



The Office of the  
**Minnesota Attorney General**  
helping people afford their lives and live with dignity and respect

# FY22-23 Supplemental Budget Request

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Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison

February 17, 2022

# Duties of the Attorney General

1. Represents more than 100 State agencies, boards, and commissions.
2. Protects the people of Minnesota as chief enforcer of the State's consumer-protection, antitrust, and charities laws.
3. Defends the constitutionality of State statutes when appropriate.
4. Partner to county attorneys: upon request of a county attorney, supports county attorneys, especially ones from smaller counties, in criminal-justice-related matters.

# Returning money to the State of Minnesota

- Recovered \$81 million from Big Tobacco corporations for past-due obligations under the 1998 tobacco settlement. This \$81 million goes into the general fund, with an additional \$10 million going into the general fund each year thereafter.
- Nearly \$300 million to Minnesota from the historic \$26 billion multistate settlement agreements with pharmaceutical distributors McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen, and opioid manufacturer Johnson & Johnson.

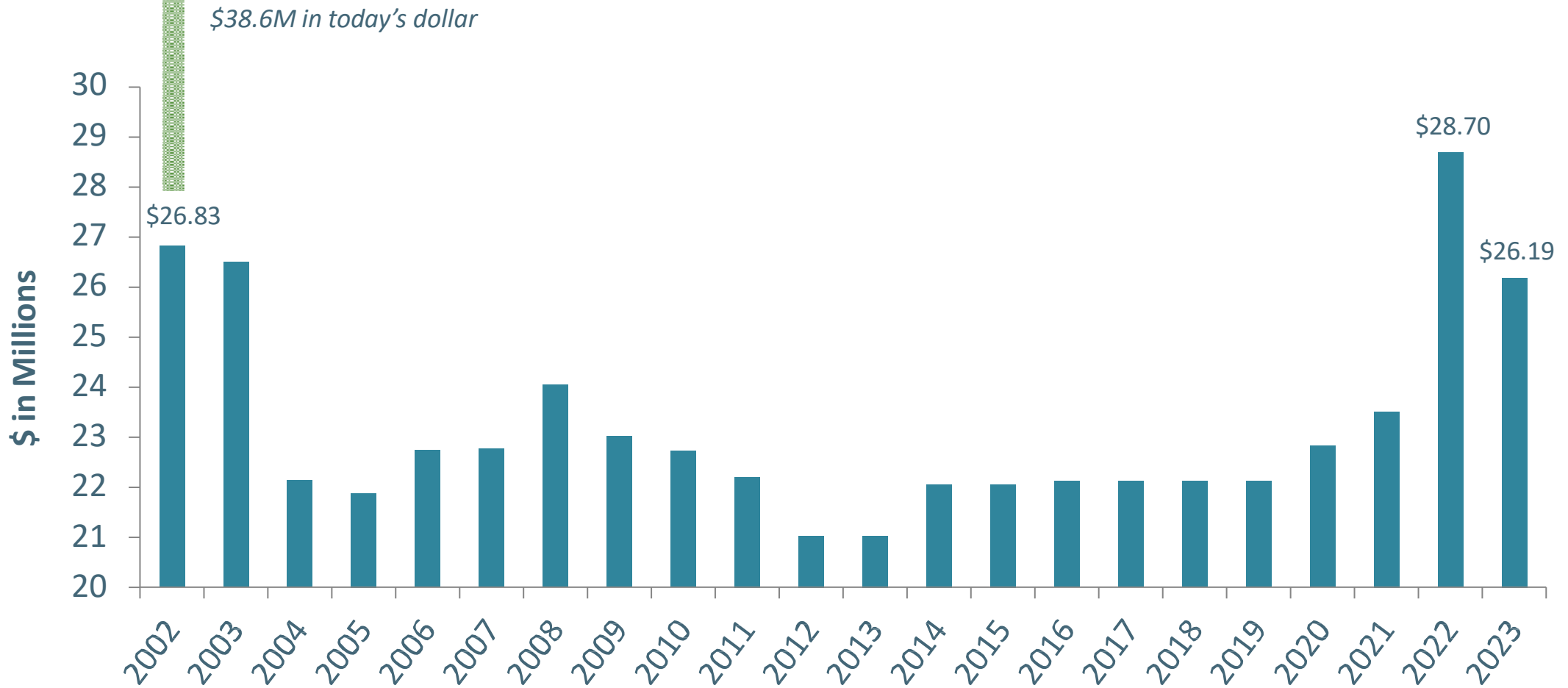
*Note: Though the AGO wins millions of dollars in awards for the State of Minnesota, it does not receive any of this money for its own budget.*

