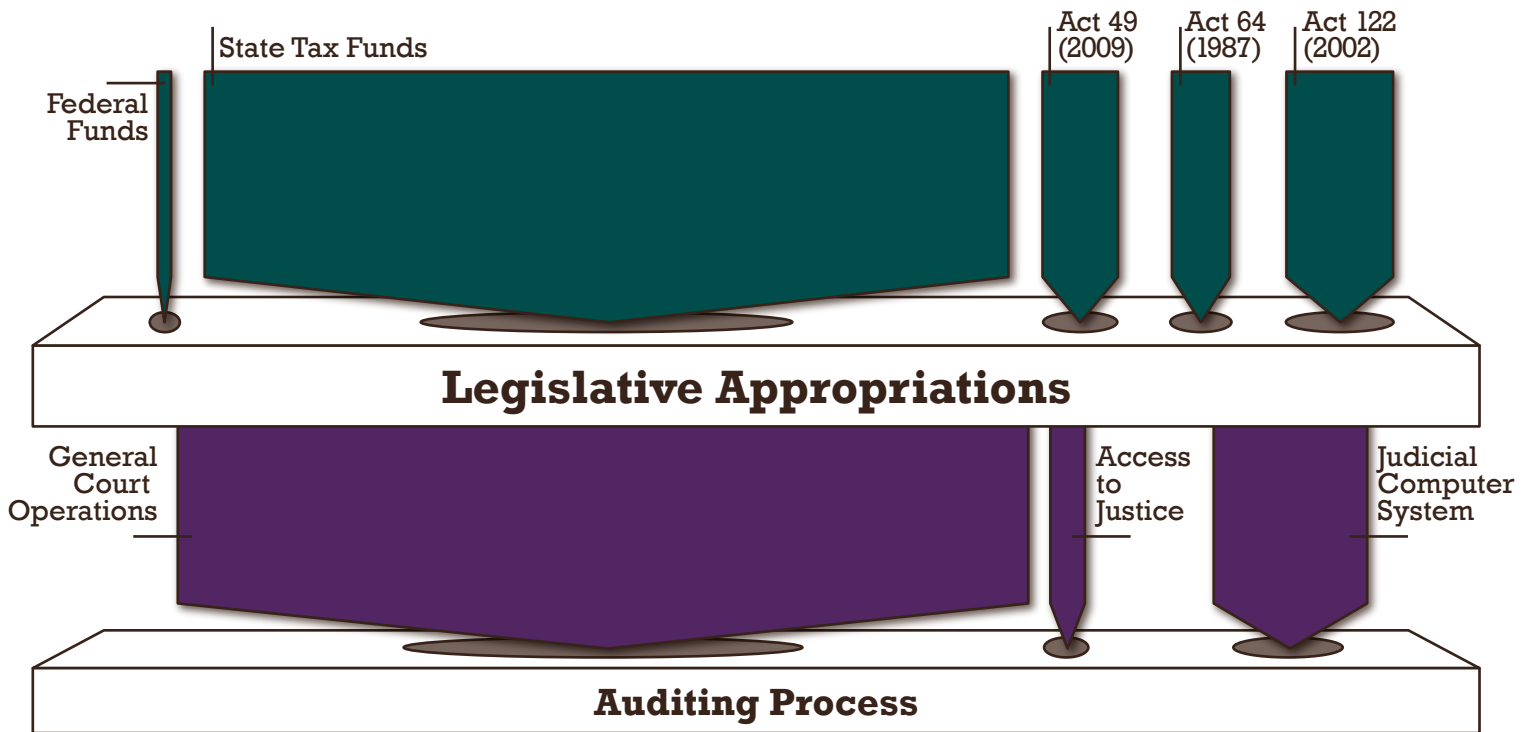


How Pennsylvania's Courts Are Funded

Pennsylvania's courts are funded by multiple revenue streams, all of which are subject to appropriation and audit.



Revenues



Expenditures

General court operations are primarily funded by state tax revenues, although since 2009 a temporary fee surcharge has supplemented operations' funding.

The judiciary's Judicial Computer System (JCS) is entirely funded by fines, court costs and fees, and those funds are also annually appropriated.

A small portion of fee revenues provides partial funding for Access to Justice – civil legal aid services – as well as county district attorney salaries, a non court function.

Annually, the judiciary submits budget requests to the governor, House and Senate, and judiciary representatives appear before the Senate and House Appropriations committees.

The judiciary's finances are annually audited by a national public accounting firm.

Judiciary FY 2014-15 budget request by funding source:

- State tax funds -
\$343 million for general court operations
- Act 49 fees -
\$33.5 million temporary surcharge for general court operations (sunsets 12/31/14)
- Fines, court costs, etc., (Act 64) and fees (Act 122) -
\$57 million for JCS operations
- Federal funds -
\$1.4 million support AOPC/Office of Children and Families in the Courts and specific projects

Judicial Fiscal Fast Facts

In 2013 Pennsylvania's courts processed 3.8 million cases.

How Does the Judiciary Spend Its Budget?



Fixed Assets - 0.1% Operating Costs - 4.3% County Grants - 9.2% Personnel - 86.4%

Judicial Belt-Tightening Initiatives

Like its sister branches, the judiciary continues to save! Over the last six years, it has **saved about \$45.8 million**, including:

\$14.1 million has been saved by using senior and “on loan from other jurisdictions” judges instead of filling judicial vacancies before the next election.

Reviewing, revising and renegotiating contracts and leases has **saved \$5 million.**

\$4.5 million has been saved to date by eliminating 18 MDJ seats of 28 total to be “right-sized.”

Cost-sharing by judges and staff for health insurance has **saved \$6 million.**

\$2 million has been saved by not filling staff vacancies.

Collections

In the last seven years since MDJ and Common Pleas courts have been automated, court staff have collected a staggering \$3.1 BILLION in fines, costs and restitution, an average of nearly \$460 million per year. That means the judiciary collects far more than its state appropriation.



PAePay allows defendants to pay court fines, costs and restitution with credit and debit cards via the Internet. PAePay makes paying court financial obligations more convenient for the defendant and less time-consuming for court staff to process and improves court collections. A record \$63 million in court fines, fees and costs was collected through PAePay in 2013.