



**MINNESOTA  
JUDICIAL  
BRANCH**

# **FY 24-25 Supplemental Budget and Policy Bill Overview**

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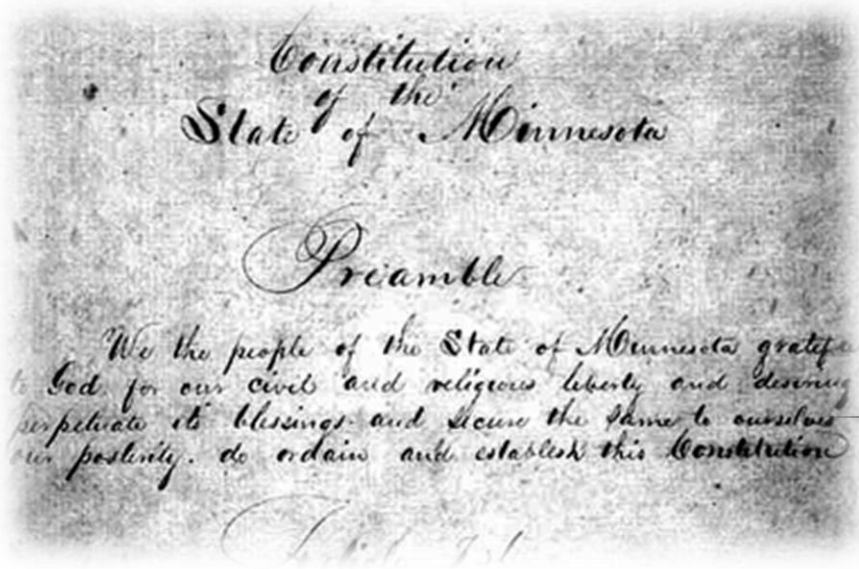
JEFF SHORBA, STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

MARCH 4, 2024

# Minnesota Constitution

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## *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."

