

DISTRICT COURT

2027 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Kevin Kelly, Presiding Judge
Robyn Dunham, District Court Administrator

September 23, 2026 | 10:30 a.m. | Commissioner Chambers



KitsapCounty

9/14/2026



DISTRICT COURT (KCDC)

ABOUT US

Mission:

We are dedicated to delivering equitable justice with integrity and accessible services, supporting safer communities through opportunity and accountability.

Vision:

Equity in Justice, Strength in Community.

Values:

Integrity, Impartial, Accessible, Collaborative

DISTRICT COURT

ORGANIZATION

District Court has 4 elected officials, 1-0.5 commissioner and 23 FTEs.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Kevin Kelly, Presiding Judge
- Shane Seaman, Assistant Presiding Judge
- Claire Bradley, Judge
- Gina Buskirk, Judge
- Robyn Dunham, Court Administrator
- Justin Ward, Deputy Court Administrator



DISTRICT COURT

as a co-equal Branch of Government



1. COURT OPERATIONS

Staff assist in the courtroom, front counter and on the telephone. Staff help attorneys, the general public and other departments by answering questions, accepting and processing filings for cases in person, by mail, or electronically, providing access to justice by meeting interpretation or limited access needs. Staff work directly with judges to ensure orders are provided to appropriate individuals in a timely manner. Staff also respond to written requests from individuals on various matters, process payments, schedule courtroom hearings, respond to record requests and work with various other county departments in day-to-day operations. We also process and supervise felony diversion cases which are cases that originally started in the Superior Court. Other staff manage grant funding, work on payroll, work with collections, schedule judges, pro tems and interpreters, manage the court's fiscal responsibilities, act as IS liaison with the county and others outside of the court, manage requests and programming for our case management system, and supervise and mentor staff.

2. PROBATION

Monitors compliance with court orders in person and in writing. Staff regularly meet with those on probation, those who are under contract for deferred prosecution or on felony diversion and help them work towards compliance with court orders. Staff provide regular treatment classes, such as DV MRT, and work with other agencies and departments to ensure completion of court orders. Staff also manage the transferring of probation when people move out of state. Staff report noncompliance with court orders to prosecutor's office allowing them to determine if revocation is necessary.

3. THERAPEUTIC COURTS – BEHAVIOR HEALTH COURT (BHC) & TEACHING, HEALING, RESILIENCE, INDEPENDENCE, VOICE, EMPOWERMENT (THRIVE)

These courts were formed to address the overrepresentation of individuals with mental illness in our jail. Using a team-based approach the courts use evidence-based interventions to help participants with recovery and accountability as well as provide wraparound services. Funded through the 1/10th sales tax and state appropriated funding the employees work with the participants to get appropriate treatment, education and vocational services thus transitioning them into stable, healthy, and productive lives which ultimately strengthens our community.

DISTRICT COURT

GOALS



1. FAIRNESS & IMPARTIALITY

Provide a forum for the impartial resolution of disputes that provides fair and equitable access to the court.

2. USING DATA TO DRIVE RESULTS

Use data and statistics for case flow management, staff workflow, and to drive procedural changes.

3. CONTINUE THERAPEUTIC COURTS

Rehabilitate and graduate participants through our therapeutic court programs by providing clear, achievable milestones to support them in building stability and accountability in their lives.

4. COMPLYING WITH LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

Collaborate with others, in and out of the judicial system, in response to varied legislative changes.

5. SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Monitor compliance with court orders through probation, providing proven and effective postconviction treatment options, offering pretrial alternatives to jail while maintaining public safety.

DISTRICT COURT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COURT BUSINESS

- [Created a 5-Year Strategic Plan](#)
- [Probation received a postconviction grant and implemented a DV MRT \(domestic violence moral reconnection therapy\) program](#)
- [We received a pretrial services grant to help us form a program that will track compliance with court orders prior to sentencing](#)

STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- [A Judge received the DMCJA President's Award for his work on the Council on Independent Courts committee](#)
- [The court administrator completed the Leadership Kitsap Signature Program](#)
- [3 staff have completed the Court Certified Manager program through the National Center for State Courts](#)

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

- [Obtained PocketTalk devices for our front counter](#)



THERAPEUTIC COURTS

- [Received State funding to add another compliance specialist to our programs](#)
- [Have graduated 15 participants over the last year](#)
- [Organized and participated in a Therapeutic Court Month parks cleanup service project in May](#)
- [Our first set of participants admitted under our new phase structure have graduated](#)

