



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

**Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation**

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CCOC CHAIR

The Clerks of Court Operations Corporation (CCOC) presents the County Fiscal Year (CFY) 2023-24 Annual Report. Clerks provide a wide range of critical public services and information relied on by our community, law enforcement, state agencies, and the judiciary. The work of Clerks is essential to ensuring the smooth operation of the justice system in Florida, especially in light of our state's rapidly growing population. In the recent past, we have seen an unprecedented increase in demand for services. As the population grows, so too does the volume and complexity of the services we provide. This increase places significant pressure on Clerks' operations, requiring us to adapt and evolve to meet the needs and expectations of those we serve. The challenges we face are manifold. From rising caseloads to the need for advanced technological solutions, each obstacle presents an opportunity for Clerks to innovate and improve. Clerks are grateful for the recent legislative changes and continued support that address some of the ongoing challenges Clerks encounter. These changes are a testament to the collaborative efforts of our lawmakers and Governor.

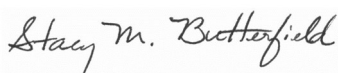
## Highlights

The Clerks' total court-related budget for CFY 2023-24 was \$486.1 million, just under a three percent year-over-year increase. Actual revenues for the year exceeded the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) estimate by over \$22 million; Clerks currently only retain half of this excess. While substantial progress has been made, Clerks continue to face challenges. Since coming out of the State budget in 2013-14, our total court-related budget has increased 3.0% (using the 2023-24 budget). However, costs have dramatically increased, especially labor and technology costs. These challenges impact the Clerks' ability to provide critical services to the citizens of Florida.

Clerks continue to oversee and implement the statewide guardianship database. The CCOC continues to work diligently on this important initiative of the Legislature to help protect the most vulnerable citizens of the state.

## Looking Ahead

In striving to provide excellent service, we see the road before us is filled with both challenges and opportunities. Clerks are committed to being proactive in our approach, preparing for the future by investing in our people and technology. We recognize and respect the challenging role of the Legislature and Governor as they make decisions for our State. We look forward to the opportunity to continue the partnership with the Legislature and Governor to find solutions to address the challenges impacting Clerks' ability to provide critical services to our communities statewide.



**Stacy M. Butterfield, CPA**  
Clerk of Court and Comptroller, Polk County  
Chair, CCOC Executive Council





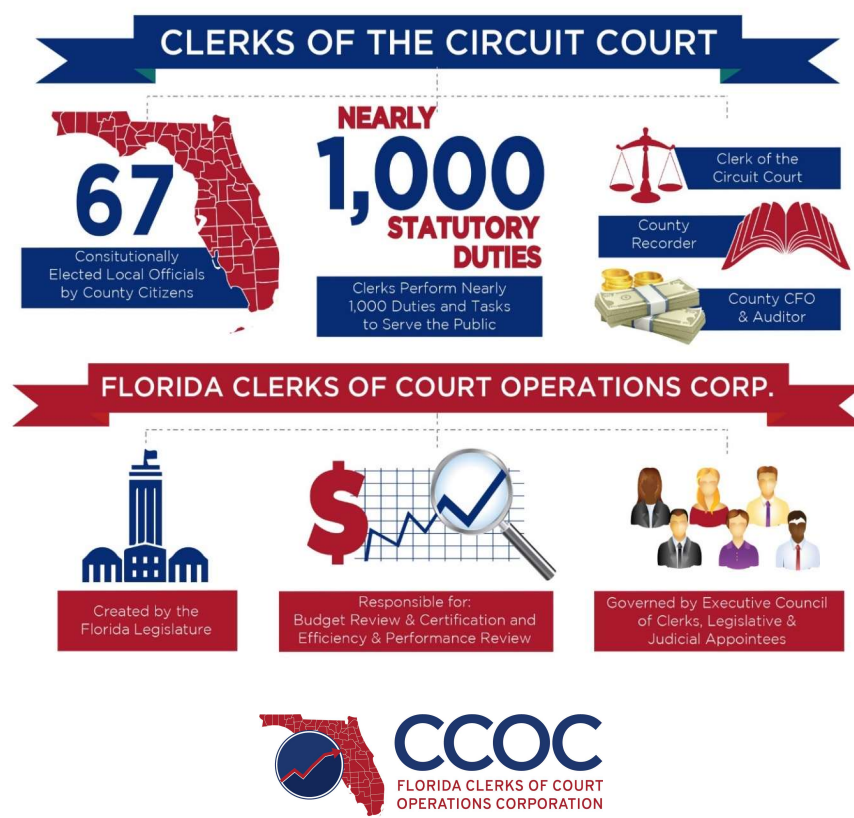
# THE CLERKS OF COURT OPERATIONS CORPORATION

