

# Iowa Judicial Branch Budget Presentation

**Justice System  
Appropriations Subcommittee**

**February 28, 2018**

**Todd Nuccio  
State Court Administrator**

[www.iowacourts.gov](http://www.iowacourts.gov)





*WE THE PEOPLE of the United States, in order to form  
a more perfect Union, establish **Justice**, insure domestic  
Tranquility, provide for the common defence. . . .*



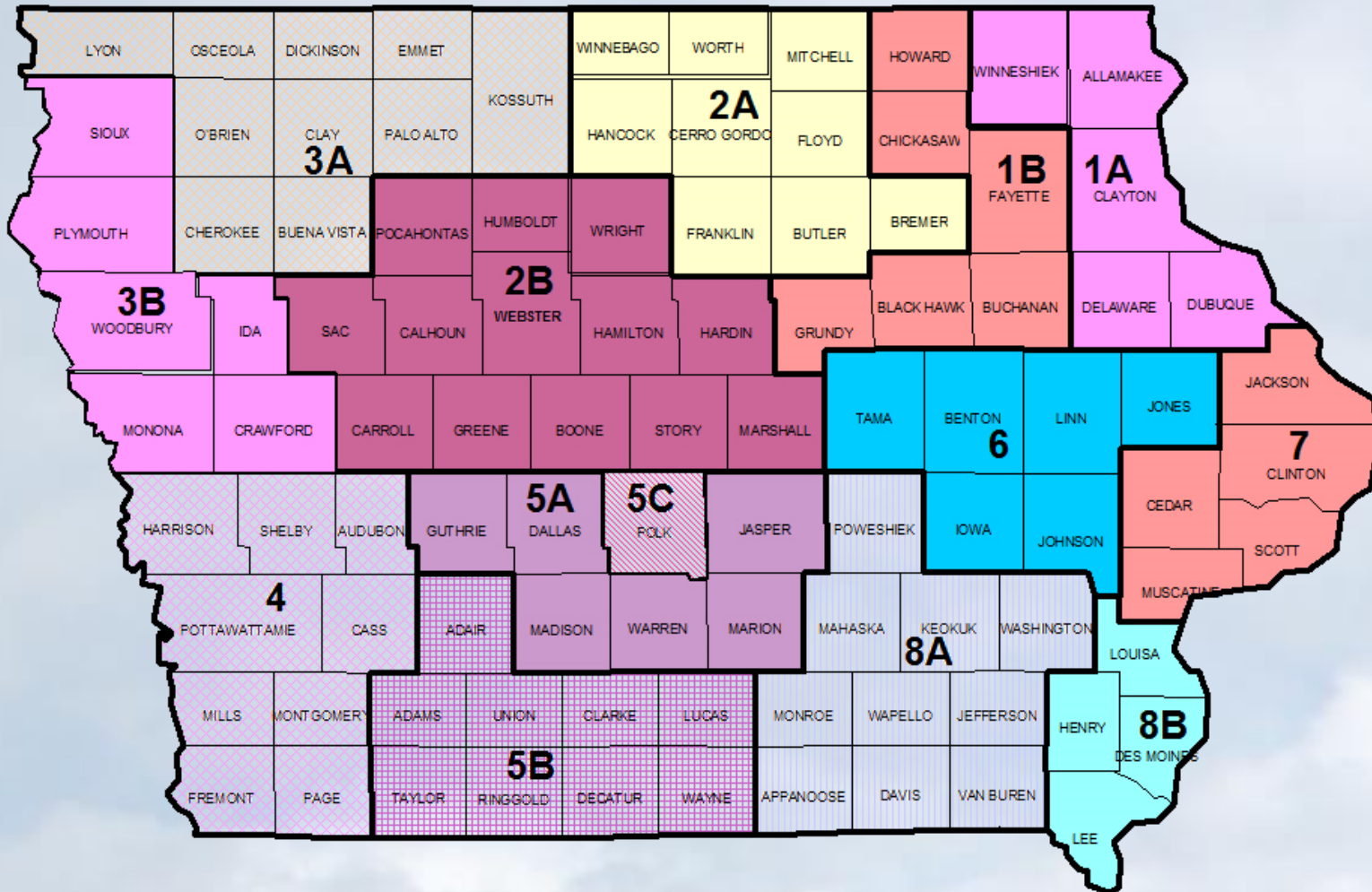
- **Judicial Branch Overview**
- **Quick Facts**
- **Current Conditions**
- **Workload Analysis**
- **FY19 Budget Request**
- **Value of Services**



