



# Supreme Court of Wisconsin

DIRECTOR OF STATE COURTS

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Hon. Randy R. Koschnick  
Director of State Courts

DATE: October 1, 2020

TO: The Honorable Governor Tony Evers  
The Honorable Members of the Senate  
The Honorable Members of the Assembly

FROM: Randy R. Koschnick  
Director of State Courts

Under ss. 758.19(5)(e) and 758.19(5)(f), Wis. Stats., each county is required to submit an annual report to the Director of State Courts (DOSC) that provides information on the actual amount of revenues collected and expenditures incurred by the county for the operation of its circuit court(s). Pursuant to s. 758.19(5)(i), Wis. Stats., the DOSC is required to compile and annually submit the information to the Governor and the Legislature.

Pursuant to s. 758.19(5)(i), Wis. Stats., the DOSC has compiled the information reported by counties for the past calendar year and has prepared the following statewide summary.

**Revenue Collected and Retained by the Counties and the State.** Counties annually report court-related county-retained revenue credited against all counties' budgets during the preceding calendar year. "Court-related county-retained revenue" is defined as revenue collected by a county either to support circuit court operations or to be credited to another county budget. In addition to county-retained revenue, the circuit courts also collect revenue that is forwarded to the State and used to support a myriad of state government operations. **Attachment A** summarizes the state and county revenues that were collected by clerks of circuit court during calendar year 2019.

As shown in **Attachment A**, counties reported receiving \$94.0 million in revenue in calendar 2019. Of the 2019 revenue reported by the counties, 34.5 percent, or \$32.5 million was for financial assistance received from the State. This financial assistance primarily consists of the circuit court support payment program, the guardian ad litem payment program, and the court interpreter services reimbursement program statutorily administered by the DOSC. The remaining 65.5 percent, or \$61.6 million, reported by the counties is for statutory fines, forfeitures, surcharges, fees for services and other revenue permitted by statute. During calendar year 2019 clerks of circuit courts collected \$181.6 million. Of this, 66 percent (\$120.0 million) was forwarded to the State and 34 percent (\$61.6 million) was retained by the counties.

**Expenses Supporting Circuit Court Operations.** Counties also annually report to the DOSC court-related expenditures charged against all of the county’s budgets during the previous calendar year. “Court-related expenditures” are defined as county expenditures for those services directly provided by the circuit courts or agencies/departments that support the circuit courts. In addition, pursuant to s. 758.19(5)(b), Wis. Stats., the Director of State Courts defines circuit court costs eligible for payments. At present, allowable circuit court costs under the circuit court support payment program are those costs not related to courtroom security, rent, utilities, maintenance, rehabilitation, or construction of court facilities. **Attachment B** summarizes the expenditures incurred by counties for supporting circuit court operations.

For calendar year 2019, counties reported spending \$211.9 million for circuit court operations. Of this amount, 52.1 percent, or \$110.4 million, was expended on salaries and fringe benefits; 30.6 percent, or \$64.7 million, was spent on supplies and services considered allowable under s. 758.19(5)(b), Wis. Stats.; and 17.3 percent or \$36.7 million was spent by counties on supplies and services that are currently not allowable (costs related to courtroom security, rent, utilities, maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction of court facilities).

Questions regarding counties’ reported financial information should be directed to Caitlin Frederick, Deputy Director of State Courts for Management Services. She can be reached at (608) 267-1940.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Koschnick', enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

Randy Koschnick  
Director of State Courts

**Summary of Compiled State and County Revenues  
From Circuit Court Operations  
Calendar Year 2019**

	<u>Revenues Retained By Counties<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Revenues Retained By State<sup>2</sup></u>
Revenue counties received from the state	\$ 32,462,680	-
Statutory fines, forfeitures, and surcharges	\$ 24,470,684 *	\$ 91,435,981 <sup>3</sup>
Statutory fees for services	\$ 20,589,871 *	\$ 21,404,060
Recoupment of expenses	\$ 16,503,623 *	\$ 289,763 <sup>4</sup>
Other revenues	*	\$ 6,909,458 <sup>5</sup>
	\$ 94,026,859	\$ 120,039,262
	\$ 94,026,859	\$ 120,039,262

<sup>1</sup> Revenue reported by counties to the Director of State Courts Office on the CS-147 Annual Report of Actual Revenues and Expenditures. These amounts are subject to audit and revision.

<sup>2</sup> Data from the CCAP case management system (State Treasurer Report (ST-83)) reflects revenues receipted and reported by County Clerks. It is not the official State report of revenues. The official record is kept by the county treasurer and DOA, the ST-83 based upon the data provided by the County Clerks.

<sup>3</sup> A portion of this revenue may be refunded in future years as a result of case law affecting the DNA surcharge.

<sup>4</sup> State revenues retained for recoupment of expenses includes restitution payments and legal fees.

<sup>5</sup> Other State retained revenues include CCAP E-filing Convenience Fee, blood test revenues and GPS tracking surcharge.

\* Collected by Clerks of Circuit Courts

**Summary of Compiled State and County Expenditures  
for Circuit Court Operations**

	<b>Calendar Year 2019</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2020</b>
	<b>Expenditures Reported <u>By Counties</u><sup>1&amp;2</sup></b>	<b>Court-related Expenditures <u>By State</u><sup>3</sup></b>
Circuit Court Cost Payments		\$26,009,502
Salaries	\$ 79,828,198	\$60,506,591
Fringe benefits	\$ 30,614,190	\$21,641,096
Supplies and services allowable under s. 758.19(5)(am), Wis. Stats.	\$ 64,738,202	\$11,483,428
Supplies and services not allowable under s. 758.19(5)(am), Wis. Stats.	\$ 36,705,420	
<b>Total court-related expenditures incurred (county reported and State expended)</b>	<b>\$ 211,886,010</b>	<b>\$119,640,617</b>

<sup>1</sup> Expenditures reported by counties to the Director of State Courts Office on the form CS-147 Annual Report of Actual Revenues and Expenditures. These amounts are subject to audit and revision.

<sup>2</sup> Supplies and services allowable under s. 758.19(5)(am), Wis. Stats., are currently any direct or indirect circuit court costs except those costs related to courtroom security (including security personnel) and costs related to rent, utilities, maintenance, rehabilitation and construction of circuit court facilities.

<sup>3</sup> State expenditures for services directly provided by the circuit courts and court departments (i.e., Court Operations, District Court Administrators, Judicial Education, CCAP, and a portion of the Director's Office and Management Services) that support the circuit courts. Expenditures also include Circuit Court Cost payments to Counties for allowable circuit court costs as defined by the Director of State Courts pursuant to s. 758.19(5)(b), Wis. Stats.