

Role and Overview

The Judiciary/Supreme Court (JSC) represents the third branch of Ohio government as established by Article IV of the Ohio Constitution. The Judiciary consists of over 720 judges of the state who preside over cases in the trial and appellate courts, and in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is the court of last resort in the state on questions of Ohio law and the Ohio Constitution. The Judiciary/Supreme Court's total General Revenue Fund budget is \$132.6 million for fiscal year 2008.

The Judiciary portion of the budget supports the full salaries of Ohio's 68 appellate judges; over 90 percent of the salaries for over 390 judges of the 88 county courts of common pleas (general division, juvenile division, probate division, and domestic relations division); and the state's share of salaries for municipal and county court judges, and county clerks of court. The remaining Judiciary portion of the budget is used to pay the salaries for the support staff of the state's 12 courts of appeals.

The Supreme Court portion of the budget is used to pay for the operation of the Supreme Court including the salaries for the justices and staff, the operation and maintenance of the Ohio Judicial Center at 65 South Front Street, which is the home to the Supreme Court, Court of Claims, and the Judicial Conference, and to provide programs for the benefit of the trial and appellate courts throughout the state.

Special purpose appropriations are also included in the Judiciary/Supreme Court budget for the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission, the Ohio Center for Law Related Education, the Commission for Legal Education Opportunity, and the Ohio Court Technology Initiative. The Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission is a 24-member body created in the Revised Code to study the state's sentencing laws, recommend comprehensive sentencing plans to the General Assembly, and to advise legislative committees and members when bills that affect criminal sentencing are considered and enacted. The Ohio Center for Law Related Education provides legal education programs to Ohio schoolchildren including the Ohio Mock Trial program. The Commission for Legal Education Opportunity is established to provide an intensive course of study designed to assist low-income and educationally disadvantaged college graduates with law school education, including the provision of tuition and an annual stipend. The Ohio Courts Technology Initiative will facilitate the exchange of information and warehousing of data by and between Ohio courts and other justice system partners through the creation of an Ohio Courts Network; provide services, hardware, software, and education and training programs to judges, clerks, and court personnel throughout the state; and operate the Commission on Technology and the Courts.

Additionally, special revenue funds are appropriated as part of the budget for grants, judicial education, continuing legal education, bar admissions, and attorney registration. Continuing legal education, bar admission, and attorney registration fees support the annual appropriations and fund nearly 60 legal and support positions at the Supreme Court.

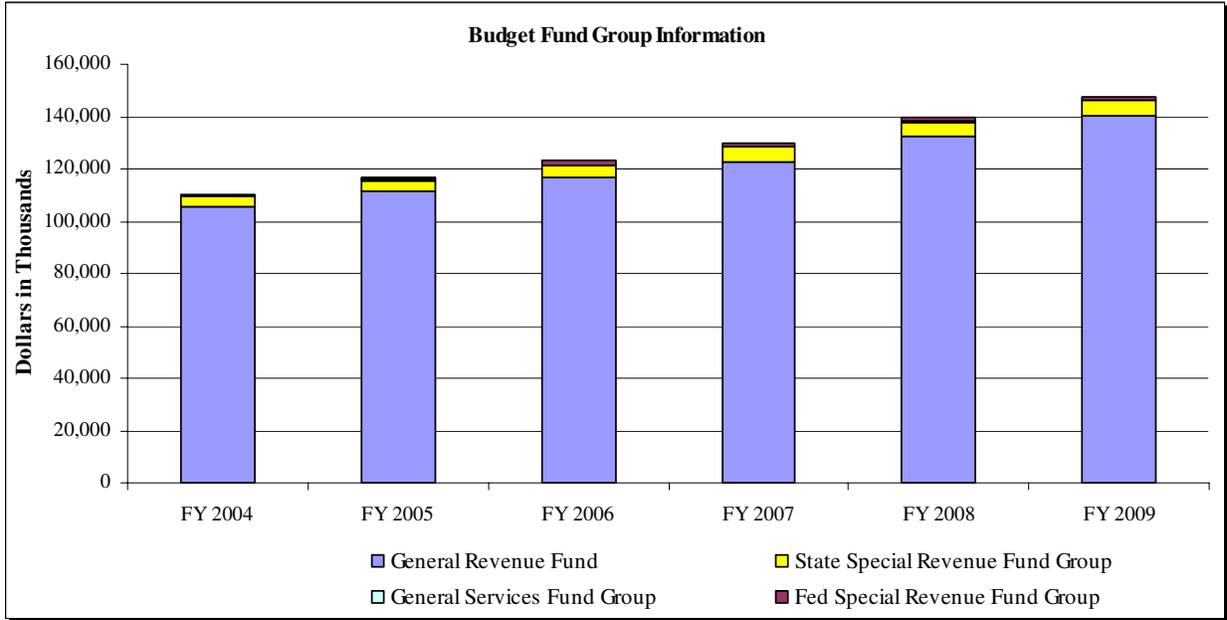
Additional information regarding the Judiciary/Supreme Court is available at <http://www.sconet.state.oh.us/>.