# Judicial Branch Overview



# Judicial Branch Districts



**1,807 authorized judicial branch employees in 99 counties**



# Judicial Branch People

- **Judges and Magistrates** use their legal expertise and knowledge to impartially interpret and apply laws to serve the public.
- **Clerks of Court and Clerk Staff** oversee the operations of the clerk's offices in each of Iowa's county courthouses. Across 99 counties, clerk's office staff perform a wide variety of tasks including: processing and maintaining all documents filed with the court; collecting and processing fines, fees, and restitution; assisting citizens with electronic filing of documents; and sharing court information with all state agencies.
- **Juvenile Court Officers** and their staff protect the public by working directly with delinquent youths and their families to develop the skills needed to address negative behaviors.
- **Court Reporters** keep a record of trials, hearings, and court proceedings, and provide clerical support to judges.



# Judicial Branch People

- **Court Administrators** and their staff help schedule trials and manage the business side of the courts, such as human resources, accounting, purchasing, information technology, and training and education.
- **Judicial Specialists** conduct scheduling conferences, prepare scheduling and other orders, and assist with jurors and jury trials and other court proceedings.
- **Information Technology Professionals** provide ongoing maintenance and support of the Electronic Document Management System, online fine payment, and Iowa Courts Online access.
- **Law Clerks** conduct legal research and analysis, draft routine court orders, and perform other law-related duties.



# Quick Facts





# FY 2018 Staffing

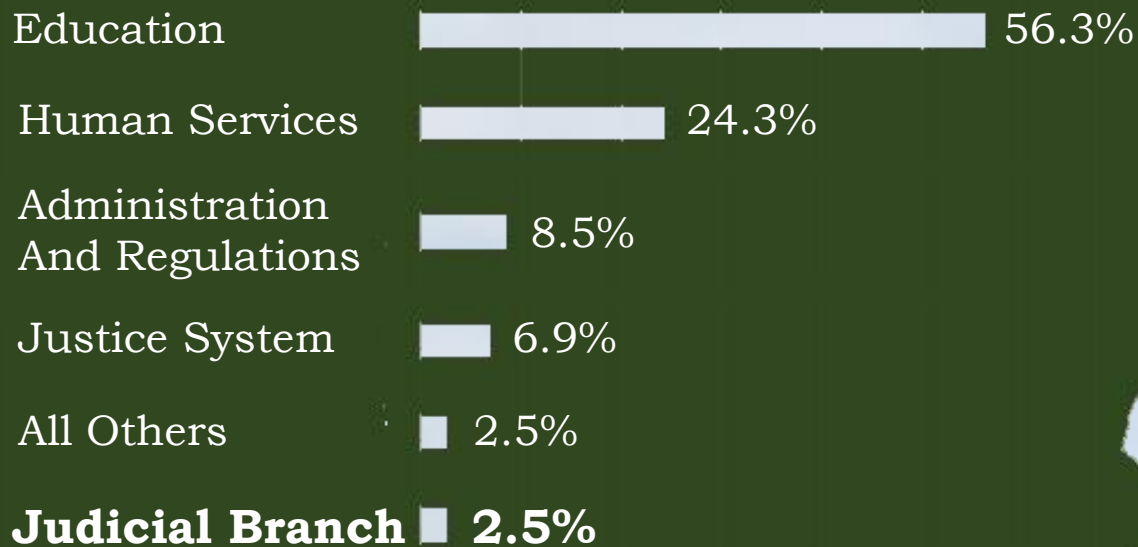
**Personnel costs are  
96 Percent of the Iowa Judicial Branch budget**