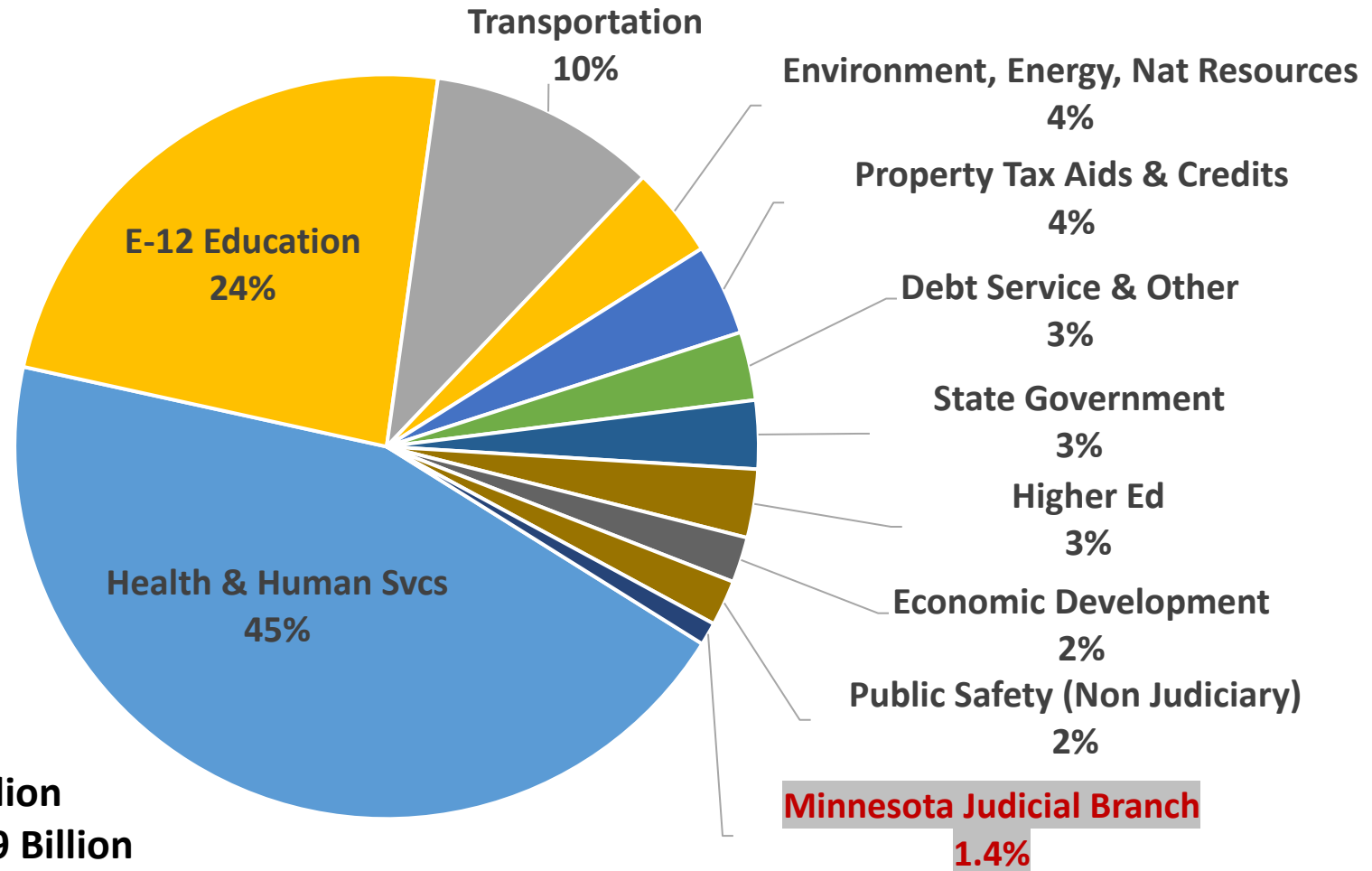
# Mandated Services

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Minnesota Statute §480.182 requires state courts to pay for the following court-related costs:

- Court Interpreters
- Guardian ad Litem program and personnel costs
- Examination costs for mental commitments and related proceedings under chapter 253B
- Examination costs under Chapter 611 or Rule 20 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure
- In forma pauperis costs
- Costs for transcripts mandated by statute
- Jury Program costs
- Witness fees and mileage fees specified in certain statutes

# FY24-25 State Budget



FY24-25 All Funds: \$115.60 Billion

FY24-25 General Funds: \$65.19 Billion

FY24-25 MJB General Fund Budget: \$882.803 Million

# FY 2024-25 Appropriations

| <b>Appropriations from the Judiciary Bill</b>            | <b>Amount</b>        |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Judicial Branch workforce                                | \$67,883,000         |
| Treatment courts                                         | \$844,000            |
| Courtroom technology enhancements (one-time)             | \$7,400,000          |
| Pandemic case backlog (one-time)                         | \$4,200,000          |
| Mandated psychological services deficit (one-time)       | \$3,000,000          |
| Interpreter pay increase                                 | \$400,000            |
| Law clerk pay increase                                   | \$4,066,000          |
| Competency exam delay                                    | (3,542,000)          |
| <b>Appropriations from Other Bills</b>                   |                      |
| Treatment courts-Cannabis bill                           | \$3,000,000          |
| Cannabis expungement (one-time)                          | \$1,090,000          |
| Extreme risk protection orders implementation            | \$273,000            |
| Paid family and medical leave interest change (one-time) | \$30,000             |
| <b>Total</b>                                             | <b>\$100,191,000</b> |

*\*Of the additional appropriations to the Minnesota Judicial Branch, \$15,720,000 is one-time funding.*

# FY 2024-2025 Expenditures

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## **Sustaining the Judicial Branch Workforce**

Recent legislative investments helped make compensation structure more competitive with public sector peers.

## **Treatment Courts**

Funding allowed the Branch to sustain four recently established treatment courts.

## **Courtroom Technology Enhancements**

One-time funding helped enhance courtroom technology to support hybrid and remote hearings.

## **Mandated Psychological Services Deficit**

One-time funding helped temporarily meet increased costs with psychological services.

## **Interpreter Pay Increase**

Funding allowed an increase in interpreter pay rates.

