New Mexico Judiciary

Presentation to the Legislative Finance Committee

November 17, 2026
Representative Nathan P. Small, Chair
Senator George K. Munoz, Vice Chair

Unified Budget Process

How funding requests move from the courts to the Legislature

STEP 1

Submit

Courts & AOC

Prepare and submit requests to the budget committee.

STEP 2

Review

Budget Committee

Recommend approval, revision or denial Supreme Court.

STEP 3

Finalize

Supreme Court

Review budget committee reports and finalize budget.

Budget Committee



HON. JOHN CHAVEZ, CHAIR
Valencia County Magistrate



HON. EMILIO CHAVEZ
Chief Judge
8th Judicial District



HON. MEGAN DUFFY
Judge
Court of Appeals



HON. CURTIS GURLEY
Judge
11th Judicial District



AUDREY HUKARI
Court Executive Officer
12th Judicial District



HON. FRANCIS MATHEW
Judge
1st Judicial District



HON. JAMES MARTIN
Judge
3rd Judicial District



HON. DAVID MURPHY
Judge
2nd Judicial District



KEVIN SPEARS
Court Executive Officer
9th Judicial District

BUDGET PRIORITIES

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

- Rural Justice
- NM Courts Helpline
- Modest Means

SECURITY

- Personnel
- Equipment

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Recurring funding for AOT and Competency Diversion
- Treatment Funding

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Modernize HR
- Behavioral health and other one-time funding staff

DATA AND TECHNOLOGY

- Data Analysts
- Finish courtroom upgrades
- IPRA Compliance

FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Leases for Magistrate courts
- One-time funding for improvements

FY26 Performance Highlights

103%
Supreme Court Clearance Rate

18%
Court of Appeals Case Increase

10%
Increase in Jury Trials

100%
Trial Court Clearance Rate

121
Courtroom Upgrades

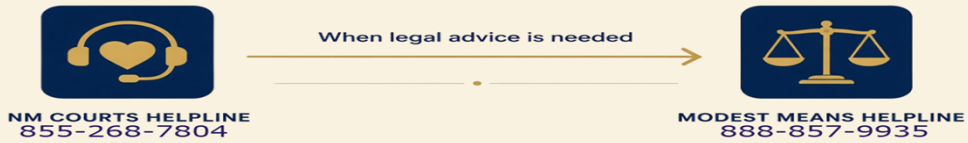
Criminal Case Processing Time

Magistrate & Metro Court: **72** days

District Court: **184** days

District Court
lowest in 5 years
(FY22–FY25)

Monthly calls to NM Courts HelpLine
8000+



FY26 calls to Modest Means
23,770

Administrative Office of the Courts (218)

283.5 employees in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Rio Rancho

FY28 General Fund Request Overview	
Administrative Support (P559)	$3,725.2
Statewide Judiciary Automation (P560)	$4,610.6
Court Operations (P610)	$1,548.0
Special Court Services (P620)	$4,004.2
Total recurring	**$13,888.0***

*30% of this request is replacing one-time special or GRO appropriations

Replacement of One-Time Funding
$4,084.0

Special Requests
$3,337.9

Administrative Office of the Courts (218)

Administrative Support (P559)

Key Investment Areas	Request	Purpose
Access to Justice	$200.0	**Modest Means Helpline** - **replace expiring funding** to maintain affordable legal assistance
	$812.8	**Replace expiring funding** to permanently fund the **NM Courts Helpline**
	$1,165.9	**Language Access** - expand translation services, contractors and scheduling support
Transparency & Accountability	$192.0	Staffing support for **Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC)** and public reporting
Statewide Core Operations	$53.0	**Lease renewals** include market-rate adjustments; this request keeps facilities in line with contractual obligations
	$200.1	**HR Professional** & Modernization
	$1,770.4	**Recurring funding** for **Jury & Witness costs** + 1 new FTE

Administrative Office of the Courts (218)

Statewide Judiciary Automation (P560)