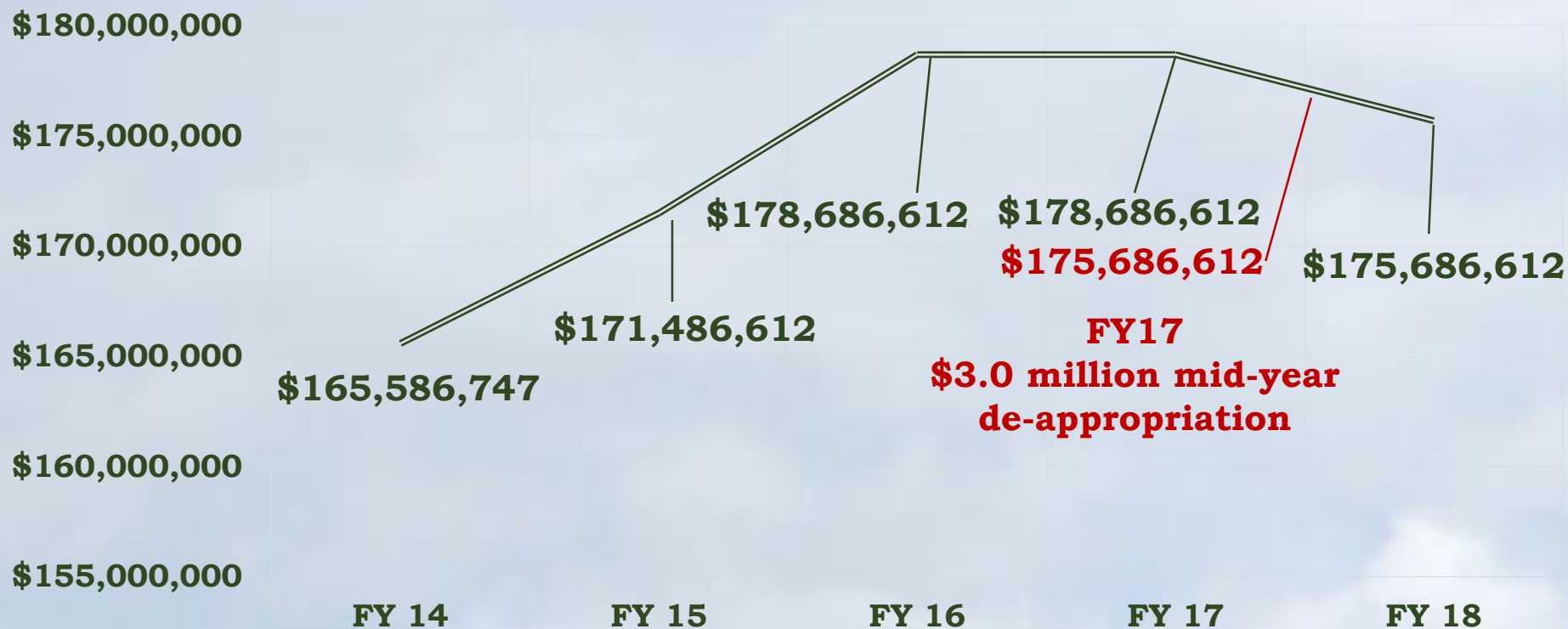
# General Fund Appropriation (FY 18)