## **Law Clerk Pay Increase**

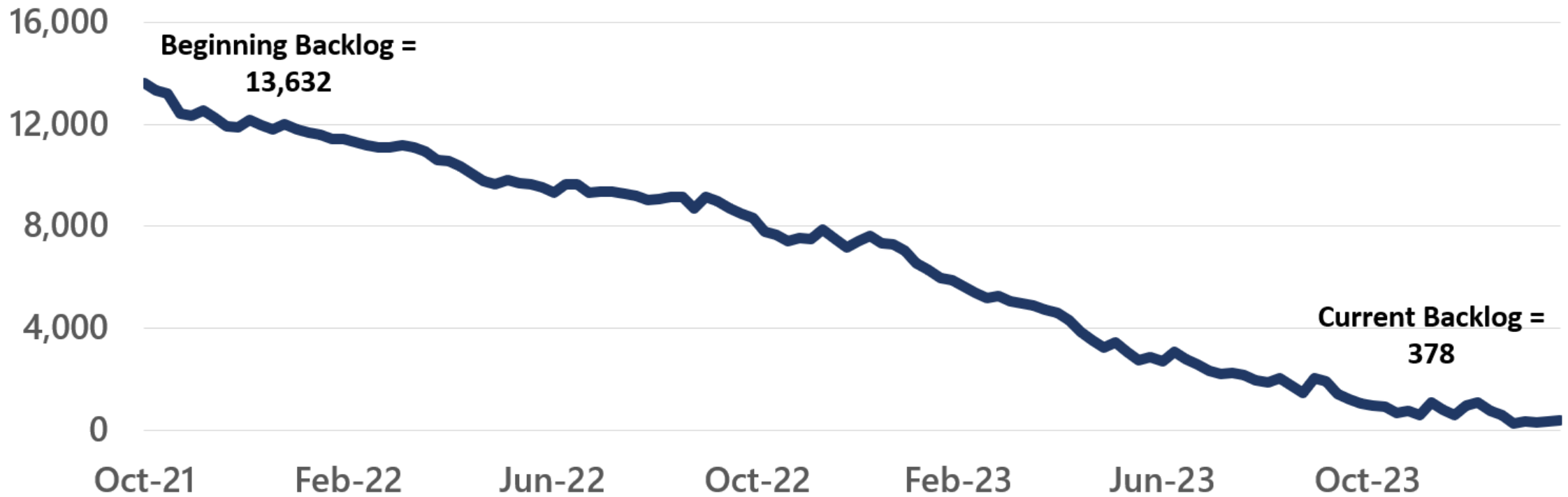
Funding allowed law clerks to obtain a pay increase.

## **Addressing the Pandemic Case Backlog**

One-time funding to help decrease the pandemic case backlog.

# Major Criminal Case Backlog Update

Oct. 29, 2021 – February 23, 2024



# FY24-25 Supplemental Budget Request:

## Addressing Key Challenges

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Ensuring access to forensic examiners

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Increasing demand for court interpreters

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Jury participation & representativeness

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Enhancing cyber security

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Improving courthouse security





# Expanded Access to Forensic Examiners

# Expanded Access to Forensic Examiners

- The Judicial Branch is facing a shortage of qualified examiners to provide psychological and psychiatric examinations for civil commitment and criminal cases.
- **Key Challenges:**
  - The volume of exams has increased: 143% increase from FY20-23 (civil and criminal case types)
  - Cost is going up 11% per year
  - Availability of examiners has decreased
  - Examiner pay has remained the same: \$125/hour since 2009 (DHS currently offers \$225/hour)

The Minnesota Judicial Branch requests funding to:

- Increase examiner pay rates from \$125/hour to \$225/hour (\$9.23 million per year)
- Support the expanded need for examiners (\$5.32 million per year)

| Forensic Examiners |             |            |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| FY24               | FY25        | FY24-25    |
| \$14.575 m.        | \$14.575 m. | \$29.15 m. |



# Ensuring Access to Court Interpreters

# Ensuring Access to Court Interpreters

- The Judicial Branch is statutorily required to provide interpreter services
- **Key Challenge:** The need for interpreters has nearly doubled in the last two years due to changing demographics causing a current budget deficit
- The Judicial Branch must increase rates to stay competitive

| Court Interpreters |            |           |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|
| FY24               | FY25       | FY24-25   |
| \$1.525 m.         | \$1.525 m. | \$3.05 m. |

The Judicial Branch seeks funding to:

- Support the expanded need for interpreters (\$1.290 million/year)
- Increase pay to \$75/hour(\$235,000/year)



