

**Judiciary Section, Comptroller's Department
Summary of Budget Recommendations - Senate**

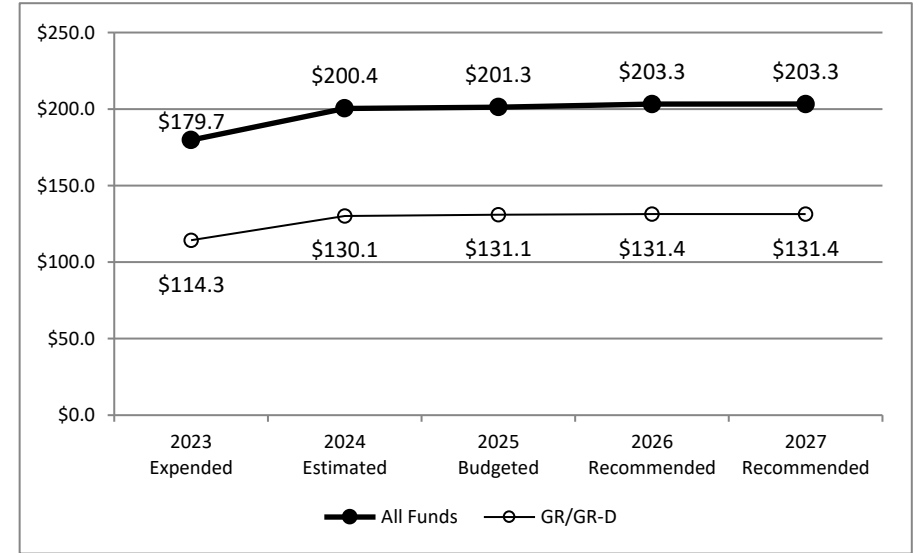
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Lisa Craven, Deputy Commissioner
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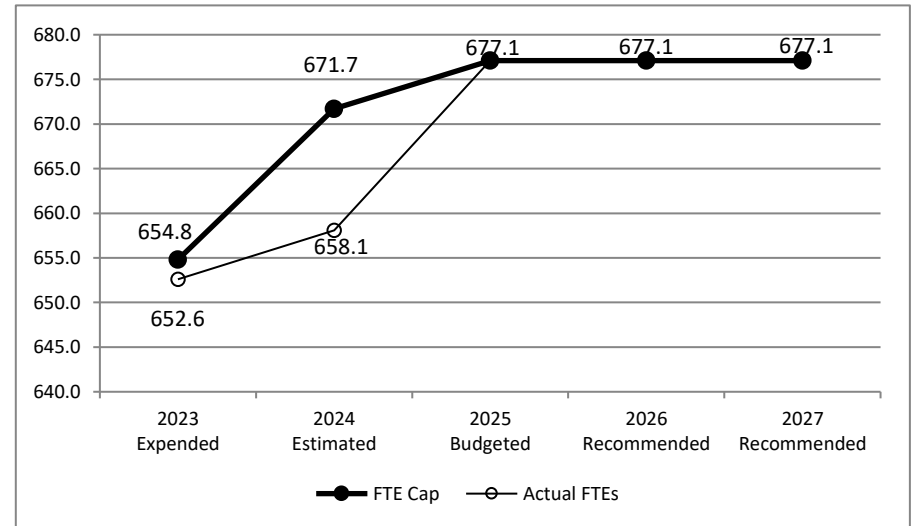
Method of Financing	2024-25 Base	2026-27 Recommended	Biennial Change (\$)	Biennial Change (%)
General Revenue Funds	\$261,209,970	\$262,783,643	\$1,573,673	0.6%
GR Dedicated Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
<i>Total GR-Related Funds</i>	<i>\$261,209,970</i>	<i>\$262,783,643</i>	<i>\$1,573,673</i>	<i>0.6%</i>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Other	\$140,483,892	\$143,733,834	\$3,249,942	2.3%
All Funds	\$401,693,862	\$406,517,477	\$4,823,615	1.2%

	FY 2025 Budgeted	FY 2027 Recommended	Biennial Change	Percent Change
FTEs	677.1	677.1	0.0	0.0%

Historical Funding Levels (Millions)



Historical Full-Time-Equivalent Employees (FTEs)



The bill pattern for this agency (2026-27 Recommended) represents an estimated 100.0% of the agency's estimated total available funds for the 2026-27 biennium.