**Judicial Branch FY 18 Appropriation: \$175,686,612**





# General Fund Appropriation History (FY 14 to FY 18)

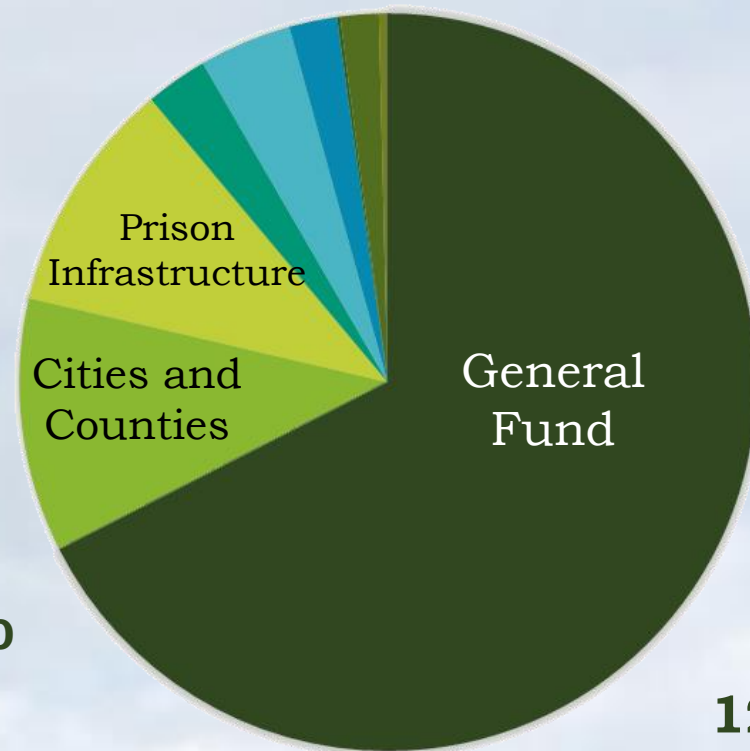




# In 2017, Iowa Courts Collected \$146.3 Million in Revenue

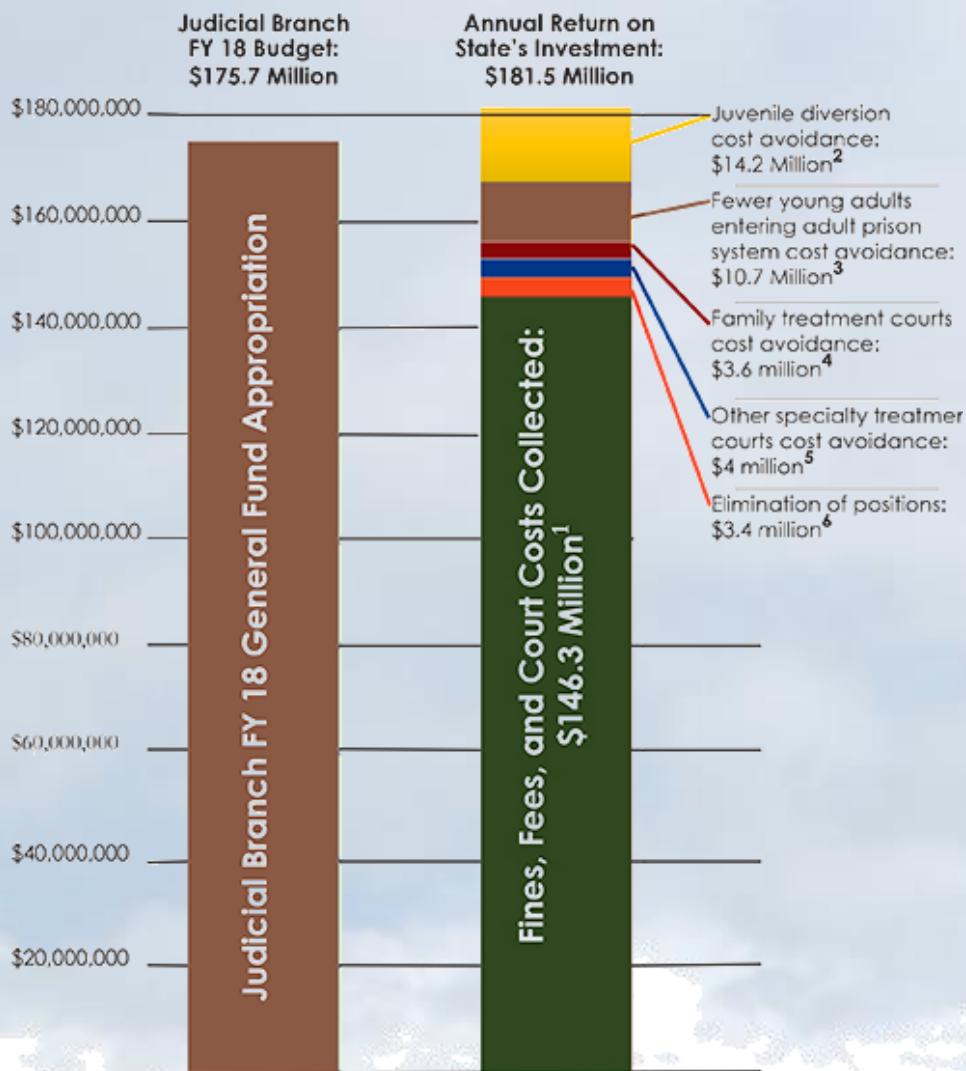
Each year, with the aid of several state and local government entities, Iowa courts collect millions of dollars in fines and fees that directly benefit state and local government. In fiscal year 2017, the \$146.3 million collected by Iowa’s courts was distributed as follows:

Iowa General Fund	\$98,788,980
Cities and Counties	\$16,316,465
Prison Infrastructure Fund	\$15,000,000
AG Victim Comp. Fund	\$3,989,446
Ct. Tech and Enhanced Fund	\$5,935,884
DOT	\$3,079,727
CCU Collection Fee	\$215,805
3rd Party Collector Fee	\$2,450,460
Other	\$561,173
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$146,337,940</b>





# Return on the State's Investment in the Judicial Branch



In fiscal year 2018, \$175.7 million was appropriated to the Iowa Judicial Branch for its operating budget. The estimated annual return on this investment is approximately **\$181.5 million.**



# Each Year Hundreds of Thousands of Cases are Filed in District Court

<b>2017 Filings</b>	
<b>Domestic</b>	• <b>38,461</b>
<b>Tort</b>	• <b>3,473</b>
<b>Other Civil</b>	• <b>20,412</b>
<b>Small Claims &amp; FEDs</b>	• <b>79,836</b>
<b>Simple Misdemeanors</b>	• <b>494,181</b>
<b>Indictable Criminal</b>	• <b>91,425</b>
<b>Probate</b>	• <b>27,101</b>
<b>Juvenile</b>	• <b>13,697</b>
<b>TOTAL FILINGS</b>	• <b>768,586</b>



# Trends in the Number of Cases District Court Filings





## Millions of Documents are Filed Electronically Each Year

**2016**

**6,459,924**

**2017**

**6,833,475**

**January 2018**

**604,893**





# **Current Conditions**



# Balancing the FY 18 Budget

**FY 17 \$3 million de-appropriation carried onto base FY 18 appropriation**

**To balance the budget:**

- **Eliminated 67 positions**
- Established **hiring freeze** for all vacancies.
- Held open **judicial vacancies** for an average of one year.
- Covered IT operations with **court technology funds**.
- Continued **moratorium** on expansion of specialty courts.