Agency Priorities

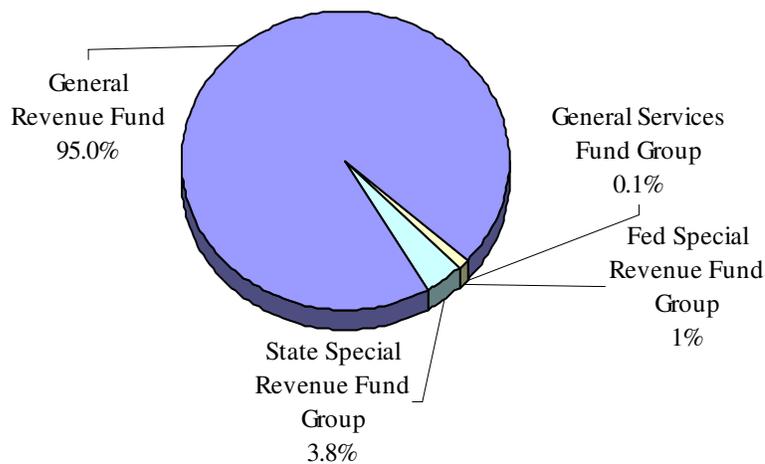
- Review legal matters presented from Ohio's twelve courts of appeals in cases arising under the constitution of the United States or Ohio, appeals of felony convictions, direct appeals of death penalty cases, and cases involving matters of public or great general interest.
- Regulate persons admitted to the practice of law.
- Exercise general superintendence over all courts in the state pursuant to constitutional authority.
- Deliver technical assistance and services to judges and courts throughout the state in areas of case management, dispute resolution, information technology, court security, and specialized dockets.
- Create and maintain the Ohio Courts Technology Initiative, a program to provide direct and indirect technical assistance to trial and appellate courts, and create the Ohio Courts Network.

As required by Section 107.03(B) of the Ohio Revised Code, the Governor has made no alterations to the funding requests of agencies of the judicial branch of government. Recommended amounts are as requested by the agency.

Summary of Budget History and Recommendations



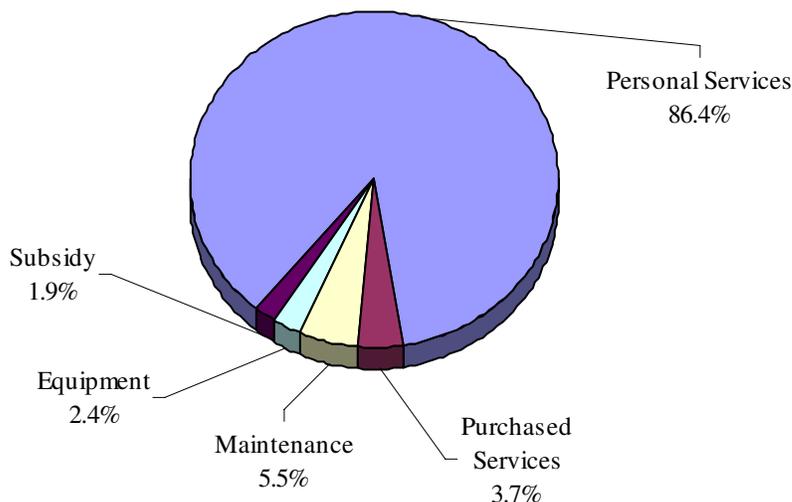
**FY 2008-09 Biennial Appropriation
 by Budget Fund Group**



State of Ohio
Judiciary/Supreme Court

(In thousands) BUDGET FUND GROUP	ACTUAL			ESTIMATE FY 2007	% CHANGE FY 06-07	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006			FY 2008	% CHANGE	FY 2009	% CHANGE
General Revenue Fund	105,630	111,570	116,562	122,883	5.4	132,589	7.9	140,568	6.0
General Services Fund Group	104	92	116	130	12.1	136	4.6	140	2.9
Fed Special Revenue Fund Group	451	993	1,752	1,508	(13.9)	1,518	.7	1,468	(3.3)
State Special Revenue Fund Group	4,019	4,151	4,602	5,564	20.9	5,438	(2.3)	5,578	2.6
TOTAL	110,204	116,805	123,032	130,084	5.7	139,682	7.4	147,753	5.8

**FY 2008-09 Biennial Appropriation
by Expense Category***



* Categories of expense accounting for less than 0.0% are not shown.