Judiciary Section, Comptroller's Department
Summary of Funding Changes and Recommendations - Senate

Funding Changes and Recommendations for the 2026-27 Biennium compared to the 2024-25 Base Spending Level (in millions)		General Revenue	GR-Dedicated	Federal Funds	Other Funds	All Funds	Strategy in Appendix A
SIGNIFICANT Funding Changes and Recommendations (each issue is explained in Section 3 and additional details are provided in Appendix A):							
A)	General Revenue increase to biennialize amounts appropriated for House Bill 3474, Eighty-eighth Legislature, Regular Session, 2023 (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issue #2).	\$0.7	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.7	A.1.1, B.1.2, C.1.3, D.1.7
B)	General Revenue increase to cover an increase in premium costs for insurance coverage provided by Walker County to Special Prosecution Unit employees (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issue #4).	\$0.2	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.2	D.1.4
C)	General Revenue increase to provide a salary adjustment to prosecutors employed by the Special Prosecution Unit (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issue #4).	\$0.6	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.6	D.1.4
OTHER Funding Changes and Recommendations (these issues are not addressed in Section 3 but details are provided in Appendix A):							
D)	Judicial Fund No. 573 (Other Funds) increase for anticipated County-Level Judge salary supplement obligations.	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$3.2	\$3.2	C.1.2
E)	General Revenue increase to cover membership costs for participation in the National Center for State Courts.	\$0.1	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.1	D.1.6
TOTAL SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Changes and Recommendations (in millions)		\$1.6	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$3.2	\$4.8	As Listed
SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Increases		\$1.6	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$3.2	\$4.8	As Listed
SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Decreases		\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	As Listed

NOTE: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

**Judiciary Section, Comptroller’s Department
Selected Fiscal and Policy Issues - Senate**

1. **Judge and Prosecutor Compensation.** Government Code §659.012, Judicial Salaries, and §46.003, Compensation of State Prosecutors, establish a tiered, tenure-based compensation structure for certain judges and professional prosecutors that is linked to the base salary of a district judge and adjusts depending on the judge or professional prosecutor’s tenure. For their first four years of service, the judge or the professional prosecutor earns a base salary that is a certain percentage of the base salary of a district judge. When their tenure is between 4-8 years of service, the judge or professional prosecutor earns 110 percent of their base salary. With 8 or more years of tenure, the judge or professional prosecutor’s salary is 120 percent of their base salary.

Judge / Prosecutor	Court / Judicial District / State Agency	Base Salary (0-4 years)	4-8 years	8+ years
Chief Justice	Supreme Court	\$170,500	\$187,300	\$204,100
Presiding Judge	Court of Criminal Appeals			
Justice	Supreme Court	\$168,000	\$184,800	\$201,600
Judge	Court of Criminal Appeals			
Chief Justice	1 st -14 th Courts of Appeals	\$156,500	\$171,900	\$187,300
Justice	1 st -14 th Courts of Appeals	\$154,000	\$169,400	\$184,800
Chief Justice	15 th Court of Appeals	\$165,500	\$181,800	\$198,100
Justice	15 th Court of Appeals	\$163,000	\$179,300	\$195,000
District Judge ¹	District Court	\$140,000	\$154,000	\$168,000
State Prosecuting Attorney	Office of the State Prosecuting Attorney	\$140,000	\$154,000	\$168,000
Professional Prosecutors	Judicial Districts	\$140,000	\$154,000	\$168,000
District Attorneys	Judicial Districts	\$112,000	\$123,200	\$134,400
County Prosecutors ²	Constitutional County Court	\$23,334 to \$70,000	\$25,667 to \$77,000	\$28,001 to \$84,000
¹ The state base salary of a district judge as established in the General Appropriations Act 2024-25. ² Government Code §46.0031 entitles a county prosecutor to a state supplemental salary equal to between one-sixth and one-half of the state base salary of a district judge with comparable years of service dependent on the number of counties served by the county prosecutor.				

Recommendations maintain estimated appropriation authority for all judge and prosecutor compensation strategies, assistant prosecutor longevity pay, county attorney salary supplements, witness expenses, death penalty representation, juror pay, and indigent inmate defense.

The Judicial Compensation Commission has requested a 30 percent increase to the base salary of a district judge from \$140,000 per year to \$182,000.

Recommendations do not include \$84.8 million in General Revenue the agency has estimated it will require to fund this increase. The district judge base salary is set in the GAA (at an amount not less than \$140,000, per Government Code §659.012) and informs salaries paid to prosecutors, appellate judges and justices, and county judges. (See also, Items Not Included in Recommendations #2 - #11.)