# Hiring Freeze

Vacant  
Positions

134

Clerks of Court  
and Staff

-48

Judicial  
Officers

-14

District Court  
Administration

-20

Court  
Reporters

-12

Juvenile Court  
Officers

-18

State Court  
Administration

-11

Judicial Court  
Staff

-9

Appellate  
Courts

-2

19



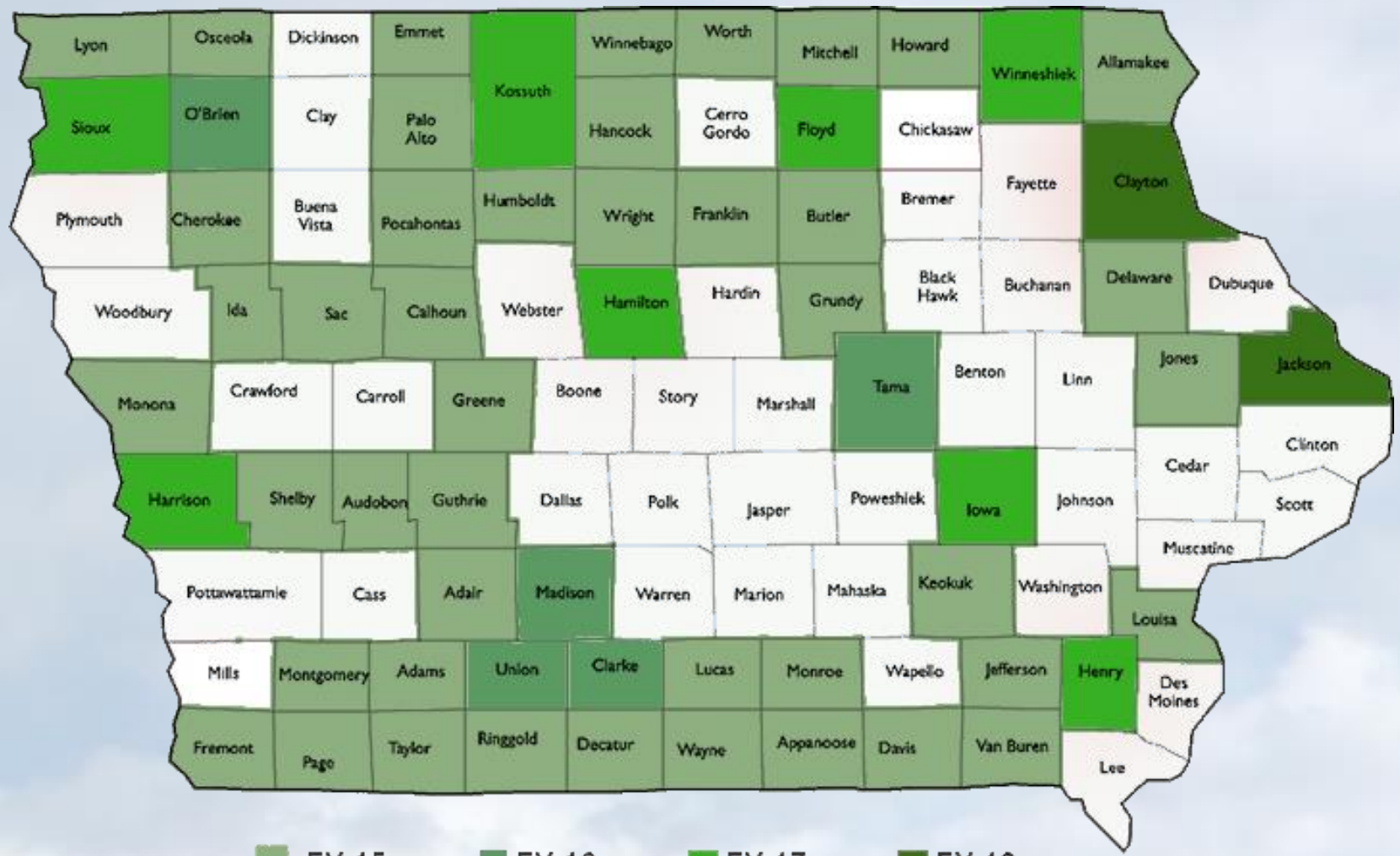
## Judicial Vacancies

	Statutorily Approved Positions	Vacancies in FY 2017	Current Vacancies
District Judge	<b>116</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>
District Associate Judge*	<b>74</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>

\*Includes district associate judges, associate juvenile judges, and associate probate judges.



