



Budget Change Request

Change request information

Title Judge Pro Tempore Pay
Number B-07-13 Department 07 - District Court
Requester Frankie Peters
Published by Jennifer Smith Publish Date 2023-08-28
Change Type Policy Change

Board outcome *(to be entered by budget after Board action)*

Board Decision
Board Changes

Funds affected

Fund 0010 - General Fund
General Fund Affected? Yes More Than One Fund Affected? No

Policy request priority and connection to the strategic plan

Priority # 13 Strategic Plan Responsive Law,

Does this request include federal, state, or private grants?

Grant Funded?
Grantor and timeframe

Does this request affect current positions or propose new positions?

HR Payroll e-mailed? No Position Impact
Current position numbers affected

What do you need and why? Include any unexpected and external requirements.

Statement of Need

District Court is requesting the hourly rate of Judge Pro Tempore (Pro Tem) be increased from \$50 per hour to \$100 per hour. This service upholds the integrity and efficiency of the judicial branch of government, allowing District Court to continue providing access to justice to our community members. This necessary service last saw an increase to the hourly rate eleven (11) years ago, when the rate was increased to \$50 per hour. Throughout this time, regular salaries have continued to increase while Pro Tem pay has remained stagnant.

The ability to effectively support Pro Tem assignments is necessary in providing efficient access to the courts and appropriate management of court cases and business practices. Pro Tems are essential to providing ongoing judicial support without impacting daily business of the court's services. Because of the caseloads of the District Court, it is not feasible to remove calendars from the court docket to accommodate the inability to retain a Pro Tem, but the lack of funding to support scheduling Pro Tems leaves limited options.

Local jurisdictions are providing the following hourly pay rate for Pro Tems: Grays Harbor District \$99.51, Lewis District \$108, Chehalis Municipal \$150, Mason District \$75, Kitsap District \$111.80, Clark District \$75, Poulsbo & Port Orchard Municipal \$75, Wahkiakum District \$100, Yakima District 91.40, Grant District \$85.

How will this change the performance of your office or department?

Statement of Need

District Court will be able to manage cases more appropriately with the ability to schedule Pro Tems to effectively hear District Court matters. The ability to maintain currently scheduled dockets is essential in ensuring that matters are being heard efficiently, and without further delay to justice. An increase in hourly Pro Tem rates would allow for the acquisition and retention of well qualified Pro Tems to continue to serve the judicial branch, the county, and our community during absences of a District Court judicial officer or when needs to address high caseloads may exist. Pro Tems are practicing attorneys that most often have another position or private agency by which pay for current services provided far exceeds the hourly rate that District Court offers, creating difficulty in acquiring and retaining Pro Tems.

Expenditure, FTE and revenue assumptions plus current budget level

Assumptions

The current total allocation of \$31,047 supports Judge Pro Tem services at a rate of \$50 per hour. This is based on the Board's prior approval of 153 Judge Pro Tem hours (19 days) per year allotted for each District Court judicial officer. The requested hourly rate of \$100 per hour would require an allocation of \$61,488 total.

Current Budget Level

0107A762, 516000: Current allocation = \$7,686; Court requests increase of \$7,686
0107A763, 516000: Current allocation = \$7,686; Court requests increase of \$7,686
0107A764, 516000: Current allocation = \$7,686; Court requests increase of \$7,686
0107A765, 516000: Current allocation = \$7,989; Court requests increase of \$7,383

What happens if this isn't funded? Are there other options?

Impacts and Alternatives

District Court can see continued difficulties in the requisition and retention of Pro Tems. This can result in delays and lack of access to justice for the public and those justice involved.

How does this request affect other offices and departments?

Impact to Other Departments

Which Other Departments are Affected?

Operating Transfer Needed? No

Operating Transfer Coding and Amount

Personnel Information

FTE	Number	Name	Start Date	End Date
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Operating Revenue Line Items

Org Code	Object Code	Object Description	Project Code	2024	2025
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Capital Revenue Line Items

Org Code	Object Code	Object Description	Project Code	2024	2025
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Operating Expenditure Line Items

Org Code	Object Code	Object Description	Project Code	2024	2025
0107A762	516000	EXTRA HELP		7,686	7,686.00
0107A763	516000	EXTRA HELP		7,686	7,686.00
0107A764	516000	EXTRA HELP		7,686	7,686.00
0107A765	516000	EXTRA HELP		7,383	7,383.00
			Total:	30,441.00	30,441.00

Capital Expenditure Line Items

Org Code	Object Code	Object Description	Project Code	2024	2025
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