Key Investment Area	Request	Purpose
Judiciary IT Infrastructure	$600.0	4 **Reporting and Analytics Division** data analyst positions
	$809.2	2 new **Cybersecurity** staff and tool licensure
	$1,088.0	Annual maintenance / **IT refresh**
	$2,000.0	For the Record (**Speech to Text**) licensing costs

Administrative Office of the Courts (218)

Court Operations (P610)

Key Investment Area	Request	Purpose
Safety and Security	$182.5	Contractual market-rate **lease renewals** to keep current offices
	$200.0	**Security equipment** upgrades/replacement
	$300.0	**Judicial protection detail**

Administrative Office of the Courts (218)

Special Court Services (P620)

Key Investment Area	Request	Purpose
Partnering to address state's behavioral health needs	$340.0	For speciality **data collection** in Pretrial Services, Treatment Courts, and Behavioral Health programs - Datagains Information Management System (DIMS)
	$497.0	To fund peers (alumni) in **Treatment Courts**, licensing for assessment tools, and increase reimbursement for courts statewide
	$1,078.9	**Replace one-time funding** for AOC **behavioral health** staff, **AOT**, **Competency Diversion**, and existing program expenses
Access to Justice	$699.4	**Replace one-time funding** for **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)** in child welfare cases
	$1,292.9	**Replace one-time funding** for **Rural Justice Initiatives**

Administrative Office of the Courts (218)

One-Time Requests

Key Investment Area	Request	Purpose
Courtroom Modernization (ICIP Request)	$6,500.0	**Complete** courtroom modernization
Training	$1,112.9	To expand **Judiciary-wide training**
Compliance	$125.0	**ADA Compliance** - document remediation
	$500.0	**IPRA compliance** software and team
Behavioral Health	$1,600.0	Continued **behavioral health** program expansion

FY27 Supplemental Request	$2,243.4	GSD Health Insurance and Rate Increases

NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT(216)

FY28 General Fund Base Budget Request		
FY27 GF Approp	FY28 Request	$ Increase
$10,421.3	$11,302.3	$881.1

General Fund Request Summary

Appellate Attorney	$	383.1
Security	$	26.5
Appellate Paralegals	$	215.5
Court Reporter Costs (Capital Appeals)	$	30.0
Rates and Benefit Increases	$	183.7

FY28 Special Requests:

Software: Records management software and historic preservation $ 75.1

FY 26 Accomplishments

Cases Resolved **69**

- Rule of Law: New Mexico students attended oral arguments in Portales at ENMU
- Judicial Clerkship Program: Law students obtained mentorship and appellate experience

Court of Appeals (215)

	FY27	FY28 Request	Total Increase
General Fund	$10,997.9	$12,281.2	$1,283.3

FY28 General Fund Request	
Health Insurance Contribution and Premium Increase, GSD Rate Increase	$355.4
Mediation Program (one-time funding expires FY27)	$230.0
Appellate Attorney Supervisor	$171.1
2.0 Judicial Specialists	$166.0
2.0 Appellate Technical Legal Editors	$130.2
Appellate Technical Legal Editor (ATLE) (1 FTE)	$130.2
Business Specialist 2 (1 FTE) To support the Court's HR Administrator Senior and provide back-up administrative and fiscal support	$100.4

Court of Appeals (215)

FY28 GRO Request	
Mediation Program **ALTERNATIVE request to FY28 GF budget request**	$690.0 ($230.0 per FY)

FY28 Special Request	
IT Hardware Refresh and Audio/Visual System Upgrade IT hardware refresh and to upgrade audio/visual systems	$155.7

FY27 Supplemental Request	
Health Insurance Increases	$104.5

COA Mediation Program (February 2024-Current)

	Total Mediated Cases	Settled	Not Settled	% Settled per FY
FY24	17	9	8	53%
FY25	57	35	22	61%
FY26	63	37	26	59%
FY27	20	13	7	65%
Total	157	94	63	

