.15	246.25	3.00

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Wisconsin Supreme Court, consisting of seven justices elected to ten-year terms, has original jurisdiction in certain cases of statewide concern and, since August 1978, discretionary appellate jurisdiction on all other issues arising under Wisconsin law. The court considers petitions to review decisions of the Court of Appeals, petitions to bypass the Court of Appeals and certifications from that court. It is the highest tribunal for actions commenced in state courts, except where a federal question allowing an appeal to the federal court system is raised. It is the final authority on the state constitution.

The state constitution provides that the Wisconsin Supreme Court has superintending and administrative authority over all courts in the state. In addition, the Supreme Court has regulatory authority over all Wisconsin judges and lawyers, including monitoring and enforcing ethics rules when needed.

The chief justice is the administrative head of the state judicial system and exercises this authority both directly and through the director of state courts pursuant to rules adopted by the Supreme Court. The Wisconsin Supreme Court also prepares the budget for the entire Wisconsin Court System and monitors compliance with the budget approved by the Legislature and Governor.

SUPREME COURT

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Office of the Marshals of the Supreme Court
2. Circuit Court Cost Payments and Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Programs
3. Circuit Court Payment Support Position
4. Additional Circuit Court Branches
5. Juror Lists
6. Judicial Privacy Protections
7. Court Interpreter Program Support Position
8. Program Revenue Reestimates
9. Standard Budget Adjustments

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

	ACTUAL FY24	ADJUSTED BASE FY25	AGENCY REQUEST FY26	AGENCY REQUEST FY27	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY26	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY27
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	\$19,149.4	\$20,660.9	\$21,987.4	\$21,925.6	\$21,933.5	\$21,854.0
State Operations	19,149.4	20,660.9	21,987.4	21,925.6	21,933.5	21,854.0
FEDERAL REVENUE (1)	\$978.7	\$1,054.7	\$1,041.3	\$1,041.8	\$529.0	\$529.5
State Operations	978.7	1,054.7	1,041.3	1,041.8	529.0	529.5
PROGRAM REVENUE (2)	\$18,097.1	\$16,094.7	\$19,981.3	\$20,140.8	\$18,653.9	\$18,923.1
State Operations	18,097.1	16,094.7	19,981.3	20,140.8	18,653.9	18,923.1
SEGREGATED REVENUE (3)	\$188.0	\$339.7	\$338.8	\$339.1	\$338.8	\$339.1
State Operations	188.0	339.7	338.8	339.1	338.8	339.1
TOTALS - ANNUAL	\$38,413.2	\$38,150.0	\$43,348.8	\$43,447.3	\$41,455.2	\$41,645.7
State Operations	38,413.2	38,150.0	43,348.8	43,447.3	41,455.2	41,645.7

(1) Includes Program Revenue-Federal and Segregated Revenue-Federal

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

(3) Includes Segregated Revenue-Service, Segregated Revenue-Other and Segregated Revenue-Local

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

	ADJUSTED BASE FY25	AGENCY REQUEST FY26	AGENCY REQUEST FY27	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY26	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY27
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	115.50	123.90	123.90	123.90	123.90
State Operations	115.50	123.90	123.90	123.90	123.90
FEDERAL REVENUE (1)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
State Operations	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
PROGRAM REVENUE (2)	111.00	111.00	111.00	112.75	115.75
State Operations	111.00	111.00	111.00	112.75	115.75
SEGREGATED REVENUE (3)	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60
State Operations	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60
TOTALS - ANNUAL	233.10	241.50	241.50	243.25	246.25
State Operations	233.10	241.50	241.50	243.25	246.25

(1) Includes Program Revenue-Federal and Segregated Revenue-Federal

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

(3) Includes Segregated Revenue-Service, Segregated Revenue-Other and Segregated Revenue-Local

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

	ACTUAL FY24	ADJUSTED BASE FY25	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
1. Supreme court proceedings	\$6,158.7	\$6,785.2	\$6,754.6	\$6,766.8	\$6,606.2	\$6,618.4
2. Director of state courts and law library	\$28,148.9	\$27,096.7	\$30,836.9	\$30,997.2	\$28,997.2	\$29,267.2
3. Bar examiners and responsibility	\$4,105.7	\$4,268.1	\$4,519.0	\$4,519.0	\$4,519.1	\$4,519.1
4. Office of the Marshals of the Supreme Court	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$1,238.3	\$1,164.3	\$1,332.7	\$1,241.0
TOTALS	\$38,413.2	\$38,150.0	\$43,348.8	\$43,447.3	\$41,455.2	\$41,645.7

