

PA JUDICIAL BUDGET REQUEST

2015-16

10 FACTS TO KNOW

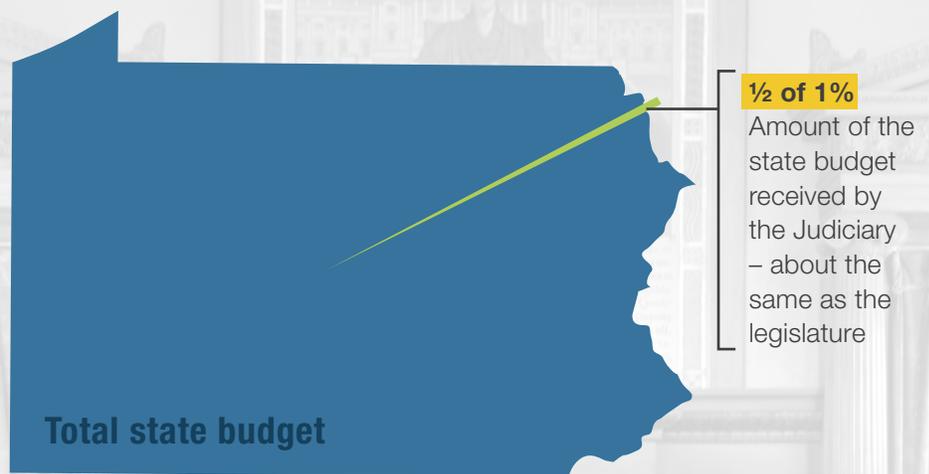
The fundamental mission of Pennsylvania's courts is to deliver fair, timely and accessible justice for all.

Adequate funding allows that mission to be met.

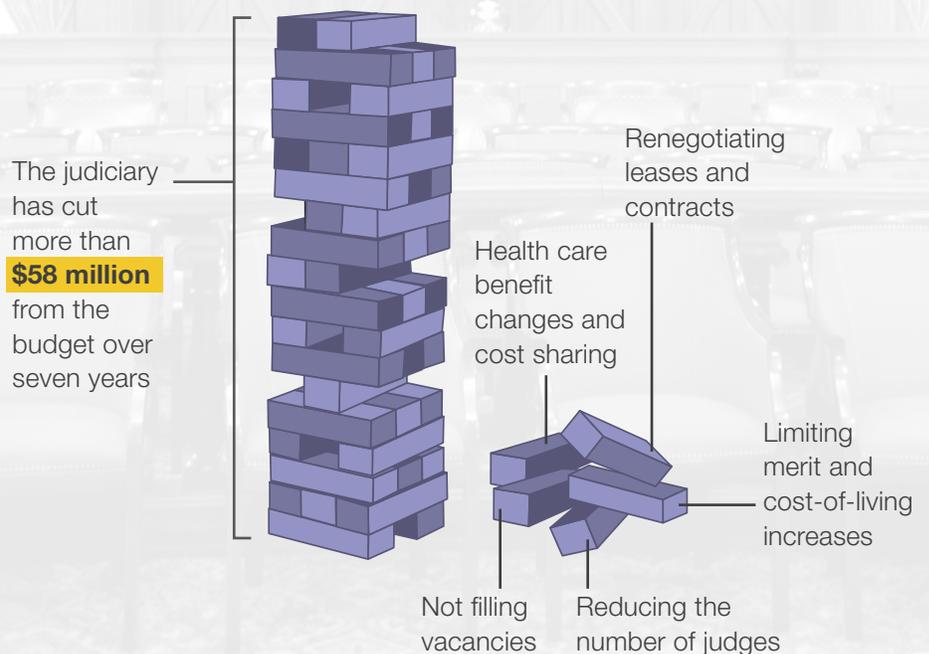
The Judiciary receives about **½ of 1 percent** of the state budget. Even though that amount is small, the Judiciary takes seriously its responsibility to be accountable and to cut costs.

Reducing the number of judges, not filling vacancies, renegotiating leases and contracts, increasing health care cost sharing and limiting merit and cost-of-living increases has **saved more than \$58 million over seven years**. Even with tight budgets, Pennsylvania has kept its courtrooms open in contrast with other states.