The LARs for the 17 appellate courts, Office of the State Prosecuting Attorney, and Employee Retirement System do not include a fiscal impact for changes to appellate judicial salaries or amounts need to maintain the actuarial soundness of ERS, JRS I and JRS II.

The table above shows current state salary and salary supplement amounts by tier for elected judges and prosecutors.

2. **House Bill 3474, Eighty-eighth Legislature, 2023.** Recommendations include an increase of \$0.7 million in General Revenue to biennialize costs for 14 district courts, two statutory county-courts-at-law, three new statutory probate courts, and one multicounty court at law that were established during the 2024-25 biennium by the enactment of the legislation.

Additionally, \$10.6 million was appropriated from the Jury Service Fund No. 328 in the 2024-25 biennium for increased juror reimbursements to counties. Before passage, reimbursements to jurors for the first day and each day thereafter were \$6 and \$40 respectively. Following passage, reimbursements were increased to \$20 and \$58. The bill also increased reimbursements to counties from \$0 to \$14 and \$34 to \$52. Recommendations maintain 2024-25 funding levels.

3. **Senate Bill 2310, Eighty-eighth Legislature, 2023.** The Eighty-eighth Legislature, 2023, appropriated \$370,000 in General Revenue in fiscal year 2024 and \$396,000 in General Revenue in fiscal year 2025 to implement Senate Bill 2310 and amended Government Code, Section 41.013, to provide monthly longevity pay to certain prosecutors, including district attorney's and the state prosecuting attorney. House Bill 2384, Eighty-sixth Legislature, 2019, increased the monthly compensation of longevity pay from 3.1 to 5.0 percent of the judge or justice's monthly salary but did not originally include prosecutors.
4. **Special Prosecution Unit.** Recommendations include \$13.7 million in All Funds for the Special Prosecution Unit (SPU), Walker County, an increase of \$0.8 million from 2024-25 spending levels. This includes \$10.7 million in General Revenue and \$3.0 million in Other Funds from Criminal Justice Division Grants to CPA-J. SPU has three divisions (Criminal, Juvenile, and Civil) and is headquartered in Huntsville. SPU's employees and executive director receive their salary, health insurance, and retirement benefits from Walker County. A portion of SPU's appropriation pays Walker County to administer its payroll and benefits.

Recommendations include the agency's request of \$0.2 million for increased benefits premiums provided by Walker County to SPU employees and \$0.6 million for a salary adjustment for prosecutors employed by the SPU.

Recommendations do not include \$3.8 million in General Revenue requested by SPU, including:

- \$0.2 million for a new case management system;
- \$0.1 million for a new discovery management system;
- \$2.4 million to recruit 3 new trial teams and a database manager;
- \$0.1 million to cover increased administrative costs; and
- \$1.0 million for the article-wide salary increase for non-judicial staff.

**Judiciary Section, Comptroller's Department
Rider Highlights - Senate**

Modification of Existing Riders

1. The following riders include recommendations to remove obsolete language, make conforming changes such as updating fiscal years and amounts to reflect funding recommendations, and clarify deadlines: Rider 1, Appropriation Source, Rider 2, Salary Limitation, District Judges, Rider 3, Special Prosecution Unit: Appropriation Source, Unexpended Balances and Performance Reporting, Rider 6, Longevity Pay, and Rider 10, Unexpended Balance Authority.

Deletion of Existing Riders

2. Recommendations delete Rider 11, Contingency for House Bill 130; Rider 12, Contingency for Senate Bill 27; and Rider 13, Contingency for House Bill 3474.