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

	ADJUSTED BASE FY25	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
1. Supreme court proceedings	38.50	38.50	38.50	36.90	36.90
2. Director of state courts and law library	161.10	161.10	161.10	162.85	165.85
3. Bar examiners and responsibility	33.50	33.50	33.50	33.50	33.50
4. Office of the Marshals of the Supreme Court	0.00	8.40	8.40	10.00	10.00
TOTALS	233.10	241.50	241.50	243.25	246.25

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1. Office of the Marshals of the Supreme Court

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	1,238,300	8.40	1,164,300	8.40	1,184,300	8.40	1,092,600	8.40
TOTAL	1,238,300	8.40	1,164,300	8.40	1,184,300	8.40	1,092,600	8.40

The Governor recommends creating an Office of the Marshals of the Supreme Court to provide police services to the state court system, protective services for justices and their offices, security assessments, and advanced security planning for circuit court proceedings. The Governor also recommends providing expenditure and position authority for the office.

2. Circuit Court Cost Payments and Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Programs

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
PR-S	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	155,600	3.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	155,600	3.00

The Governor recommends transferring positions that administer treatment alternatives and diversion (TAD) programs at the Department of Justice to the Supreme Court effective January 1, 2027. As part of this proposal, the Governor also recommends converting the current grant program for TAD programs administered by the Department of Justice to make receipt of certain enhanced circuit court cost payments contingent on operating a TAD program. The Governor further recommends creating a grant program at the Department of Administration for tribes to establish TAD programs. See Circuit Courts, Item #1; Department of Administration, Item #52; and Department of Justice, Item #1.

3. Circuit Court Payment Support Position

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
PR-S	0	0.00	0	0.00	68,600	1.00	90,300	1.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	68,600	1.00	90,300	1.00

The Governor recommends providing expenditure and position authority to provide a financial auditor for the circuit court support payment program. See Circuit Courts, Item #2.

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4. Additional Circuit Court Branches

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
PR-O	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	64,700	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	64,700	0.00

The Governor recommends providing expenditure authority, including a one-time increase for information technology, to support the creation of two circuit court branches in Brown County for terms beginning August 1, 2026. See Circuit Courts, Item #3.

5. Juror Lists

The Governor recommends expanding the source lists that are used by the Director of State Courts to compile the state's juror lists by requiring that certain lists that are optional under current law be provided. The Governor also recommends that the Department of Transportation provide the clerks of court for the U.S. district courts in Wisconsin the same list that it provides to the Director of State Courts for compiling the state's juror lists.

6. Judicial Privacy Protections

The Governor recommends expanding the definition of "judicial officer" to include Wisconsin's federal district court judges and magistrate judges and U.S. bankruptcy judges for the purposes of the protections created by 2023 Wisconsin Act 235.

7. Court Interpreter Program Support Position

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
PR-S	0	0.00	0	0.00	35,000	0.75	45,300	0.75
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	35,000	0.75	45,300	0.75

The Governor recommends providing expenditure and position authority to support the circuit court interpreter program. See Circuit Courts, Item #11.

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8. Program Revenue Reestimates

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
PR-F	0	0.00	0	0.00	-512,300	0.00	-512,300	0.00
PR-O	3,531,100	0.00	3,673,700	0.00	2,100,000	0.00	2,100,000	0.00
TOTAL	3,531,100	0.00	3,673,700	0.00	1,587,700	0.00	1,587,700	0.00

The Governor recommends adjusting expenditure authority based on reestimates of funding and expenditures.

9. Standard Budget Adjustments

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	88,200	0.00	100,400	0.00	88,300	0.00	100,500	0.00
PR-F	-13,400	0.00	-12,900	0.00	-13,400	0.00	-12,900	0.00
PR-S	13,000	0.00	13,000	0.00	13,000	0.00	13,000	0.00
PR-O	342,500	0.00	359,400	0.00	342,600	0.00	359,500	0.00
SEG-O	-900	0.00	-600	0.00	-900	0.00	-600	0.00
TOTAL	429,400	0.00	459,300	0.00	429,600	0.00	459,500	0.00

The Governor recommends adjusting the agency's base budget for: (a) full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits (\$465,400 in each year); and (b) full funding of lease and directed moves costs (-\$35,800 in FY26 and -\$5,900 in FY27).