First Judicial District Court (231)

Los Alamos, Rio Arriba and Santa Fe Counties

- 11 District Judges
- 7 Magistrate Judges
- 5 Courthouses
- 125.75 Employees

FY28 General Fund Base Budget Request		
FY27 GF Approp	FY28 Request	$ Increase
$15,458.7	$16,801.3	$1,342.6

General Fund Request Summary

Financial Specialist Sr.	$	100.4
(2) Mag. Court DWI Coordinators	$	180.6
Pretrial Services Increase	$	150.0
AOT/Comp Diversion	$	330.0
GSD Rates Increase	$	48.6
10% Ins Rates Increase	$	173.3
Insurance Rates Shortfall	$	359.7

FY28 Special Requests:

Digitize Microfilm (Phase 3)	$	162.1K
Network Storage & IT Refresh	$	129.0K

FY27 Supplemental Request:

Insurance Rate Increase	$	359.7K

Second Judicial District Court (232)

Bernalillo County

	FY27	FY28 Request	Total Increase
General Fund	$40,432.7	$44,413.7	$3,981.0

FY28 General Fund Request	
FY27 insurance and rate increases	$596.7
FY28 GSD and insurance rate increases	$418.0
Foreclosure Settlement Program	$967.8
Pretrial Services (GRO funding expires FY27)	$296.2
Adult Drug Court & Veterans Treatment Court (DOC funding sunsetting)	$947.5
Two Judicial Specialists for Clerk's Office	$166.0
Three Administrative Assistants for monitoring court proceedings	$229.8
Two Court Clinicians (custody evaluations, mediations, and parenting classes)	$247.2
Human Resources Sr.	$111.8

Second Judicial District Court (232)

Bernalillo County

Supplemental Request	
Foreclosure Settlement Program (FSP) • Program established in 2014, no appropriation for FY27	$742.1
Insurance Rate Increases	$298.4
Special/GRO Request	
Foreclosure Settlement Program (FSP) • Statewide program that assists in renegotiating loans in foreclosure.	$967.8
Adults Drug Court & Veterans Treatment Court • Currently funded by Department of Corrections. Funding sunsetting in FY28.	$947.5
Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)	$480.0
Bullet Resistant Window Film	$3,721.5

Third Judicial District Court (233)

Doña Ana County

- 9 District Judges
- 7 Magistrate Judges
- 128.5 Employees

FY28 General Fund Base Budget Request		
FY27 GF Approp	FY28 Request	$ Increase
$15,622.1	$17,371.9	$1,749.8

General Fund Request Summary

Child Support Program - Term to Perm		
3.5 Term FTEs to Perm	$	412.7
GSD Rate Increases	$	308.4
FY27 Health Insurance Shortfall	$	349.9
10% Health Insurance Increase	$	145.9
Workforce Investment Plan	$	1.7
DWI Program Coordinator	$	81.3
Competency Diversion (BRIDGE)	$	300.0
Additional FTE - IT Specialist Sr.	$	149.9

FY26 COURT STATISTICS

DISTRICT
New and Reopened: 12,272
Cases Closed: 10,611
Clearance Rate: 91%

MAGISTRATE
New and Reopened: 17,807
Cases Closed: 18,536
Clearance Rate: 100%

JURY TRIALS
District: 47
Magistrate: 23

SELF HELP CENTER
Customers: 9,704

Fourth Judicial District Court (234)

Guadalupe, Mora, and San Miguel Counties

- 3 District Judges
- 4 Magistrate Judges
- 5 Courthouses
- 55 Employees

FY28 General Fund Base Budget Request		
FY27 GF Approp	FY28 Request	$ Increase
$6,593.3	$7,089.0	$495.7

General Fund Request Summary

Financial Specialist Sr.	$	100.3
Program/Project Specialist	$	90.9
(2) Community Navigators	$	120.0
DWI Program Coordinator	$	97.1
GSD Rates Increase	$	29.9
10% Benefits Increase	$	57.5

