

2025-26

Budget Presentation

District Court and District Court Probation

Judge Angela Anderson, Presiding Judge

Jake Wiebusch, District Court and Probation Administrator

DC and DCP's Mission Statements

- District Court

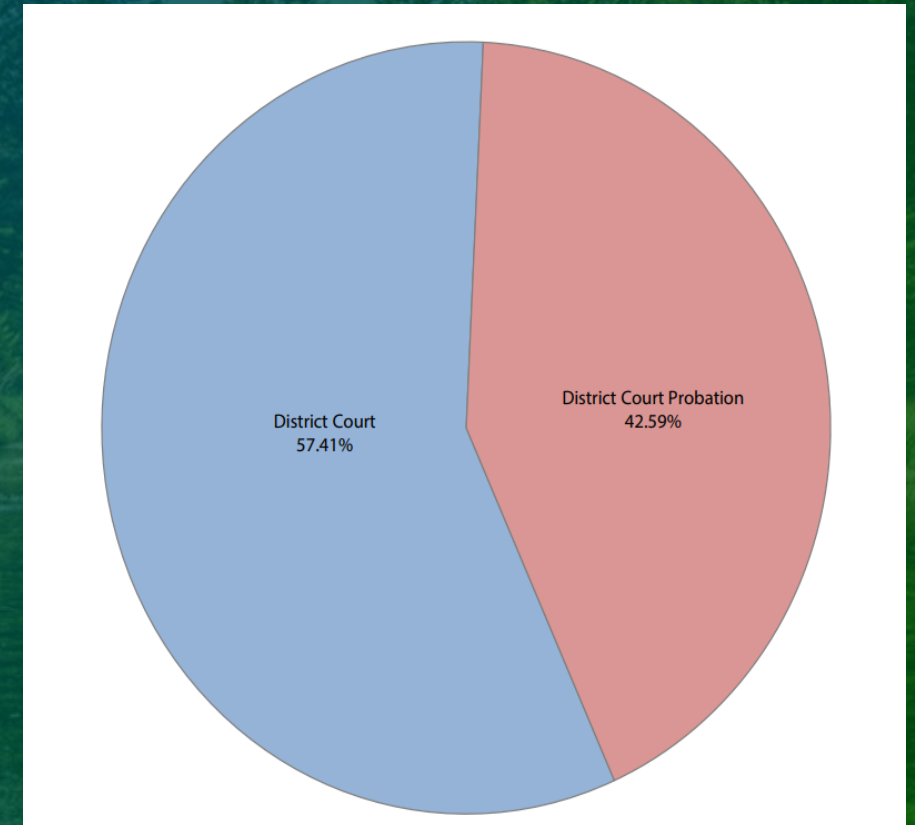
- As an independent and impartial branch of government, District Court will promote respect for law, society, and individual rights; provide open, accessible, and effective forums for dispute resolution and resolve legal matters in a just, efficient, and timely manner.

- Probation

- Make Whatcom County a safer place by holding offenders accountable through the provision of timely monitoring, professional guidance and stern enforcement of judicial orders.

Budget Comparisons

	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Amended Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Budget 2026	FTEs
OPERATIONS						
District Court						
District Court	2,971,256	3,131,717	3,484,400	3,747,939	3,815,719	23.5
District Court Probation						
District Court Probation	2,138,411	2,264,894	2,797,841	2,791,208	2,819,006	16.5
<i>Total District Court Operations</i>	5,109,667	5,396,611	6,282,241	6,539,147	6,634,725	40
TOTAL DISTRICT COURT	5,109,667	5,396,611	6,282,241	6,539,147	6,634,725	
<i>Percent Change from Previous Year</i>	7.4%	5.6%	16.4%	4.1%	1.5%	



FTE growth in 23/24 and going forward

- In 23/24, **District Court** was grateful and added 2 FTE's during previous biennium- An additional **Court Clerk** and an additional **Jury Coordinator**

- No additional FTE's were requested in the 25/26 purposed Budget.

- In 23/24, **District Court Probation** also added one **Therapeutic Court Probation Officer**.

- However, this position is funded by an ongoing grant received through WA Administration Office or the Courts (AOC).

- No additional FTE's were requested in the 25/26 purposed Budget.

District Court

Filings and Jury Trials

- **Case Filings**- criminal/civil/infractions
 - In the last 2 years, we are seeing an increase in case filings, especially civil and infractions.
 - 2024 projected filings are near pre- COVID levels.
 - Significant increase in **civil** filings, projected 20% growth in 2024
- **Jury Trials**
 - Pre-COVID (2014-19) annual average- 16.5 trials
 - 2023-24 has seen a 172% increase in trials, with a projected **49.5** trials for 2024
 - In the months July/August of 2024 alone, we held **13** jury trials



District Court

Additional programs and projects include:

- Preparing for a new Statewide Database replacement.
- Proactively processing Blake vacates cases
- Offering warrant quash days in partnership with PD and Prosecutor's office.
- Updating all court forms and access to them via our webpage
 - includes improved access to non-English speaking individuals
- Converting all Juror pay to a new Debit Card system.
- Maintaining growth in both our Mental Health Court (MHC) and Family Justice Calendar (DV)



District Court

Additional Service Requests

Cost Maintenance

- Jury Meals/Refreshment- \$2,000
- Jury Fees- \$15,000
- Jury Printing and Postage- \$20,000
- Office Equipment/Maintenance- \$5,000

Additional

- Interpreter Services- \$75,000
 - Increase will be offset by an AOC funded reimbursement program.

District Court Probation

Referrals to Probation

- DCP is seeing a annual referral increase coming out of COVID (at least 5% per year).
- Referrals come from District, Bellingham, Blaine, Everson, Lynden and Sumas Municipal Courts.
- Most notably with referrals, is the complexity of each case referred. We are generally not receiving the first time offender. We are consistently receiving individuals with complex dynamic issues such as dual-diagnosis and high risk DV.



District Court Probation

Caseloads and Programing

Specialized Caseloads

- General DUI caseload
- Pre-Trial unit
- High Risk DV unit
- Behavioral Health Caseloads
- Mental Health Court Caseload

Programing offered- no expense to clients

- **DVPOTS**- Domestic Violence Perpetrator Opportunity for Treatment Services
- **DVMRT**- Domestic Violence Moral Recognition Therapy
- **Family Justice Calendar (FJC)**
- **MRT**- Moral Recognition Therapy
- **Anger MRT**- Anger Management Moral Recognition Therapy
- **Electronic Equipment Program**- alcohol monitoring devices consisting of TAD and Soberlink
- Text message reminder system

District Court Probation

Additional Service Requests (2)

Electronic Equipment Program

- Total of \$150,000 each year.
- Same amount provided for the 23/24 budget
- Program established in 2017
- Provides electronic alcohol monitoring for defendants on either pre-trial or post-conviction supervision.

Therapeutic Court- State funded expenses

- All department expenses are offset by the revenue received by this funding (AOC).
- Expenses include
 - A Therapeutic Court Probation Officer
 - Substance testing for MHC clients
 - Training for the MHC team members

Summary

- Judge Angela Anderson



THANK YOU

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