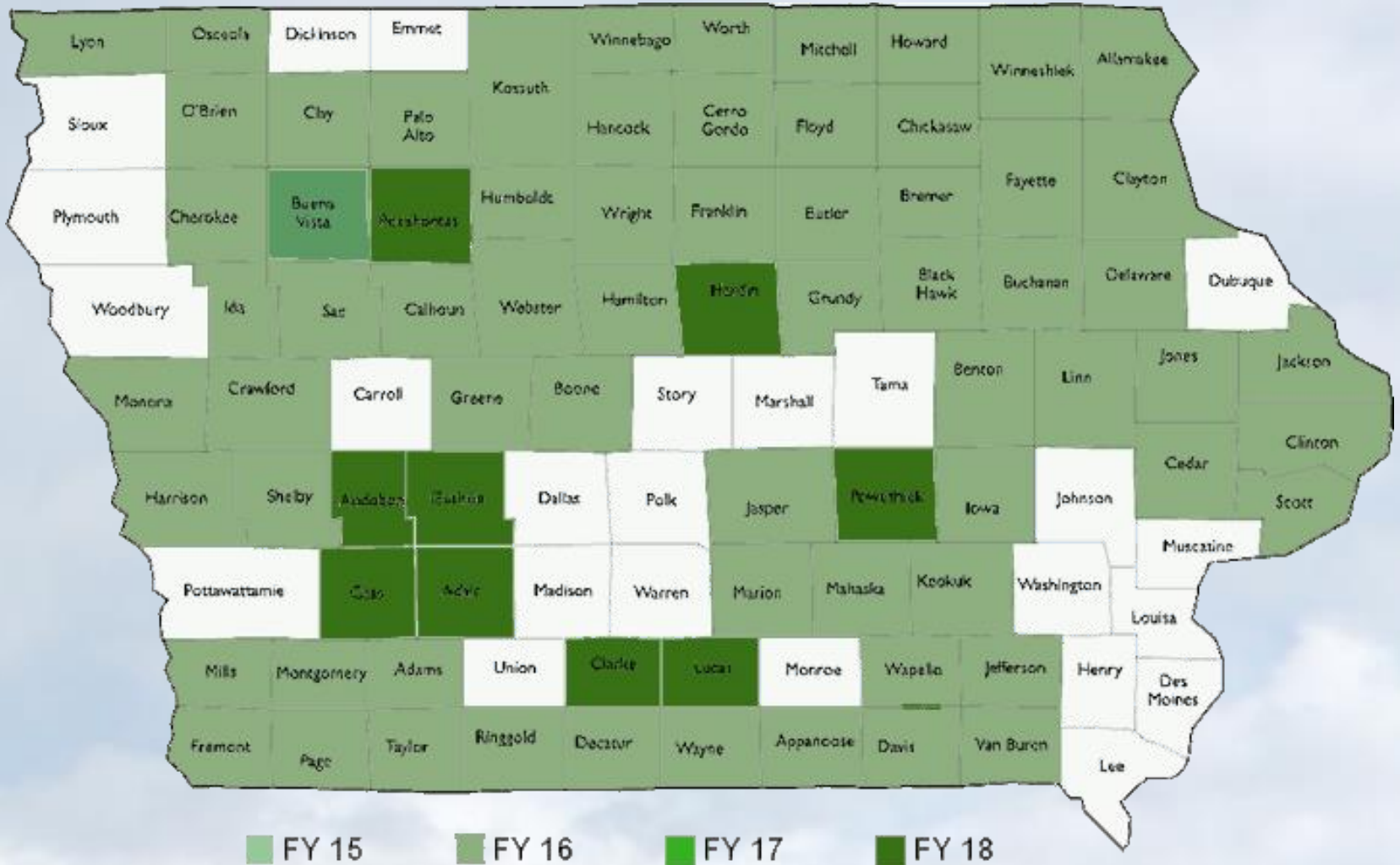
# Counties with Three or Fewer Clerk's Staff



FY 15    FY 16    FY 17    FY 18



# Counties Sharing Clerks of Court





# **Workload Analysis**



# National Center for State Courts

## Judicial Workload Study

	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	State
Judges <u>needed</u> based on caseload	22.0	27.4	22.0	16.9	48.5	24.3	20.2	20.2	201.4
<u>Actual</u> number Judges	23.5	27.5	20.8	11.8	46.8	20.8	17.0	18.0	186.0
Number above or below needed	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-5.1</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>-15.4</b>
Percent above or below needed	7%	0%	-5%	-30%	-4%	-15%	-16%	-11%	<b>-8%</b>





# National Center for State Courts

## Clerk and Court Administrative Staff Workload Study

District	FTEs Needed	FTEs Authorized	Actual	Authorized (+) Above Needed (-) Below Needed	Difference
1	92.4	92.4	84.3	0.0	-8.1
2	107.6	107.9	97.1	0.3	-10.5
3	88.3	88.5	78.2	0.2	-10
4	61.1	61.1	55.6	- 0.1	-5.6
5	186.2	186.1	171.6	- 0.1	-14.6
6	95.6	96.9	96.9	1.3	1.3
7	78.8	79.9	79.9	1.1	1.1
8	69.3	69.4	64.6	0.0	-4.8
<b>State</b>	779.3	782.0	728.0	<b>2.7</b>	<b>-51.3</b>
<b>State*</b>	799.3	782.0	728.0	<b>- 17.3</b>	<b>-71.3</b>

\*If at least two staff members in the office.



# **National Center for State Courts**

## **Juvenile Court Services**

### **Workload Study**

Report Anticipated Summer 2018



## Juvenile Court Services

- Currently 17 vacant JCO positions.
- Equates to 7000 fewer interventions with 200 children, which impacts community safety and the rehabilitation of the juvenile.
- **58 rural counties** do not have full time coverage creating increased travel time that decreases the number of probation accountability checks and interventions in those communities and schools.
- Over the past 3 years, the length of stay in detention centers has increased 9% for boys and 27% for girls.



