



MINNESOTA
JUDICIAL
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FY 26-27 Supplemental Budget Request & 2026 Policy Proposals

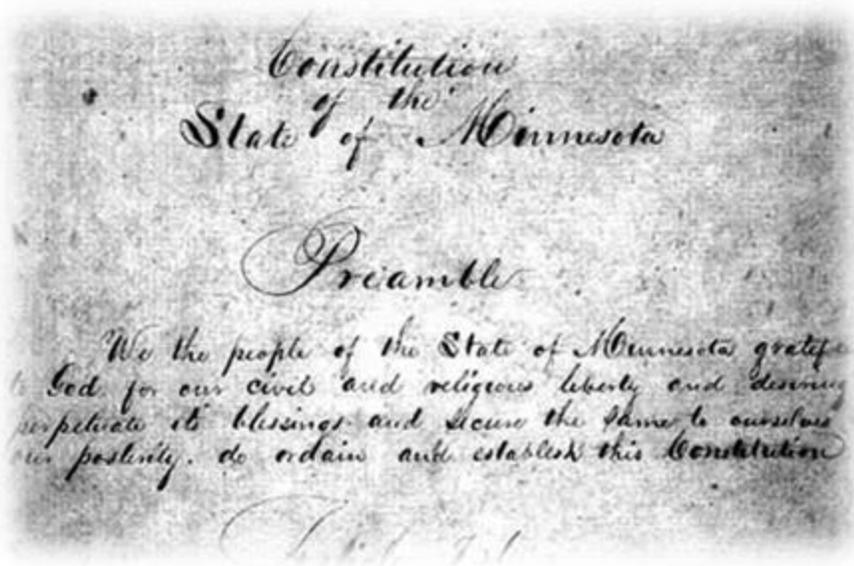
JEFF SHORBA, STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

MARCH 5, 2026

Minnesota Constitution

Article 1, Section 8

"Every person is entitled to...
obtain justice **freely** and
without purchase, completely
and without denial, **promptly**
and **without delay**,
conformable to the laws."



2025 Legislative Session Recap

Thank you for funding to:

- Increase the hourly payment rate for contract forensic psychological examiners.
- Develop a new justice partner access system.
- Cover the employer share of health insurance cost increases and lease obligations at the Minnesota Judicial Center.
- Increase employee compensation by 0.9% in FY26.

Unfunded priorities:

- No salary increases for employees in FY27.
- No salary increases for judges in FY26 or FY27
- No increase to juror per diem or mileage

FY26-27 Supplemental Budget Request

- Given the state's fiscal uncertainty, the Minnesota Judicial Council has adopted a very narrow supplemental budget request focused on two main priorities.
- MJB is seeking funding for:
 - A package of proposals aimed at improving the safety and security of judicial officers, court staff, and court users.
 - The employer costs of the new Minnesota Paid Leave Program.





Judicial Branch Safety & Security

Threats on the Rise

- Both nationally and in Minnesota, threats to public officials – including judges and court staff – are on the rise.
- The tragic shootings of Minnesota state lawmakers and an Indiana judge at their homes in the past year underscores the growing risks faced by public officials.
- A review of reported safety and security incidents at the Judicial Branch was conducted in 2024 and 2025. The results showed:
 - Total incidents reported went up by 47%.
 - Threats to a person, self, or property went up by 85%.
 - Reported disturbances occurring in a court facility went up by 50%.

Funding Request: MJB Safety & Security

- The Judicial Branch's top legislative priority in 2026 is securing funding for a package of proposals aimed at improving the safety and security of judicial officers and staff.
- The package is comprised of five separate components aimed at keeping judges and staff safe in the courthouse, at their homes, and online.



Personal Data Protection

- Requesting funding to provide personal data protection services for current judicial officers, active senior judges, and court administrators.
- Would include:
 - Annual DeleteMe licenses to continuously remove personal information from data brokers and search sites.
 - Ongoing monitoring, reporting, and administrative support.



Home Security

- Requesting funding to provide home security allowances for current judicial officers, active senior judges, and court administrators.
- Would include:
 - One-time allowance up to \$1,000 for installation of a home security system.
 - Monthly reimbursement up to \$100 for monitored home security services.