# Returning money directly to Minnesota taxpayers

- In the last year, our Consumer Action division intervened with companies on consumers' behalf and returned \$7.8 million directly back to Minnesotans. This represents nearly a 40% increase in money returned to Minnesotans over the prior fiscal year.
- Earlier this month, attorneys of the new Special Outreach and Protection Unit reached a settlement with a Willmar-based landlord and management agent to refund 877 tenant households a utility surcharge that it imposed on them in violation of Minnesota law and any late rent fees related to the illegal surcharge. The refunds will put approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 total back in the pockets of tenants in the Willmar and Marshall areas.

# AGO General Fund Appropriations

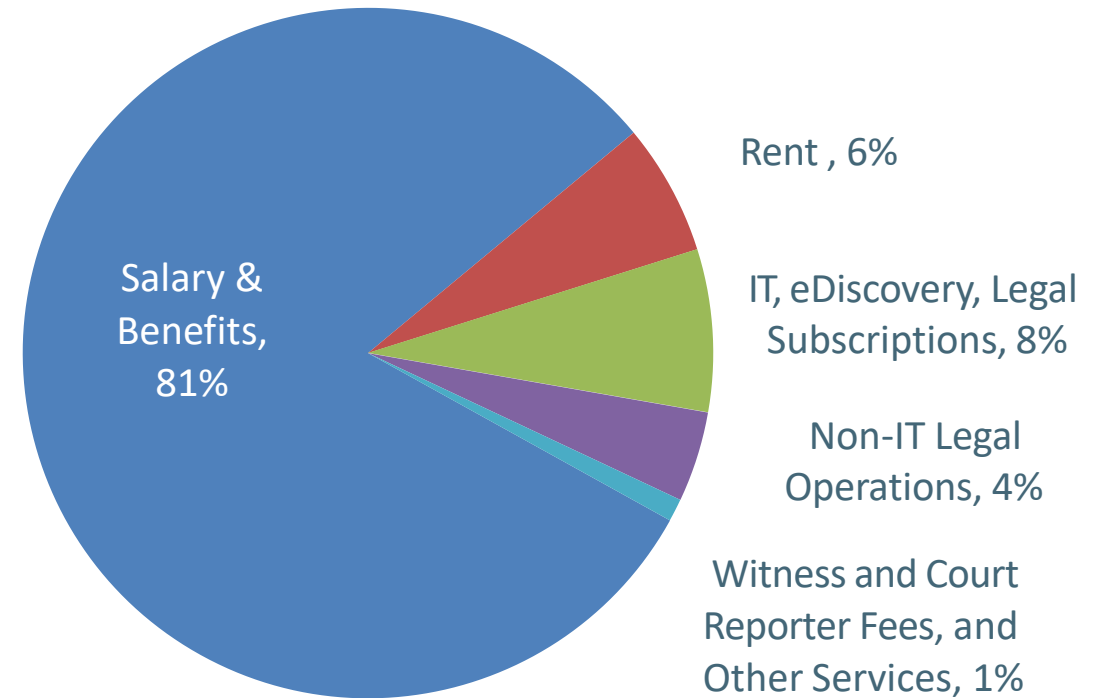
*(in actual dollars)*



# Uses of the Funds

FY 2021 Spending by Category

- **Largest cost driver** continues to be the salaries and benefits that support our employees
- **Significant investments** made in IT and eDiscovery in FY 2021



# FY 23 Supplemental Budget Request

## \$1.821 million: Enhanced Criminal Enforcement and Initiatives

- Increased staff to accept requests from county attorneys in cases such as violent or complex crimes, sex trafficking, cross-county crimes, and financial exploitation, as well as habeas corpus petitions
- Legal staff to expand the Criminal Division
  - Attorneys (7 FTE)
  - Legal Assistants (2 FTE)
- 3.3% increase to base budget

# FY 23 Supplemental Budget Request

## \$2.335 million: Operating Adjustment

- Compensation increases and inflation adjustments for talent retention
- 4.3% increase to base budget
- Non-legal, highly skilled staff who enable and enhance the work of the entire office (7 FTE)
  - Information Technology, Finance, & Human Resources
  - Policy & Communications
  - Outreach, including Special Outreach & Protection Unit





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**Thank you**

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