## Membership and Duties

The Legislature created the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation (CCOC or Corporation) as a public corporation to perform the functions specified in sections 28.35, 28.36, and 28.37, Florida Statutes (F.S.). All 67 clerks of the circuit court are, by statute, members of the CCOC.

The Corporation members chose eight clerks to represent them based on population groupings. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House each appoint one member to the Council as representatives of their organizations. These eleven individuals make up the CCOC Executive Council. Statute and the CCOC Plan of Operations outline the duties of the Council.

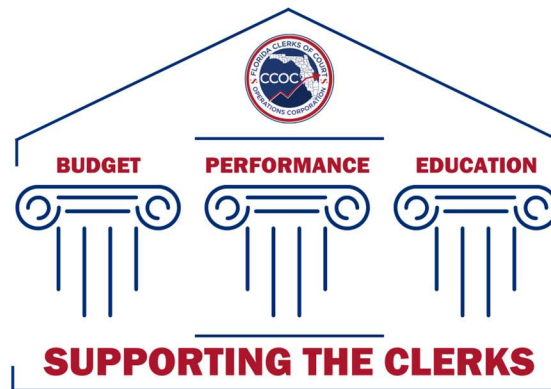
CCOC Staff, under the direction of the Executive Director as chosen by the Council, perform the day-to-day administrative, budget, and data-related functions necessary to carry out the Corporation's duties. For more information, visit [www.flccoc.org](http://www.flccoc.org).



## Structure

CCOC utilizes workgroups and committees to gather information, make recommendations, and create processes to collect and analyze statutorily required information. Workgroups consist of clerks and staff from multiple clerk offices around the state. Workgroups welcome clerk staff members to take part in any workgroup meeting. Committees are made up of specific clerks as appointed by the Executive Council. Proposals from a workgroup will be passed to the relevant committee for discussion and deliberation before passing the recommendation to the Executive Council. The process is open to all. The standing committees active during CFY 2023-24 included:

- Budget Committee
- Performance Improvement and Efficiencies (PIE) Committee
- Legislative Committee



## Standing Committees

The Budget Committee reviews, certifies, and approves court-related budgets for all 67 clerks. The Budget Committee also tracks clerk revenues and projections for the Article V Revenue Estimating Conference (REC).

The PIE Committee works with the Legislature to develop a uniform system of performance measures and applicable standards to facilitate an objective determination of each clerk's performance. The performance standards measure fiscal management, operational efficiency, and effective collection of fines, fees, service charges, and court costs. CCOC posts a summary report of performance measures online and provides it to the Legislature quarterly.

The Legislative Committee monitors legislation that impacts the clerks' court-related operations or funding, completes fiscal analyses of legislative proposals, and responds to the Legislature's requests concerning the budget. The committee works closely with the Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers (FCCC), the Legislature, the Governor's Office, and the State Courts.



# CFY 2023-24 STATUS UPDATE

Facing a continued funding shortfall, the clerks' legislative team worked to address this deficit. With a successful 2024 legislative session, the clerks will see an increased total court-related budget for the third year in a row (through CFY 2024-25). Revenues collected by the clerks continue to increase, partly due to increased efforts in compliance, the increased use of payments plans, and a continued focus on collection efforts like Operation Green Light.