# Improving the Juror Experience



# Improving the Juror Experience

- **Key Challenge:** Jurors have expressed concerns due to the financial hardships associated with jury service, as well as post-trial anxiety, guilt, and vicarious trauma.
- To address these concerns, the Judicial Branch is seeking additional funding to:
  - Raise juror per diem from \$20/day to \$100/day
  - Increase mileage from \$0.54/mile to the federal rate of \$0.655/mile
  - Provide access to vicarious trauma services

| Jury        |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| FY24        | FY25        | FY24-25     |
| \$10.024 m. | \$10.024 m. | \$20.048 m. |

# Enhancing Cyber Security

# Enhancing Cyber Security

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| Cyber Security |           |          |
|----------------|-----------|----------|
| FY24           | FY25      | FY24-25  |
| \$1.75 m.      | \$1.75 m. | \$3.5 m. |

The Judicial Branch seeks funding to:

- Subscribe to 24/7/365 cyber security monitoring services
- Purchase enhanced cyber security monitoring tools
- Update software to more securely manage access to court data

- In the past three years, the frequency and sophistication of cybercrime has dramatically increased.
- Courts maintain an array of confidential and sensitive data, and this funding will help the Judicial Branch better protect that data from cyberthreats.
- Several other courts have recently experienced significant cyberattacks.





# Safe and Secure Courthouse Initiative

# Safe and Secure Courthouse Initiative

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- \$500,000 one-time for a competitive grant program for courthouse safety and security improvements.
- Allows counties to apply for a one-time, dollar-for-dollar, matching grant to fund safety and security needs.
- Modeled after the Safe and Secure Courthouse Initiative funded in 2016 and 2021, which has provided a total of \$1.5 million in grants to 57 counties since 2017.

| Safe and Secure Courthouse |           |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| FY24                       | FY25      | FY24-25   |
| —                          | \$500,000 | \$500,000 |

# Overall Supplemental Funding Request

| Request                                          | FY24               | FY25               | FY24-25            |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Expanded Access to Forensic Examiners            | \$14.575 m.        | \$14.575 m.        | \$29.15 m.         |
| Ensuring Access to Court Interpreters            | \$1.525 m.         | \$1.525 m.         | \$3.05 m.          |
| Improving the Juror Experience                   | \$10.024 m.        | \$10.024 m.        | \$20.048 m.        |
| Cyber Security                                   | \$1.75 m.          | \$1.75 m.          | \$3.50 m.          |
| Safe and Secure Courthouse                       | —                  | \$0.5 m.           | \$0.5 m.           |
| <b>Total FY24-25 Supplemental Budget Request</b> | <b>\$27.874 m.</b> | <b>\$28.374 m.</b> | <b>\$56.248 m.</b> |

# Policy Provisions

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**Minimum Amount for Interest Bearing Trust Accounts:** Establishes a minimum amount of \$10,000 for interest bearing trust accounts for condemnation proceeds to warrant the time and effort involved in establishing the trust account.

**DVS Notification:** Allows court administration to share necessary documents related to driver's license suspension due to unsatisfied civil judgments with DVS via system-to-system integrations rather than through certified mail or electronic certification through email. A similar process has been used for many years to notify DVS of requests to suspend driver's licenses in criminal cases.

**Remote Forensic Examiners:** Changes the definition of court examiner to allow out-of-state examiners to perform remote exams in Minnesota if they are part of an approved interstate compact.

**Publication of Court Notices:** Requiring notices to be published in a newspaper is expensive, ineffective, and creates due process issues. This proposal would allow court-generated notices to be served by publication by posting to the Minnesota Judicial Branch webpage.

# Policy Provisions (continued)

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**Revenue Recapture Act Notice:** Removing the Judicial Branch notice requirement under the Revenue Recapture Act, which does not apply to the Branch and confuses court customers.

**Service for OFPs and HROs:** Updating the service requirements for orders for protection and harassment restraining orders to permit services electronically or by first class mail if the respondent appears remotely and is notified by the judge that an OFP or HRO will be issued.

**Juror Differentiated Shifts:** This proposal would prohibit employers from requiring an employee to work night shifts, perform other full-time work, or alter work schedules when that employee is participating in jury service.

# Thank you!



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