

# KANSAS JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET

December 2017



The core function of the Kansas Judicial Branch is the timely delivery of justice to Kansas residents and businesses. Adequate funding is necessary to perform that core function.

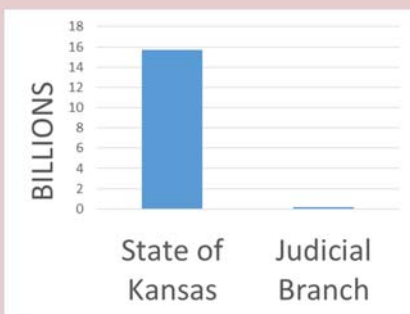
The judiciary receives less than 1% of the state budget. And the judiciary takes seriously its responsibility to be accountable and efficient in its funds management.



Most of our activities are mandated by state or federal law leaving few options available for reducing budgeted costs.

## Total State of Kansas Budget

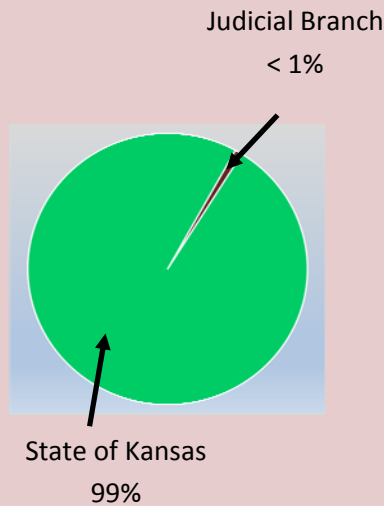
For FY 2017, the “All Funds” budget for the State of Kansas is \$15.96 billion—the judiciary’s portion was \$136 million.\*



\*FY 2017 approved budget as reported in the State of Kansas Comparison Report-FY 2018

## Judicial Portion of State Budget

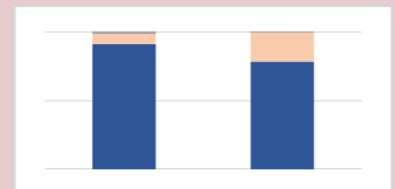
In FY 2017, the judiciary’s portion (\$136 million) is less than 1% (.85) of the total state budget.



## Judicial Branch Funding Sources

Funding for the Judicial Branch comes from the state general fund, fees, and grants/pass-through funds. Fees are the most unpredictable of these funding sources, and their share of the appropriated Judicial Branch budget has increased by 13 percentage points since 2008.

FY 08	FY 17
SGF	SGF
92%	78%



	FY 2008	FY 2017
SGF	92%	78%
Fees	7%	21%
Grants/Pass-Through	1%	1%



## FY 2019 Supplemental Funding Request

**Goals: Raise Kansas judicial branch compensation to a competitive level and adequately staff the workload of the courts.**

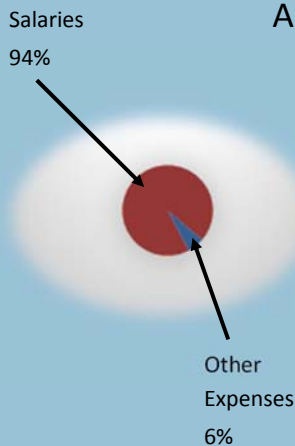
The supplemental budget request asks for funding to:



- 1) increase employee salaries to market levels identified in a recently updated salary study;
- 2) raise salaries for judges, including salaries for district judges which are currently ranked 50th in the nation;
- 3) fill 20 district court employee vacancies; and
- 4) create positions for seven judges and accompanying staff in currently underserved locations.

## Insufficient Funding

About 94% of the Judicial Branch budget is used to pay salaries.



Below market pay accelerates loss of experienced personnel which:

- ◆ compromises public safety and access to justice;
- ◆ leads to lower productivity, creating added burden for remaining employees;
- ◆ results in loss of institutional knowledge; and
- ◆ delays development and implementation of technology projects.



## Monies We Collect Exceed Our Budget Request

Increasing collection rates of fines, fees, and restitution is a priority. Each day, courts collect more than \$600,000. **In FY 2017, courts collected more than \$156 million in fines, fees, costs, private judgments, bonds, and restitution.** These dollars are distributed to state and local governments, victims, litigants, and programs, such as the Law Enforcement Training Center Fund, the KBI-DNA Database Fee Fund, and the Prosecuting Attorneys' Training Fund.