FY28 Special Requests:

Security Cameras & Ballistic Film	$	135.0
Furniture and Equipment (Mora)	$	30.0

Fifth Judicial District Court (235)

Chaves, Eddy and Lea Counties

- 12 District Judges
- 9 Magistrate Judges
- 9 Courthouses
- 128 Employees

FY28 General Fund Base Budget Request		
FY27 GF Approp	FY28 Request	$ Increase
$16,208.2	$17,852.2	$1,644.0

General Fund Request Summary

(2) Court Services Specialist	$	150.2
GSD Rate Increase	$	298.4
FY27 GSD Insurance Rate Increases	$	334.5
FY28 10% Benefit Increase	$	173.4

FY28 Expansion Request:

Pretrial Services Program Six (6) FTE serving all counties	$	687.5

FY27 Supplemental Request:

FY27 GSD/Health Ins	$	334.5

Sixth Judicial District Court (236)

Grant, Hidalgo and Luna Counties

- 4 District Judges
- 4 Magistrate Judges
- 7 Courthouses
- 75 Employees

FY28 General Fund Base Budget Request		
FY27 GF Approp	FY28 Request	$ Increase
$8,427.8	$9,039.1	$611.3

General Fund Request Summary

Pretrial and Treatment Court	$	170.1
Financial Specialist	$	91.7
Court Support Navigator	$	83.4

FY28 Special Requests:

IT Refresh	$	25.0
File Digitization	$	20.0

FY28 Capital Request:

Grant County District Court Construction	$	20,000.0

Seventh Judicial District Court (237)

Catron, Sierra, Socorro and Torrance Counties

- 3 District Judges
- 4 Magistrate Judges
- 8 Courthouses
- 57 Employees

FY28 General Fund Base Budget Request		
FY27 GF Approp	FY28 Request	$ Increase
$5,804.1	$6,650.6	$846.5

General Fund Request Summary

Attorney Senior	$ 149.9
Court Financial Manager	$ 123.6
Security Bailiff - Sierra	$ 62.1
Judicial Specialist 2	$ 83.0
Pretrial Supervisor	$ 107.4
Pretrial Officer (term to perm)	$ 71.9
Pretrial Officer (term to perm)	$ 64.4
ADC contractor Increase	$ 20.0

FY28 Supplemental Requests:

Insurance/Rate Increase	$ 103.0

FY28 Capital Outlay Requests:

Asbestos Removal & New Carpet	$ 267.1

Eighth Judicial District Court (238)

Colfax, Taos and Union Counties

- 3 District Judges
- 5 Magistrate Judges
- 4 Courthouses
- 64 Employees

FY28 General Fund Base Budget Request		
FY27 GF Approp	FY28 Request	$ Increase
$7,357.1	$7,887.2	$530.1

General Fund Request Summary

GSD Rate Increases	$	220.0
Financial Specialist Senior	$	100.4
(2) Judicial Specialist 2	$	83.0
Guardian Ad Litem Contract	$	30.0
Pretrial Services increased GPS monitoring cost	$	28.0
10% Benefits increase	$	68.7

FY27 Supplemental Requests:

Insurance/Rate Increase $ 220.0

FY28 Special Appropriation Request

Taos & Colfax Co. Courthouse Uninterrupted Power Supply Units $ 195.0

Ninth Judicial District Court (239)

Curry and Roosevelt Counties – 71 Employees

	FY27	FY28 Request	Total Increase
General Fund	**$8,033.2**	**$8,996.6**	**$963.4**

FY28 General Fund Request	
Attorney Associate	$138.8
Pretrial Services Program Funding (9thJDC & 10thJDC)	$442.7
GSD Rate Increases ($51.3) & Health Insurance Costs ($330.6)	$381.9
Special Request	
Security - Ballistic window film in Curry and Roosevelt	$476.6

Tenth Judicial District Court (240)

