

Judicial Conference of Ohio

Role and Overview

The Judicial Conference (JCO), as an integral part of the judicial system of the state, continually studies the coordination of the work of the several courts of Ohio, encourages uniformity in the application of the law, rules and practice, promotes an exchange of experience within the judiciary, and in general, considers the business and problems pertaining to the administration of justice throughout the state and makes recommendations for its improvement. Most of the work of the conference is performed by its Executive Committee, 20 standing, and ad hoc committees of judges who volunteer their time to provide expertise, practical insight, and guidance to staff members who facilitate its activities. The conference provides information and collaboration to the other branches of Ohio government, reviews and comments on proposed legislation, and provides information to the public. All 722 Ohio judges are members of the Judicial Conference. Policy decisions are made by the Executive Committee comprised of approximately 50 members, including the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio as honorary chair, the officers elected by the members, representatives of the various judicial associations, and the administrative executives of the Supreme Court and the Judicial Conference. The conference's seven staff members support the judicial committees and coordinate more than 80 meetings per year in person or via conference call. The staff also provides professional support to the six judicial associations as necessary. During the last biennium, the conference's legislative staff reviewed every bill introduced during the biennium for a judicial impact, prepared judicial impact statements and legislative letters, had judges testify before legislative committees, distributed a bi-weekly legislative newsletter, published BillBoard, conducted a Judicial-Legislative Exchange Program, and prepared and distributed Enactment News articles providing impact and practical implementation advice to judges.

More information regarding the Judicial Conference of Ohio is available at <http://www.ohiojudges.org>.

Agency Priorities

- Promote understanding and cooperation among the branches of government and provide information and services to other branches.
- Ensure uniformity in the application of the law and practice throughout the state by improving the administration of justice through sensible and practical legislation and collaboration at the state level.
- Provide leadership to the judiciary by speaking on behalf of judges, providing information and services to judges and by coordinating activities of the judicial associations.
- Promote public confidence in the judiciary by encouraging uniformity in the application of the law, rules, and practice and by enhancing the public's understanding of the judicial system.
- Expand innovation and efficiency in Ohio courts and encourage uniformity by serving as an easily accessible central resource of information and leadership.
- Provide resources to Ohio courts and judges to assist with budget, funding challenges, and conflicts with funding authorities.
- Maintain current technology and internet access to available judicial resources.

Funding Recommendation for 2018 and 2019

- GRF: Funding for fiscal year 2018 is \$807.0 thousand (or a 17.9% increase from fiscal year 2017). Funding for fiscal year 2019 is \$807.0 thousand (or a 0.0% increase from fiscal year 2018).
- All Funds: Funding for fiscal year 2018 is \$1.2 million (or a 24.5% increase from fiscal year 2017). Funding for fiscal year 2019 is \$1.2 million (or a 1.9% increase from fiscal year 2018).

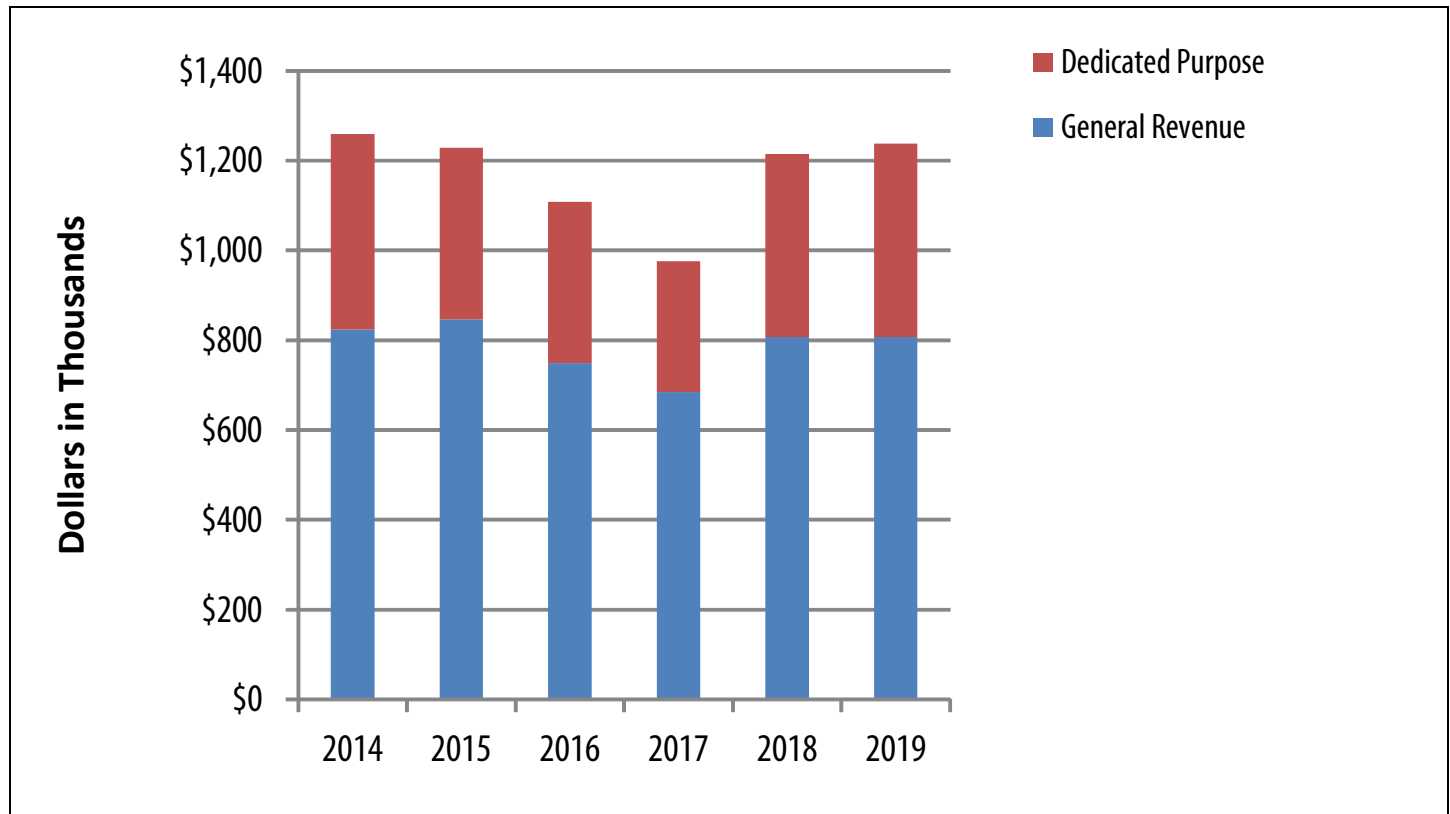
The Executive Recommendation will fund the following objectives:

- Promote understanding. Staff will review every bill introduced during the biennium for judicial impact, review proposed changes to the Ohio Rules of Court, conduct research surveys, write letters to legislators, write Judicial Impact Statements, arrange for testimony on legislation as necessary, publish BillBoard and a bi-weekly legislative newsletter, and organize a Judicial-Legislative Exchange. Staff and judges will provide assistance to the Ohio General Assembly, the Executive Branch, the Supreme Court of Ohio, and other collaborative groups throughout the biennium.

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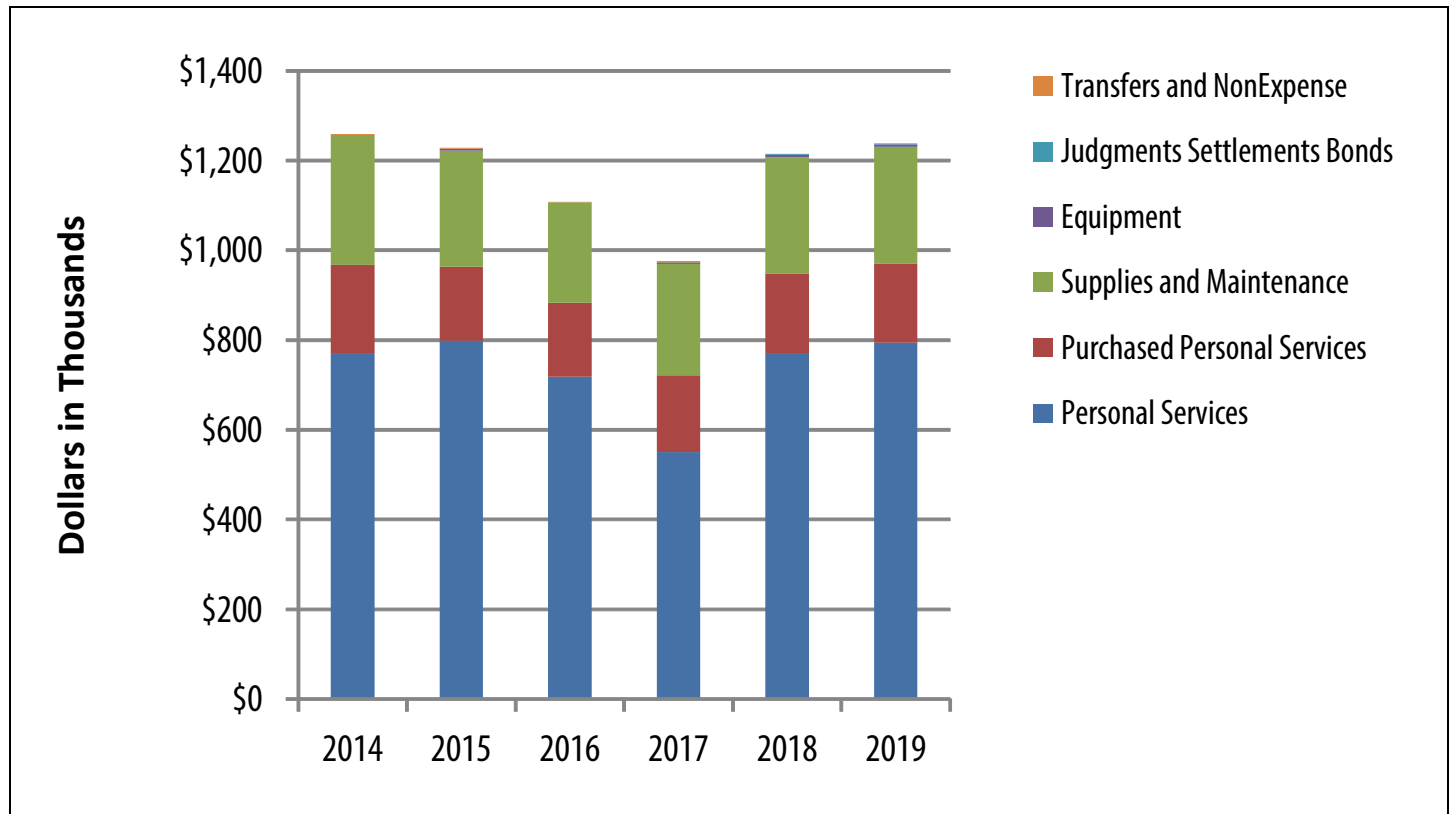
- Encourage uniformity. Staff will analyze the impact of new laws and court decisions and prepare and distribute bench aids, update bench books, and draft forms, rules, and Enactment News, to assist in implementation throughout the state.
- Promote the exchange of experience within the judiciary. Staff support over 20 standing and ad hoc judicial committees (more than 80 meetings per year in person or via conference call). Staff provide professional support to Ohio's six judicial associations as necessary.
- Consider the business and problems pertaining to the administration of justice and make recommendations for its improvement. In consultation with the Judicial Conference's committees, staff will produce a legislative platform of recommended changes to the Ohio Revised Code, and a Rules Platform of recommended changes to the Ohio Rules of Court. Staff will monitor changes to the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Supreme Court decisions in order to assist with implementation.
- Preparation and publication of comprehensive Ohio Jury Instructions for use by Ohio judges. The committee will provide updates as needed but at least three times per year.
- Promote public confidence. Judges are assisted with community outreach programs including copies of eight popular citizen guide brochures distributed throughout Ohio at no state expense. Judges will consider the role of the judge in the community and make recommendations for improvement.