(In thousands) OBJECT OF EXPENSE	ACTUAL			ESTIMATE FY 2007	% CHANGE FY 06-07	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006			FY 2008	% CHANGE	FY 2009	% CHANGE
Personal Services	100,601	105,865	110,862	117,020	5.6	121,605	3.9	126,869	4.3
Purchased Services	1,915	2,505	2,535	2,683	5.8	5,070	89.0	5,583	10.1
Maintenance	4,131	6,007	6,453	7,095	10.0	7,851	10.7	8,060	2.7
Equipment	2,885	1,305	1,862	2,024	8.7	2,869	41.8	3,893	35.7
Subsidy	644	1,090	1,294	1,205	(6.9)	2,239	85.8	3,301	47.4
Transfer & Other	27	33	26	57	115.4	47	(17.5)	47	.0
TOTAL	110,204	116,805	123,032	130,084	5.7	139,682	7.4	147,753	5.8

PROGRAM SERIES 01: Judiciary/Supreme Court

This program series supports the judicial branch of government including the Supreme Court.

Program 01.01: Judiciary/Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is established by Article IV, Section 1 of the Ohio Constitution. Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution sets the size of the court and outlines its jurisdiction. Article IV, Section 5 of the Constitution grants rule making and other authority to the court. The Supreme Court is the court of last resort in Ohio, and most of its cases are appeals from the 12 district courts of appeals.

The Executive Recommendation will:

- Fund the operations of the Judiciary and the Supreme Court;
- Provide for the pass-through expenses of courts of appeals and other courts within the judiciary system. JSC funds, in part, costs for local county and municipal judges at rates set in statute;
- Fund operational, maintenance, and security costs for the Ohio Judicial Center; and
- Support the implementation of the Ohio Courts Technology Initiative pilot projects.

FUND				RECOMMENDED	
GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	FY 2008	FY 2009
GRF	GRF	005-321	Operating Exp-Judiciary/Supreme Ct	127,778,192	133,144,970
GRF	GRF	005-401	State Criminal Sentencing Council	331,500	336,770
GRF	GRF	005-406	Law-Related Education	229,290	236,172
GRF	GRF	005-409	Ohio Courts Tech Initiative	4,000,000	6,500,000
GRF	GRF	005-502	Comm.for Legal Edu. Opportunity	250,000	350,000
GSF	672	005-601	Continuing Judicial Education	136,000	140,000
FED	3J0	005-603	Federal Grants	1,518,491	1,467,693
SSR	4C8	005-605	Attorney Services	3,841,416	3,936,058
SSR	5T8	005-609	Grants and Awards	100,000	100,000
SSR	6A8	005-606	Supreme Court Admissions	1,496,633	1,541,532
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				139,681,522	147,753,195

LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Judiciary/Supreme Court

FUND	ALI	ALI TITLE	FY 2004 ACTUAL	FY 2005 ACTUAL	FY 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 ESTIMATE	FY 2008 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE	FY 2009 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE
GRF	005-321	Operating Exp-Judiciary/Supreme Ct	105,170,327	111,094,476	116,088,020	121,441,259	127,778,192	5.2	133,144,970	4.2
GRF	005-401	State Criminal Sentencing Council	249,517	259,048	258,013	343,730	331,500	(3.6)	336,770	1.6
GRF	005-406	Law-Related Education	209,836	216,131	216,131	222,615	229,290	3.0	236,172	3.0
GRF	005-409	Ohio Courts Tech Initiative	0	0	0	0	4,000,000	.0	6,500,000	62.5
GRF	005-502	Comm.for Legal Edu. Opportunity	0	0	0	875,000	250,000	(71.4)	350,000	40.0
TOTAL General Revenue Fund			105,629,680	111,569,655	116,562,164	122,882,604	132,588,982	7.9	140,567,912	6.0
672	005-601	Continuing Judicial Education	103,561	91,983	115,949	130,000	136,000	4.6	140,000	2.9
TOTAL General Services Fund Group			103,561	91,983	115,949	130,000	136,000	4.6	140,000	2.9
3J0	005-603	Federal Grants	451,486	992,823	1,751,856	1,507,578	1,518,491	.7	1,467,693	(3.3)
TOTAL Fed Special Revenue Fund Group			451,486	992,823	1,751,856	1,507,578	1,518,491	.7	1,467,693	(3.3)
4C8	005-605	Attorney Services	2,517,114	2,627,960	2,987,803	3,264,867	3,841,416	17.7	3,936,058	2.5
5T8	005-609	Grants and Awards	44,068	27,702	89,234	260,000	100,000	(61.5)	100,000	.0
6A8	005-606	Supreme Court Admissions	976,761	1,041,340	1,116,488	1,453,042	1,496,633	3.0	1,541,532	3.0
643	005-607	Commission on Cont Legal Ed	480,895	453,529	408,741	586,261	0	(100.0)	0	.0
TOTAL State Special Revenue Fund Group			4,018,838	4,150,531	4,602,266	5,564,170	5,438,049	(2.3)	5,577,590	2.6
TOTAL The Judiciary/Supreme Court			110,203,565	116,804,992	123,032,235	130,084,352	139,681,522	7.4	147,753,195	5.8