DISTRICT COURT

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	2024 Actuals	2025 Actuals	2026 YTD June Actuals	2026 Budget
Salaries/Benefits	\$ 3,420,776	\$ 3,675,902	\$ 2,139,364	\$ 3,734,878
Supplies/Services	\$ 724,022	\$ 776,069	\$ 333,151	\$ 638,022
Interfunds	\$ 532,289	\$ 701,275	\$ 456,674	\$ 700,013
Total	\$ 4,677,087	\$ 5,153,246	\$ 2,929,189	\$ 5,072,913

DISTRICT COURT - Budget A

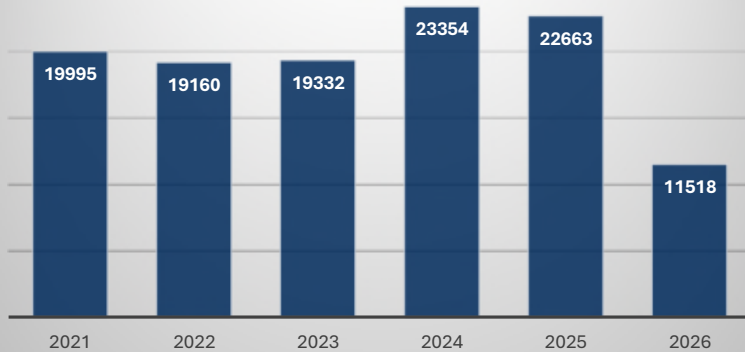
BUDGET SUMMARY			
Target	2026 Budget	2027 Proposed	Change in Total Budget
\$ 41,742	\$ 5,072,913	\$ 5,331,037	\$ 258,124
Net elimination from supplies/services budget line items			(\$) 0
Staffing reductions			(\$) 52,589
New revenue or increased revenues as a result of a specific management action – DVMRT Fees and state interpreter reimbursements			\$ 21,201
Total fiscal impact achieved			(\$) 73,790

DISTRICT COURT

IMPACT SUMMARY – BUDGET A



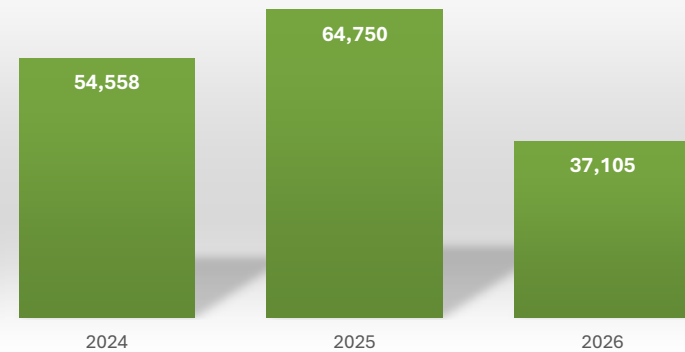
Cases Filed



OTHER IMPACTS

Since COVID our case filings have increased. The above numbers reflect filings through June 2026.

Documents Filed



OTHER IMPACTS

A new eFiling system and legislative changes have increased the number of documents filed in cases. The above numbers reflect filings through June 2026.

DISTRICT COURT

IMPACT SUMMARY- BUDGET A - CONTINUED



- Staff are needed to process cases and paperwork.
- Every case and document filed is reviewed and processed by staff.
- With staff reductions, cases and paperwork will not be processed as quickly resulting in longer lines at the counter, longer wait times on the phone, a delay in processing civil cases such as petitions for protection orders and will create a civil case backlog.

DISTRICT COURT – Budget B

BUDGET SUMMARY			
Target	2026 Budget	2027 Proposed	Change in Total Budget
\$ 281,252	\$ 5,072,913	\$ 5,243,706	(\$) 82,517
Net elimination from supplies/services budget line items			(\$) 51,184
Staffing reductions			(\$) 208,867
New revenue or increased revenues as a result of a specific management action – DVMRT Fees and state interpreter reimbursements			\$ 21,201
Total fiscal impact achieved			(\$) 281,252

DISTRICT COURT

IMPACT SUMMARY – BUDGET B



IMPACTS

- As stated in Budget A, the decrease in staff result in delays in case processing. Criminal cases are heard first as they are considered most critical. This leaves civil cases to languish, unprocessed in the system. This impact is most felt by the general public who seek the courts help through civil related matters such as requesting a protection order. There is also an increase in the waiting time to process infractions which can impact the money received as cases are not scheduled or resolved for many days or even months.
- Further impacts will be felt by staff when they lose managers who answer questions, direct, guide and mentor staff and help them grow in their careers.

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!



Robyn Dunham

Court Administrator, District Court

rdunham@kitsap.gov

Kevin Kelly

Presiding Judge, District Court