Judicial Security Unit

- Requesting funding to expand the Judicial Security Unit in State Court Administration from 1 FTE to 3 FTEs.
- Two additional FTEs would be dedicated to threat assessment, law enforcement coordination, emergency planning, training, incident response, crisis communication, and management of statewide safety programs.



Chief Justice Security

- Requesting funding to provide proactive security coverage for the Chief Justice.
- Would provide a dedicated licensed peace officer assigned to escort the Chief Justice before, during, and after scheduled public events.



Courthouse Security

- Requesting funding for the Safe and Secure Courthouse Initiative.
- Previously funded in 2017, 2021, and 2024, the program has funded \$2 million in safety improvements across 57 counties.
- New funding would provide matching grants for counties to support security assessments, equipment purchases, access control improvements, construction modifications, and training.
- Grant criteria and awards would be developed by an advisory panel of judges, court staff, justice partners, and county officials.
- Counties required to provide 50% match to grant awards.

MJB Safety & Security: Cost Breakdown

(in millions)

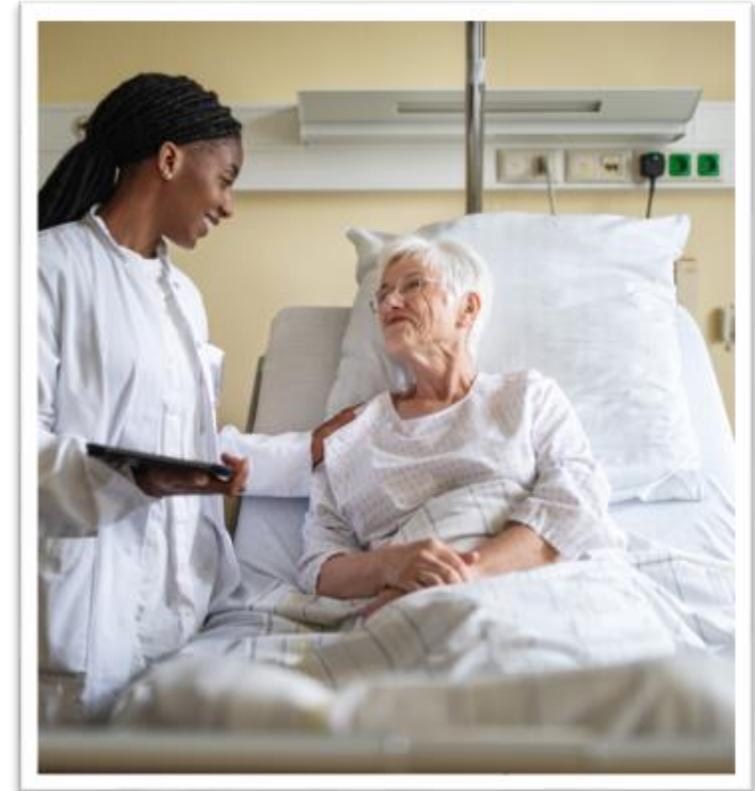
	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY28/29
Personal Data Protection	\$0.290	\$0.290	\$0.290	\$0.580
Home Security	\$1.184	\$0.662	\$0.662	\$1.324
Judicial Security Unit	\$0.312	\$0.312	\$0.312	\$0.624
Chief Justice Security	\$0.101	\$0.101	\$0.101	\$0.202
Courthouse Grants	\$1.000	--	--	--
Total	\$2.887	\$1.365	\$1.365	\$2.73



Employer Costs of Minnesota Paid Leave

Funding Request: Minnesota Paid Leave

- **Request:** \$644,000 is FY26; \$1.287 million/year in FY27 and beyond
- The Minnesota Judicial Branch is seeking legislative funding to cover the employer costs of the new Minnesota Paid Leave Program.
- This funding will ensure that the Judicial Branch will not need to divert resources from core court operations to fund this new state-mandated expense.