1 Judiciary Budget Relative to State Budget



2 Judicial Cost-Cutting



Funding Sources

In a perfect world, funds to operate the Judiciary would come exclusively from taxpayer dollars. That is the surest way to provide equal court access for all.

But tight budgets have forced the use of fees to support court operations. Fees totally fund the Judicial Computer System, and **13 percent of general operation funding comes from fees.**

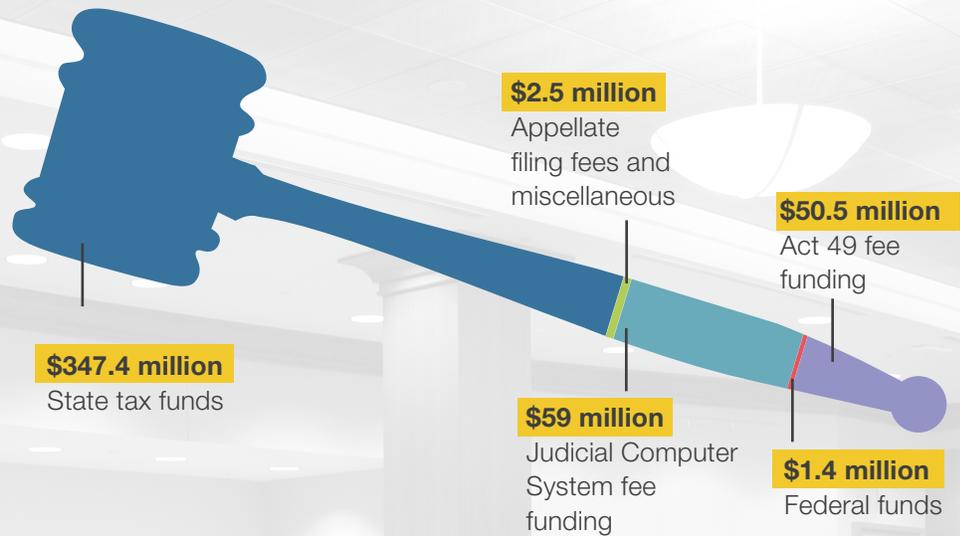
Budget Increase

In fact, last year those filing fees were increased. But higher pension and health care costs and a decrease in filings have already exhausted the increase.

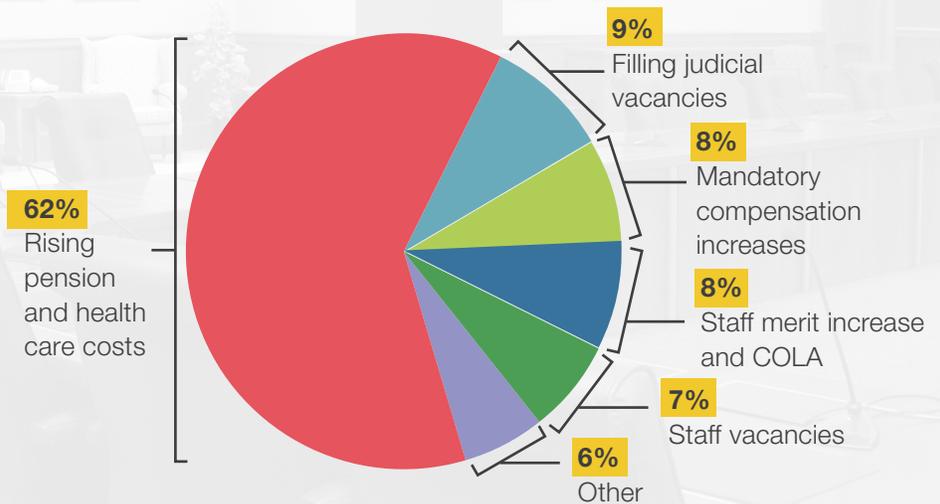
Collections Exceed Budget Request

Increasing the collection of fines, fees and restitution is a priority of the Judiciary. **Each year, the Judiciary collects far more in fines, fees, costs and restitution than it receives through its budget – this year, nearly 33 percent more and \$7 million more than last year.** Few of these dollars flow back to the Judiciary. They are distributed to state and local governments and programs, including those that support victims.