## **FY19 Budget Request**

*Today, Iowans who reside in rural areas receive fewer court services than Iowans in urban areas. Today, a freeze on specialty courts means that critical services provided in one county are not being provided in another county. Today, I am concerned this causes us to lose our focus on the quality and promise of justice. This is not what the process of justice should be.*

**Chief Justice Mark Cady, 2018 Condition of the Judiciary**



## FY 19 Budget Request

### **Delivery of Essential Services in all 99 Counties:**

- Allows filling 134 vacant positions, including 14 judicial officers and 18 Juvenile Court Officers.
- Continued operation of 47 specialty courts.
- \$6,755,291

**Request does not include positions that the workload formula identifies as necessary to fill. Funding of those positions requires an additional \$4,404,355.**



# FY 19 Budget Request Technology

## **Business Continuity and Cybersecurity Protection:**

- Redundancy and recovery, cyber security framework, defense controls.
- Infrastructure hardware, maintenance, licensing fees.
- Conversion of historic paper documents to digital storage.
- Jury management software.
- \$6,500,000



# Technology Needs/Request

Business Continuity	
One-Time Expenses	\$3,650,000
Annual Expenses	\$3,055,000
Conversion of Historic Paper Documents	
One-Time Expense	\$2,480,000
Annual Expenses	\$1,215,000
Online Access to Justice Portal	
One-Time Expense	\$500,000
Annual Expense	\$20,000
Enhanced Jury Management Software	
One-Time Expense	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,000,000</b>



# Iowa Judicial Branch Technology

## **FY 18 Budgeted Operation Expenses**

• Licensing/Support Renewals	\$2,024,827
• ICN	\$1,128,750
• Outside Professional Services	\$1,096,060
• Application Development	\$1,053,250
• Equipment Replacement, Network Tools, etc.	\$1,222,218
Subtotal	\$6,525,105

## **FY 18 Budgeted Personnel Expenses**

• 57 FTEs	\$6,016,414
Subtotal	\$6,016,414

**TOTAL** **\$12,541,519**





# Iowa Judicial Branch Information Technology

## FY 18 Budgeted Revenue

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| • Enhanced Court Collections Fund      | \$4,000,000 |
| • Court Tech and Modernization Fund    | \$1,000,000 |
| • Iowa Courts Online – Enhanced Access | \$575,000   |

**Total** **\$5,575,000**

## Commitment of Funds

- |                                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • <i>Application Development</i>    | \$1,053,250        |
| • Operating Expenses ( <b>81%</b> ) | <b>\$4,521,750</b> |

**Total** **\$5,575,000**

**There are currently 142 pending projects**



# Iowa Judicial Branch Information Technology

## Summary

FY19 Request - \$6,500,000

- Redundancy and recoverability.
- Cyber security framework and defense controls.
- Infrastructure hardware, maintenance and licensing fees.
- Statewide conversion of historic paper documents to digital storage.
- Jury management software.

Operating Expenses

**\$4,521,750**



## FY 19 Budget Request

### **Specialty Courts Study:**

- Conduct needs assessment to evaluate the organization, structure, governance, and practices of existing problem-solving courts.
- \$85,424



# FY 19 Budget Request

Base Operating Budget	\$175,686,612
Total Operations Request	\$13,340,715
<b>Total Operations Budget</b>	<b>\$189,027,327</b>
% Increase	7.6%

Does not include Jury and Witness Fund.

Does not include \$1.6 million mid-year de-appropriation.



# **Value of Services**



# Strength and Integrity of the Judicial Branch

## **A healthy justice system is:**

- Essential to economic prosperity.
- Integral to public safety.
- Intrinsic to strengthening families.
- A safeguard of our rights and liberties.
- Critical to our quality of life.



*The ordinary administration of justice... contributes, more than any other circumstance, to impressing upon the minds of the people affection, esteem, and reverence toward government.*

**Alexander Hamilton**  
**The Federalist Papers, No. 17**