Judicial Branch Policy Proposals

Ensure Jury Inclusiveness and Representativeness

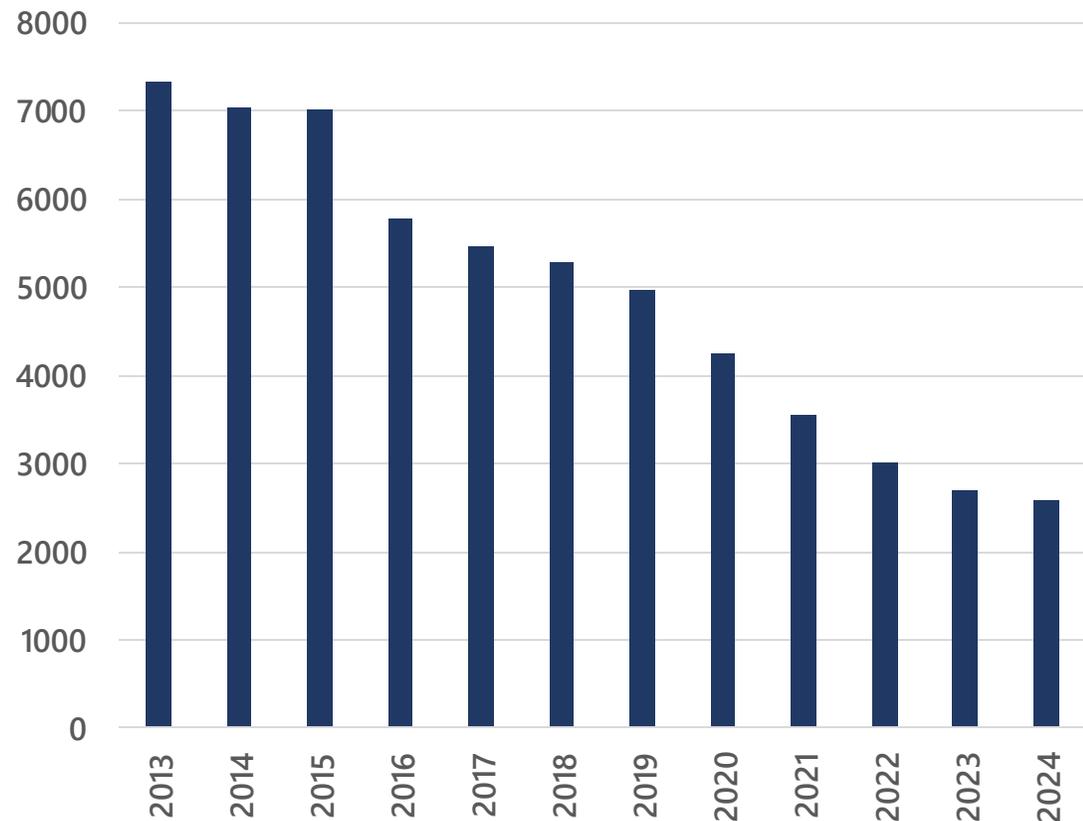
- Allows the Judicial Branch to use Department of Revenue tax records to ensure our juries are inclusive, and Department of Public Safety race and ethnicity data to evaluate if our juries are representative.
- Improves courts' ability to assess whether juries are drawn from a fair cross-section of the community, as required by the Constitution.



Increase No-Fault Arbitration Limit

- Increases the jurisdictional limit for mandatory no-fault arbitration from \$10,000 to \$20,000, reflecting inflation in modern medical and repair costs.
- Restores arbitration as the intended forum for resolving smaller auto insurance claims.
- Reduces court workload, litigation costs, and delays.
- Ensures that the arbitration process the Legislature created can continue to self-fund without increasing filing fees or requiring taxpayer dollars.