Budget Fund Group Information



(in Thousands)	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
Budget Fund Group	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 16-17	FY 2018	% Change	FY 2019	% Change
General Revenue	824	846	749	684	-8.7%	807	17.9%	807	0.0%
Dedicated Purpose	434	383	359	292	-18.7%	408	39.8%	431	5.6%
Total	1,259	1,228	1,109	976	-11.9%	1,215	24.5%	1,238	1.9%

Expense Account Category Information



(in Thousands)	Actual			Est.	% Change	Recommended			
Expense Account Category	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 16-17	FY 2018	% Change	FY 2019	% Change
Personal Services	772	798	719	550	-23.5%	771	40.2%	794	3.0%
Purchased Personal Services	196	166	165	172	4.3%	177	2.9%	177	0.0%
Supplies and Maintenance	289	258	224	248	10.8%	260	4.9%	260	0.0%
Equipment	0	4	0	4	0.0%	5	42.9%	5	0.0%
Judgments, Settlements & Bonds	0	0	0	0	0.0%	3	1,660.6%	3	0.0%
Transfers and Non-Expense	2	2	1	3	115.5%	0	-100.0%	0	0.0%
Total	1,259	1,228	1,109	976	-11.9%	1,215	24.5%	1,238	1.9%

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Program Series 1: Judicial System Review (135A0)

The Judicial Conference is an independent agency and integral part of the judicial branch. The conference has one program series, the Judicial System Review, which contains one program (135B1) of the same name. This program studies the work of the several courts of Ohio, encourages uniformity in the application of the law, promotes an exchange of experience within the judiciary, reviews the system of justice throughout the state and recommends improvements. Its committees of judges provide expertise and practical insight and jury instructions. It provides information to the other government branches, reviews and comments on proposed legislation, and provides information to the public.

Fund	ALI	ALI Name	Estimated	Recommended			
			FY 2017	FY 2018	% Change	FY 2019	% Change
GRF	018321	Operating Expenses	684,250	806,963	17.9%	806,963	0.0%
4030	018601	Ohio Jury Instructions	292,000	408,282	39.8%	431,346	5.6%
Total for Judicial System Review			976,250	1,215,245	24.5%	1,238,309	1.9%

State of Ohio

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Line Item Summary by Budget Fund Group

Fund	ALI	ALI Name	Actual			Estimated	Recommended			
			FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	% Change	FY 2019	% Change
GRF	018321	Operating Expenses	824,416	845,784	749,250	684,250	806,963	17.9%	806,963	0.0%
Total General Revenue			824,416	845,784	749,250	684,250	806,963	17.9%	806,963	0.0%
4030	018601	Ohio Jury Instructions	434,471	382,506	359,287	292,000	408,282	39.8%	431,346	5.6%
Total Dedicated Purpose			434,471	382,506	359,287	292,000	408,282	39.8%	431,346	5.6%
Grand Total Judicial Conference of Ohio			1,258,887	1,228,290	1,108,537	976,250	1,215,245	24.5%	1,238,309	1.9%