**Judiciary Section, Comptroller's Department
Items Not Included in Recommendations - Senate**

		2026-27 Biennial Total			Information Technology Involved?	Contracting Involved?	Estimated Continued Cost 2028-29
		GR & GR-D	All Funds	FTEs			
Agency Exceptional Items Not Included (in agency priority order)							
1)	Special Prosecutors Unit, Walker County Exceptional Items. General Revenue funding for the following items - (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issue Item #4): - New Case Management System - Techshare (\$188,454); - New Case Management System - Axon (\$170,000); - Three New Trial Teams/ Database Manager (\$2,433,138); - Employee Salary Increase of 10% (\$953,078); and - Walker County Administration Costs (\$94,712).	\$3,839,382	\$3,839,382	0.0	Yes	No	\$0
2)	District Judges. General Revenue for implementing the Judicial Compensation Commission's request for an 30 percent salary increase for district judges each year of the 2026-27 biennium. (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issue #1)	\$47,715,360	\$47,715,360	0.0	No	No	\$47,715,360
3)	MDL Salary and Benefits. General Revenue for implementing the Judicial Compensation Commission's request for an 30 percent salary increase for district judges each year of the 2026-27 biennium. (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issue #1)	\$41,880	\$41,880	0.0	No	No	\$40,980
4)	District Attorneys: Salaries. General Revenue for implementing the Judicial Compensation Commission's request for an 30 percent salary increase for district judges each year of the 2026-27 biennium. (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issue #1)	\$675,360	\$675,360	0.0	No	No	\$675,360
5)	Professional Prosecutors: Salaries. General Revenue for implementing the Judicial Compensation Commission's request for an 30 percent salary increase for district judges each year of the 2026-27 biennium. (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issue #1)	\$14,506,800	\$14,506,800	0.0	No	No	\$14,506,800
6)	Felony Prosecutors: Salaries. General Revenue for implementing the Judicial Compensation Commission's request for an 30 percent salary increase for district judges each year of the 2026-27 biennium. (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issue #1)	\$221,760	\$221,760	0.0	No	No	\$221,760
7)	Constitutional Co. Judge Supplement. General Revenue for implementing the Judicial Compensation Commission's request for an 30 percent salary increase for district judges each year of the 2026-27 biennium. (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issue #1)	\$3,447,360	\$3,447,360	0.0	No	No	\$3,447,360

**Judiciary Section, Comptroller's Department
Items Not Included in Recommendations - Senate**

		2026-27 Biennial Total			Information Technology Involved?	Contracting Involved?	Estimated Continued Cost 2028-29
		GR & GR-D	All Funds	FTEs			
8)	Statutory Co. Judge Supplement. General Revenue for implementing the Judicial Compensation Commission's request for an 30 percent salary increase for district judges each year of the 2026-27 biennium. (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issue #1)	\$13,003,200	\$13,003,200	0.0	No	No	\$13,003,200
9)	1st Multicounty Court at Law. General Revenue for implementing the Judicial Compensation Commission's request for an 30 percent salary increase for district judges each year of the 2026-27 biennium. (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issue #1)	\$84,000	\$84,000	0.0	No	No	\$84,000
10)	County Attorney Supplement. General Revenue for implementing the Judicial Compensation Commission's request for an 30 percent salary increase for district judges each year of the 2026-27 biennium. (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issue #1)	\$3,634,116	\$3,634,116	0.0	No	No	\$3,634,116
11)	Statutory Probate Court Judges. General Revenue for implementing the Judicial Compensation Commission's request for an 30 percent salary increase for Statutory Probate Court Judges each year of the 2026-27 biennium. (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issue #1)	\$1,444,800	\$1,444,800	0.0	No	No	\$1,444,800
TOTAL Items Not Included in Recommendations		\$88,614,018	\$88,614,018	0.0			\$84,773,736

**Judiciary Section, Comptroller's Department
Appendices - Senate**

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* Appendix is not included - no significant information to report

