



**NEW MEXICO JUDICIARY
UNIFIED BUDGET PRIORITIES
Fiscal Year 2018**

Priority 1: Base Budgets

Essential funding and critical expansions necessary to maintain court operations, avoid court closures or furloughs, and prevent the interruption of basic services, including jury trials and other judicial proceedings.

Appellate/statewide, district and metropolitan courts	\$1,256,000
Magistrate courts	\$1,253,300
Statewide Automation Program for technology infrastructure (see #3 below)	\$616,000
AOC Administrative Services and Special Court Services	\$1,520,800
GSDF & Health premium increases statewide	\$85,400
Total increase \$4,731,500 [+2.9%]	<u>Running total = \$4,731,500</u> [+2.9%]
Expansions	
5 FTE for the Judicial Information Division (see Priority #3 below) necessary to maintain court operations in technology	\$498,000
1 FTE for the 8th Judicial District to provide security for domestic violence cases	\$43,000
Total expansion \$541,000	<u>Running Total = \$5,272,500</u> [+3.3%]

Priority 2: Workforce Investment Plan (WIP)

Funding necessary to attract and retain a qualified workforce and compensation our court clerk series employees (50% of our workforce) commensurate with their duties.*

Court Clerk Job Measurement	\$2,514,700
	<u>Running total = \$7,787,200</u> [+4.8%]

*Implementation of the remainder of WIP is deferred until FY 19.

Priority 3: Information Technology

Funding for information technology necessary to operate and maintain the Judiciary's technology infrastructure (\$616,000) including the 5 FTE (\$498,000) included in Priority 1. \$1,114,000

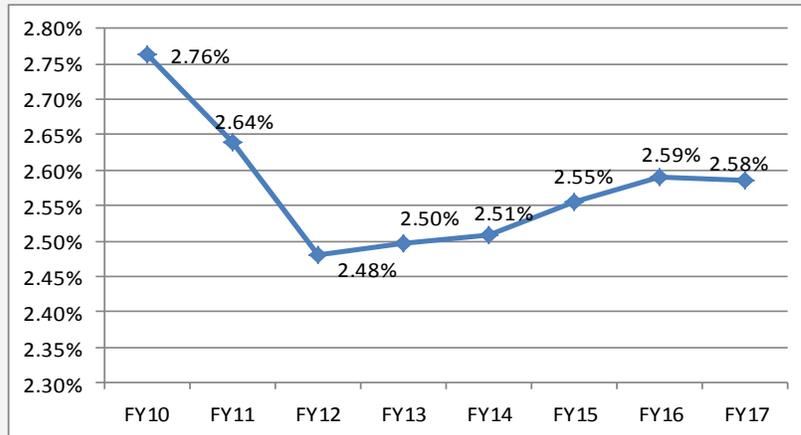
General Fund Impact (GF)

FY2017	<2.6% of the GF appropriations
FY2018	2.7% of the FY2017 GF appropriations

The Judiciary strongly supports the judicial salary increases recommended by the Legislature's Judicial Compensation Commission but has not included those increases, or requests for new judgeships, in its FY2018 budget request.

**JUDICIARY GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS
AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS**

The Judiciary Branch budget request continues to be a modest portion of overall statewide general fund appropriations.



FY 2017 REDUCTIONS IN GENERAL FUND SPENDING

The Judicial Branch has been working diligently to reduce spending without seriously impairing the function of the justice system, the most significant step being the voluntary reduction of the Judicial Branch mileage reimbursement rate from 46 to 29 cents per mile, which will save over a half million dollars per year. Any further reductions from the FY 2017 reduced appropriations will impair proper functioning of the drug courts and other important programs and services. Reductions beyond 1% will result in court closures, furloughs, income reductions of underpaid court employees, and other unacceptable consequences. The judiciary is also seeking the following legislation needed to further increase efficiency and save tax dollars.

LEGISLATION FOR 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Constitutional Amendment for Regulation of Appellate Court Jurisdiction by the Legislature	Amends the New Mexico Constitution to vest power in the Legislature to regulate appellate jurisdiction "as provided by law."
Create Judge Pro Tempore Fund	Creates in the state treasury a nonreverting "judge pro tempore fund" to be administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts ("AOC"). The fund shall be used for the sole purpose of paying for judges pro tempore, who are appointed to serve temporarily in the state district courts.
Close Certain Magistrate Courts	Seeks legislative approval to close magistrate circuit courts in Quemado, Catron County, to save annual lease costs of \$11, 628 and in Questa, Taos County, to save annual lease costs of \$15,000. There also will be general fund savings in reduced judge and clerk travel to these courts.
Separate Jury Fund from (new) Language Access Fund	Create a "Language Access Fund" authorizing funding for language access in the courts such as paying interpreters, operating the New Mexico Center for Language Access on revenues, pay AOC language access staff, etc.. and funding those activities separately from the Jury and Witness Fund.
Warrant Fee	Increase the warrant fee from \$100.00 to \$200.00. NMSA 1978, § 34-8a-12, and NMSA 1978, § 35-6-5.