De Baca, Harding and Quay Counties – 21 Employees

	FY27	FY28 Request	Total Increase
General Fund	**2,734.6**	**3,125.2**	**390.6**

FY28 General Fund Request	
Court Services Specialist (1 FTE)	$83.0
Legal Office Specialist (1 FTE)	$91.0
Health Insurance Costs	$216.6
Special Request	
Security - Ballistic Material in designated judicial facilities in the Tenth Judicial District.	$81.1

Eleventh Judicial District Court (241)

McKinley and San Juan Counties

- 8 District Judges
- 9 Magistrate Judges
- 6 Courthouses
- 156.5 Employees

FY28 General Fund Base Budget Request		
FY27 GF Approp	FY28 Request	$ Increase
$15,668.9	$17,118.1	$1,449.2

General Fund Request Summary

(2) Child Support Enforcement Partial Funding Only	$	137.9
(4)Treatment Court Programs Term-to-Perm	$	378.0
Attorney Associate	$	140.1
Court Programs Operations Manager	$	140.1
FY27 Rates/Insurance Shortfall	$	347.6
FY28 10% Benefits Increase	$	170.4
Contractual Treatment Services DWI	$	103.5
GSD Rate Increases	$	31.6

FY28 Special Requests:

IT Refresh	$	107.3

Twelfth Judicial District Court (242)

Lincoln and Otero Counties

- 5 District Judges
- 4 Magistrate Judges
- 65 Employees

FY28 General Fund Base Budget Request		
FY27 GF Approp	FY28 Request	$ Increase
$8,013.1	$8,994.6	$981.5

General Fund Request Summary

Legal Office Specialist	$ 91.0
Deputy CEO	$ 148.6
Pretrial Services Judicial Specialist	$ 78.0
Specialty Court Surveillance Officer Term to Perm	$ 67.6
Competency Diversion Support Navigators (Term to Perm)	$ 136.3
Competency Diversion Costs	$ 199.7

FY28 Special Requests:

Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment
Otero County District Court $ 1,634.2

FY28 Supplemental Request:

Health Insurance Cost Increase $ 164.4

FY26 COURT STATISTICS

DISTRICT

New and Reopened: 5,464
Cases Closed: 5,342
Clearance Rate: 98%
Jury Trials: 51

MAGISTRATE

New and Reopened: 7,271
Cases Closed: 7,295
Clearance Rate: 100%
Jury Trials: 27

Thirteenth Judicial District Court (243)

Cibola, Sandoval and Valencia Counties

- 9 District Judges
- 8 Magistrate Judges
- 8 Courthouses
- 145 Employees

FY28 General Fund Base Budget Request		
FY27 GF Approp	FY28 Request	$ Increase
$16,236.0	$17,766.8	$1,440.8

General Fund Request Summary

Judicial Specialist II (new FTE)	$ 83.0
PTS convert PTS1 to PTS2's	$ 49.0
PTS convert PTS 1 to PTS Leads	$ 72.0
PTS term to perm PTS2	$100.3
PTS GPS SCRAM	$ 50.0
Treatment Court service provider	$ 50.0
General Counsel	$ 70.0
Term to Perm Crt Prob Officer 2	$100.3
Training and Professional Development	$ 25.0
Term to Perm Judicial Specialist II CSSD	$ 83.0

FY28 Supplemental Request:

Health Insurance Cost Increase	$ 352.6

Bernalillo Metropolitan Court (244)

- 19 District Judges
- 288 Employees

FY28 General Fund Base Budget Request		
FY27 GF Approp	FY28 Request	$ Increase
$34,544.5	$35879.6	$1,335.1

General Fund Request Summary

Paralegal (IPRA)	$ 91.4
Term to Perm Judicial Specialist	$ 73.8
Competency Diversion	$ 293.0
Specialty Court Services	$ 182.0
10% Ins Rates Increase	$ 298.7
GSD Increase	$ 88.3

FY27 Supplemental Request:

Insurance Rate Increase	$ 307.9

New Mexico Judiciary

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