**Judiciary Section, Comptroller's Department
Funding Changes and Recommendations by Strategy - Senate -- ALL FUNDS**

Strategy/Goal	2024-25 Base	2026-27 Recommended	Biennial Change	% Change	Comments
DISTRICT AND BUSINESS COURT JUDGES A.1.1	\$168,942,832	\$169,689,499	\$746,667	0.4%	Recommendations reflect a \$746,669 increase to biennialize amounts appropriated for House Bill 3474, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023.
VISITING JUDGES - REGIONS A.1.2	\$26,911,012	\$26,911,012	\$0	0.0%	
VISITING JUDGES - APPELLATE A.1.3	\$694,740	\$694,740	\$0	0.0%	
LOCAL ADMIN. JUDGE SUPPLEMENT A.1.4	\$161,490	\$161,490	\$0	0.0%	
DISTRICT JUDGES: TRAVEL A.1.5	\$644,650	\$644,650	\$0	0.0%	
JUDICIAL SALARY PER DIEM A.1.6	\$349,116	\$349,116	\$0	0.0%	
MDL SALARY AND BENEFITS A.1.7	\$349,320	\$349,320	\$0	0.0%	
Total, Goal A, JUDICIAL SALARIES AND PAYMENTS	\$198,053,160	\$198,799,827	\$746,667	0.4%	
DISTRICT ATTORNEYS: SALARIES B.1.1	\$1,738,662	\$1,738,662	\$0	0.0%	
PROFESSIONAL PROSECUTORS: SALARIES B.1.2	\$51,014,813	\$51,023,213	\$8,400	0.0%	Recommendations reflect a \$8,400 increase in General Revenue to biennialize amounts appropriated for House Bill 3474, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023.
FELONY PROSECUTORS: SALARIES B.1.3	\$828,328	\$828,328	\$0	0.0%	
PROSECUTORS: SUBCHAPTER C B.1.4	\$259,276	\$259,276	\$0	0.0%	
FELONY PROSECUTORS: TRAVEL B.1.5	\$340,242	\$340,242	\$0	0.0%	
FELONY PROSECUTORS: EXPENSES B.1.6	\$8,332,166	\$8,332,166	\$0	0.0%	
Total, Goal B, PROSECUTOR SALARIES AND PAYMENTS	\$62,513,487	\$62,521,887	\$8,400	0.0%	
CONSTITUTIONAL CO. JUDGE SUPPLEMENT C.1.1	\$13,282,794	\$13,282,794	\$0	0.0%	
STATUTORY CO. JUDGE 573 SUPPLEMENT C.1.2	\$43,908,490	\$47,070,622	\$3,162,132	7.2%	Recommendations reflect a \$3,162,132 increase in Other Funds for estimated County-Level Judge salary supplementation obligations.
STATUTORY PROBATE JUDGE SUPPLEMENT C.1.3	\$5,156,572	\$5,163,572	\$7,000	0.1%	Recommendations reflect a \$7,000 increase to biennialize amounts appropriated for House Bill 3474, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023.
1ST MULTICOUNTY COURT AT LAW C.1.4	\$306,000	\$306,000	\$0	0.0%	
2ND MULTICOUNTY COURT AT LAW C.1.5	\$280,000	\$280,000	\$0	0.0%	
Total, Goal C, CO.-LEVEL JUDGES SALARY SUPPLEMENTS	\$62,933,856	\$66,102,988	\$3,169,132	5.0%	
ASST. PROSECUTOR LONGEVITY PAY D.1.1	\$9,455,246	\$9,455,246	\$0	0.0%	

**Judiciary Section, Comptroller's Department
Funding Changes and Recommendations by Strategy - Senate -- ALL FUNDS**

Strategy/Goal	2024-25 Base	2026-27 Recommended	Biennial Change	% Change	Comments
COUNTY ATTORNEY SUPPLEMENT D.1.2	\$13,574,124	\$13,574,124	\$0	0.0%	
WITNESS EXPENSES D.1.3	\$2,802,500	\$2,802,500	\$0	0.0%	
SPECIAL PROSECUTION UNIT, WALKER CO D.1.4	\$12,948,221	\$13,766,827	\$818,606	6.3%	Recommendations reflect a \$220,768 increase in General Revenue to cover an increase in premium costs for insurance coverage provided by Walker County to Special Prosecution Unit employees.
					Recommendations reflect a \$597,838 increase in General Revenue to provide a salary adjustment to prosecutors employed by the Special Prosecution Unit.
DEATH PENALTY REPRESENTATION D.1.5	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	0.0%	
NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS D.1.6	\$1,119,190	\$1,200,000	\$80,810	7.2%	Recommendations reflect a \$80,810 increase in General Revenue for to cover membership costs for participation in the National Center for State Courts.
JUROR PAY D.1.7	\$38,125,182	\$38,125,182	\$0	0.0%	
INDIGENT INMATE DEFENSE D.1.8	\$108,896	\$108,896	\$0	0.0%	
DOCKET EQUALIZATION D.1.9	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	0.0%	
Total, Goal D, SPECIAL PROGRAMS	\$78,193,359	\$79,092,775	\$899,416	1.2%	
Grand Total, All Strategies	\$401,693,862	\$406,517,477	\$4,823,615	1.2%	

**Judiciary Section, Comptroller's Department
FTE Highlights - Senate**

Full-Time-Equivalent Positions	Expended 2023	Expended 2024	Budgeted 2025	Recommended 2026	Recommended 2027
Cap	654.8	671.7	677.1	677.1	677.1
Actual/Budgeted	652.6	658.1	677.1	NA	NA

Schedule of Exempt Positions (Cap)					
District Judges and Criminal District Judges - State Base Salary (Strategy A.1.1.) (491)	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000
District Attorneys, Criminal District Attorneys and County Attorneys (Strategies B.1.1. and B.1.3.) (8)	\$112,000	\$112,000	\$112,000	\$112,000	\$112,000
District Attorneys, Criminal District Attorneys and County Attorneys (Strategy B.1.2.) (156)	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000
Business Court Judges (Strategy A.1.1) (10)	\$0	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000

Notes:

a) State Auditor's Office is the source for the fiscal year 2023 and 2024 annual average (actual) FTE level.