## New Revenue

Total revenues collected for the year totaled \$480.4 million, which exceeded the Article V REC \$458.5 million estimate by almost \$22 million, a 4.8 percent residual. This revenue also exceeded the prior year total by \$11 million. Civil Traffic revenues collected saw a year-over-year increase of \$7.5 million, a substantial driver in the yearly increase. However, Circuit Civil revenues saw a decrease of \$10.2 million from the prior fiscal year. The \$458.5 million REC estimate allowed the Budget Committee to increase the clerks' total statewide budget by \$12.7 million over the prior year's budget authority, a 2.7 percent year-over-year increase. For CFY 2023-24 actual revenues, nine of the twelve months came in above the REC monthly estimates. Clerks and the CCOC are grateful to the Legislature for their continued partnership and support of the clerks' budgets as we attempt to diversify, increase, and stabilize volatile revenue streams that vary greatly from year to year.

## Revenue Redirects Retained by the Clerks

During the 2024 legislative session, the Legislature passed HB 1077 which was then signed into law by the Governor and took effect immediately (May 2024). This bill included two new revenue redirects that the clerks now retain instead of being sent to the State as well as the "glitch" fix revenue redirect that was inadvertently left out of the clerks' bill last year. This is projected to increase the clerks' total revenues by approximately \$29 million annually. A portion of these redirects will go to the Public Records Modernization Trust Fund which will not directly increase the available spending authority included in the annual Revenue-Limited Budget.

## Current Year General Revenue Appropriation

As part of the SFY 2024-25 budget passed by the Legislature, \$8 million in current year funding was appropriated in the "Back of the Bill" to the clerks for the projected impact of the "glitch" fix



from the clerks' priority bill last year; this revenue redirect was inadvertently left out of the bill last year. Section 131 of the General Appropriation Act (GAA) provided the clerks with \$8 million in nonrecurring State General Revenue funds for 2023-24. This amount increased the total CFY 2023-24 Revenue-Limited Budget to \$482.4 million.

## **Reserve Fund**

In 2021, SB 838 was signed into law to establish a contingency fund for the clerks. The legislation created s. 28.36(3), F.S., which requires the CCOC to establish and manage this reserve within the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund. Subsection 28.36(3)(b), F.S., requires the CCOC to include the balance and use of the reserve funds as part of this Annual Report. While building the CFY 2023-24 clerks' budget, the Budget Committee funded the reserve at the statutory threshold of 10% of the Cumulative Excess which totaled \$1.4 million. The balance of the reserve fund as of CFY 2023-24 is \$3.0 million. None of the statutory criteria to use these funds were present; therefore, funds in reserve were not utilized during CFY 2023-24.