3 All Funding Sources



4 Factors Causing the 2015 Budget Increase

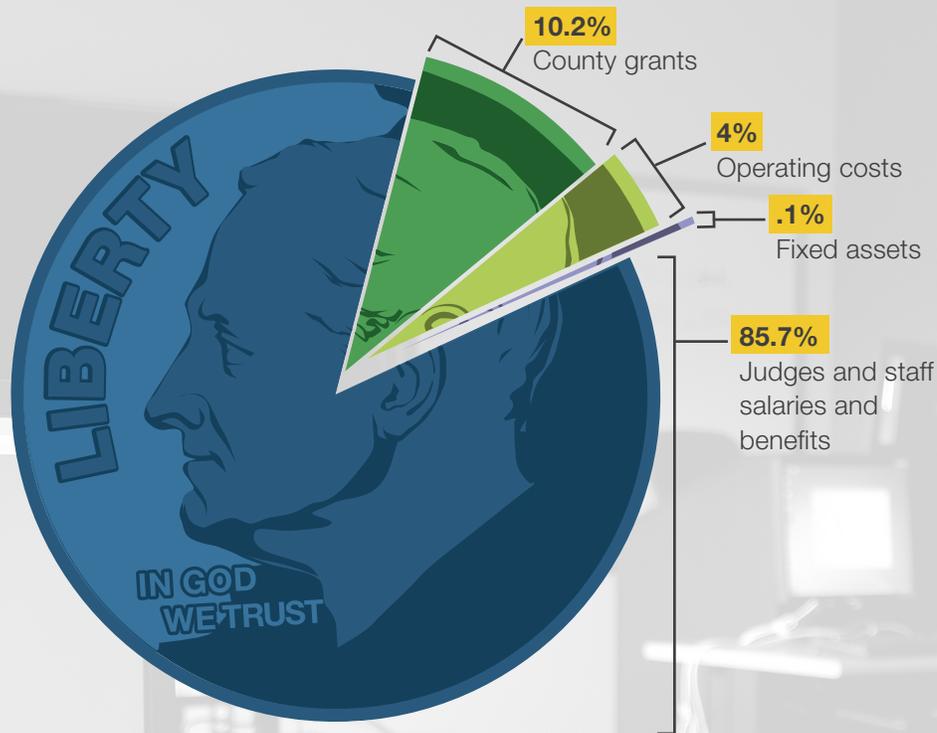


5 Collections Exceed Budget Request



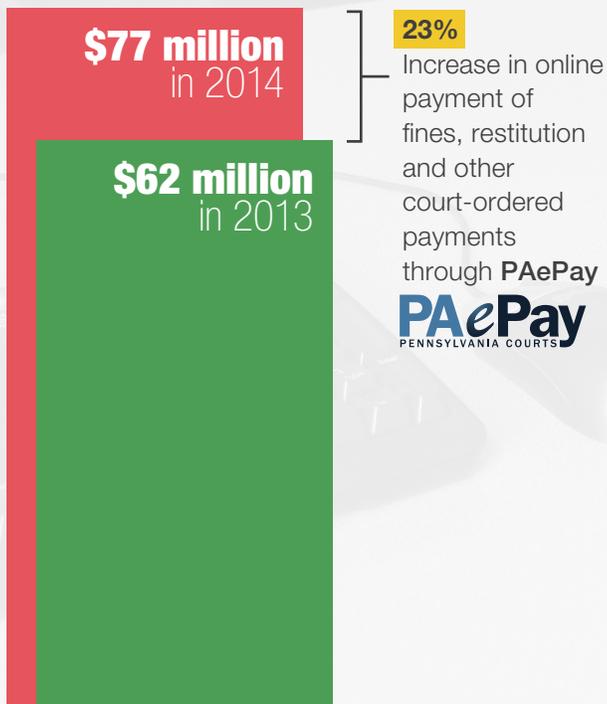
The Judiciary collects **33% more** in fines, fees and restitution than its total budget request.

6 How the Judicial Budget* Is Spent



*State and Act 49 funds only (excludes appellate filing fees, the Judicial Computer System and federal funds)

7 Increasing Collections with PAePay



More than 85 percent of the Judiciary's funds cover personnel costs. Because it is overwhelmingly personnel driven, the Judicial budget is relatively straightforward. Unlike the Executive branch, the Judiciary budget is not "program driven," so there is little discretionary spending.