Annual no-fault insurance arbitration case filings
2013 - 2024



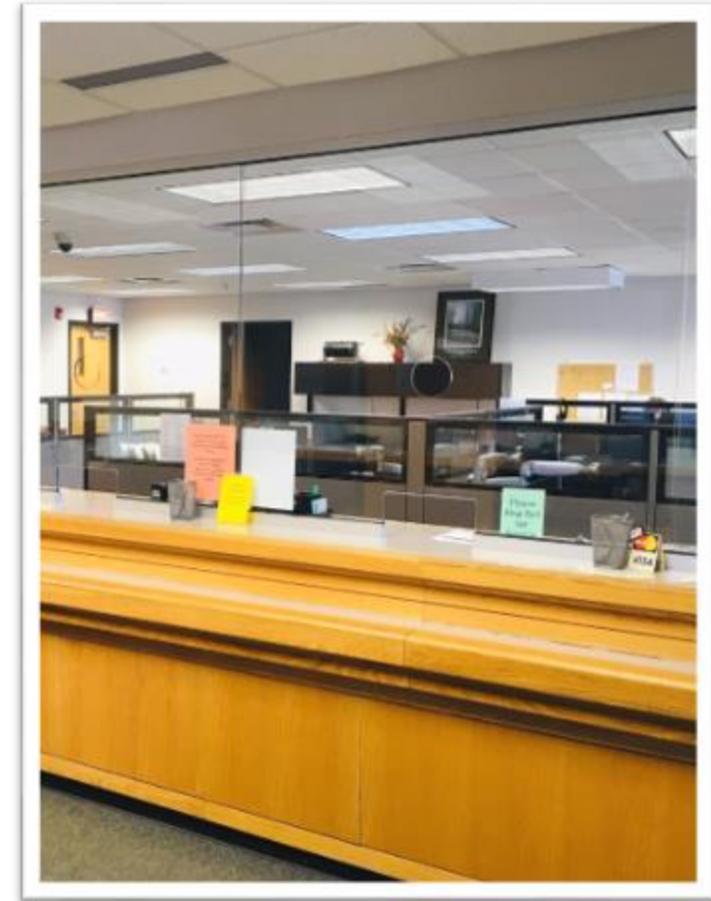
Modernize Court Notice by Publication

- Allows court-generated notices that currently require newspaper publication to be posted on the Minnesota Judicial Branch website.
- Reflects changes in how Minnesotans access information and the declining number of local newspapers.



Conciliation Court Service Simplification

- Requires plaintiffs, rather than court administrators, to serve conciliation court summonses for claims not exceeding \$2,500.
- Reduces administrative complexity and staff workload caused by differing service requirements based on claim amount and case type.



Clarify Notice in Divorces and Separations Without Children

- Clarifies that only dissolutions and separations involving children require notice to the public authority when a party receives public assistance.
- Eliminates unnecessary service on county child support agencies in cases where they have no role.



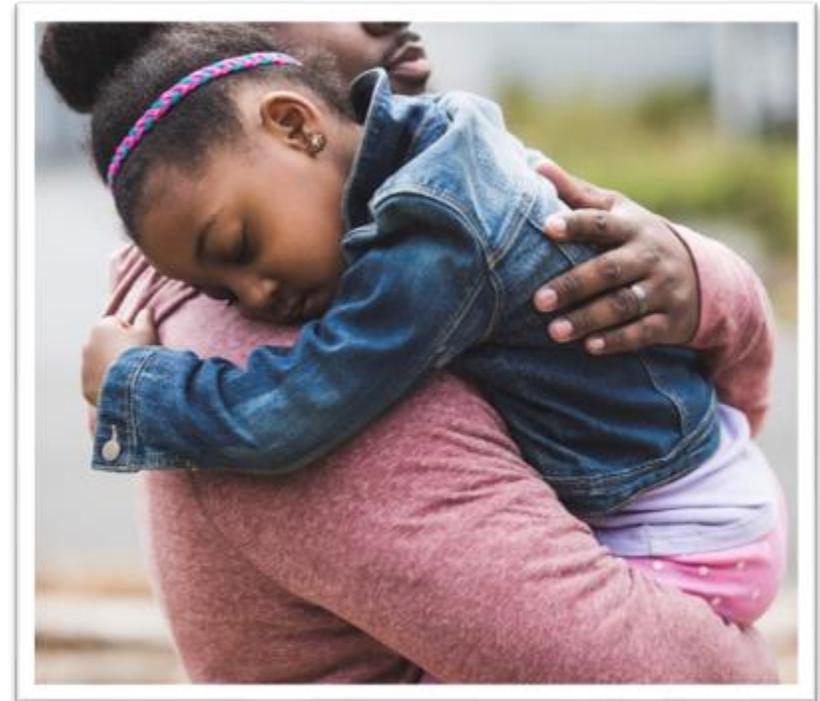
Renewal of Restitution Judgments

- Establishes a statutory process for administratively renewing restitution judgements.
- Removes the requirement that crime victims personally serve offenders or initiate new civil actions to keep restitution judgments in effect.
- Helps ensure restitution judgments do not lapse due to procedural barriers when an offender has failed to pay.



Child Protection Council Report Due Date

- Amends 2024 Session Law to change the due date of the Supreme Court Council on Child Protection and Maltreatment Prevention's final report from January 15, 2026, to December 15, 2026.
- Gives the Council additional time to work through robust stakeholder engagement to ensure that its recommendations are thoughtful, evidence-based, and actionable.



Thank you!



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