Judicial Computer System

The Judicial Computer System (JCS) allows courts to track and manage cases, but it does much more.

For example, **PAePay**, which runs through the JCS, lets people pay court costs, fines, fees and restitution online. Over the last year alone, **PAePay processed 23 percent more payments.**

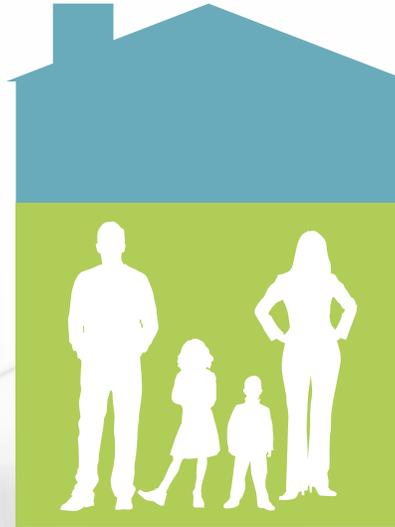
And, in 2014, 38,000 law enforcement and public safety officials from more than 20 criminal justice partners and law enforcement agencies depended on the JCS to perform their daily duties.

The JCS makes court information available to users such as the media, academics, attorneys, legislators, government agencies and for-profit and nonprofit organizations. **Court records were accessed online more than 65 million times last year, free of charge.**

Several Judiciary programs **improve lives and save money.**

- Children under the supervision of Pennsylvania's courts and the child welfare system are safely **remaining at home or being placed with family members 38 percent more often since 2011**, eliminating time otherwise spent in foster care, reducing potential emotional trauma and saving taxpayer dollars.
- **A reduction of the civil case inventory by 19 percent** is the result of a two-year program that began in 2012. It means that fewer landlords and tenants are waiting for resolution of cases affecting people's homes, small businesses aren't waiting for outcomes affecting their bottom line and those involved in medical malpractice cases and accidents aren't waiting for decisions affecting their lives.
- Pennsylvania now **has 100+ problem-solving courts.** These courts – including adult and juvenile drug courts, DUI courts, mental health courts and veterans courts – divert nonviolent offenders from jail if they comply with treatment and program requirements.

8 Office of Children and Families in the Court

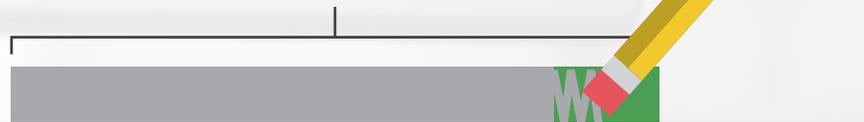


38% Increase in children who are safely remaining at home or being placed more often with family members

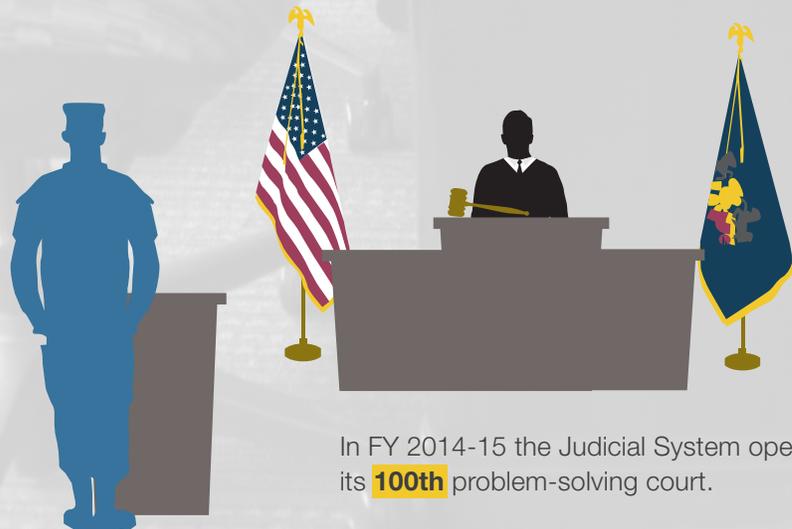
9 Erasing the Civil Case Docket

19% Civil case inventory reduction

New civil case management plans help courts control their dockets and dispose of cases more quickly.



10 Problem-Solving Courts



In FY 2014-15 the Judicial System opened its **100th** problem-solving court.