## **Total Requested Budget**

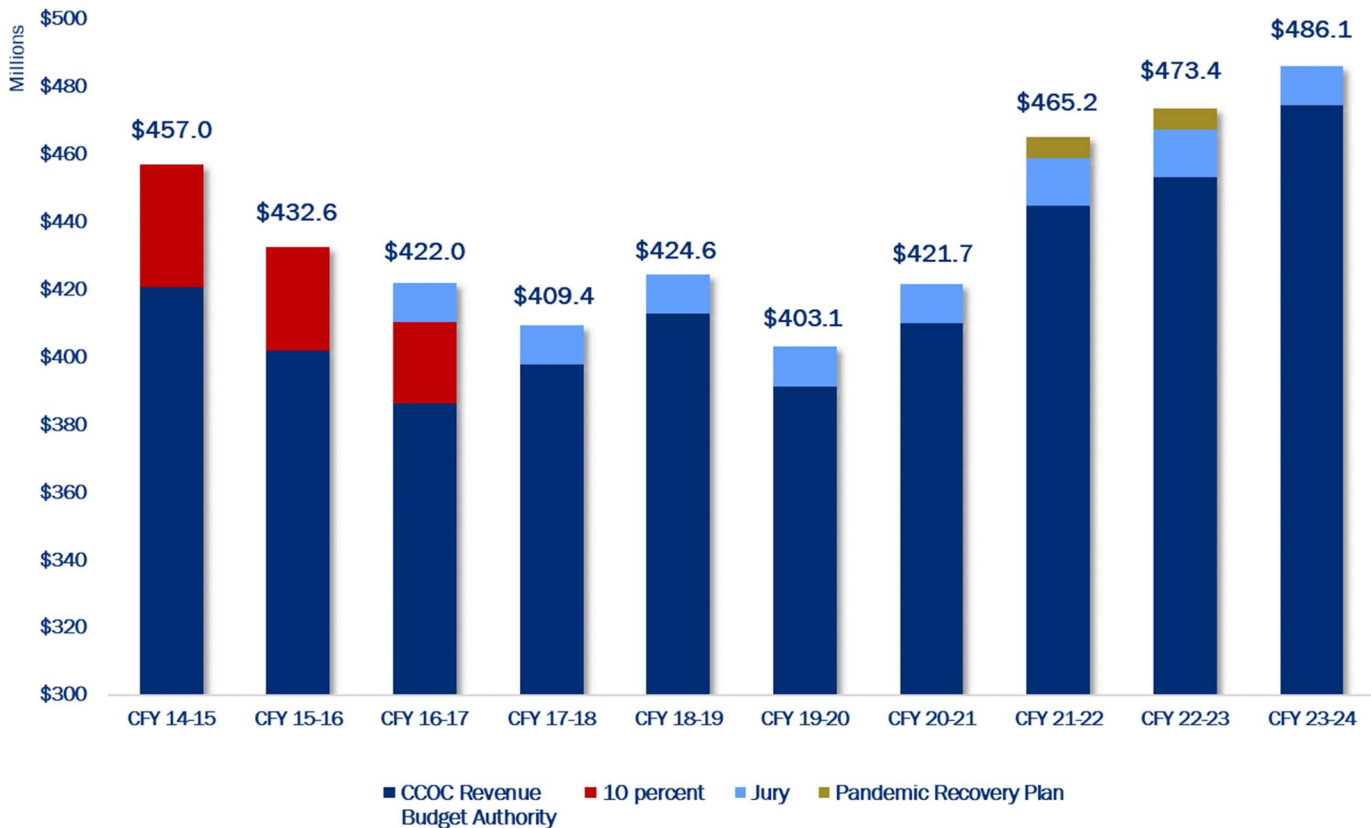
During the budget development process, clerks are statutorily required to submit their budget issue requests for the upcoming fiscal year. The clerks' total requested court-related budget for CFY 2023-24 was \$527.2 million. However, due to limited available revenues, the committee established the clerks' CFY 2023-24 court-related budget of \$486.1 million, which created a \$41.1 million year-over-year funding gap. This funding shortfall is what the clerks' legislative team is actively working to address with our partners in the Legislature. This funding gap is ongoing and will continue to increase as inflation impacts cost-of-living and staffing (the greatest portion of clerk costs). In addition, fixed costs such as salaries, health insurance, and Florida Retirement System (FRS) contributions continue to grow while clerks are forced to absorb these costs. As personnel services constitute over 90 percent of clerk budgets, these increases in fixed costs leave the clerks with no choice but to reduce positions and services to absorb these costs. The clerks' judicial partners, such as State Attorneys, Public Defenders, and the Courts, have these annual increases in fixed costs appropriated in Administered Funds. Furthermore, when cases decrease, our partners' budgets do not decrease proportionally. However, since the clerks' budget is set based on revenue derived from associated cases, it is decreased regardless of whether there is a proportional decrease in workload, as highlighted by the \$41.1 million funding gap.

# BUDGET COMMITTEE

The CCOC Budget Committee reviews submitted budget requests, monitors approved budgets, and analyzes procedures to improve the overall budget process.

The Budget Committee met five times during CFY 2023-24. The committee continued to build upon the budget request process that mirrors the state budgeting process to develop the clerks' CFY 2023-24 court-related budget. The committee established a Base Budget of \$458.6 million, which included the CFY 2022-23 Revenue-Limited Budget of \$453.2 million and the \$5.4 million calculated FRS increase. The committee then considered funding requests submitted by each clerk and added a \$14.5 million allocation using weighted cases, a \$1.4 million distribution for the projected impact of the FRS rate increase for Quarter Four of the CFY, and ensured that each clerk received at least a 3% year-over-year budget increase. This established the CFY 2023-24 Revenue-Limited Budget at \$474.4 million. In addition to this amount, the clerks were appropriated \$11.7 million of State General Revenue in jury management reimbursement funding. Therefore, the clerks' total CFY 2023-24 court-related budget was \$486.1 million.

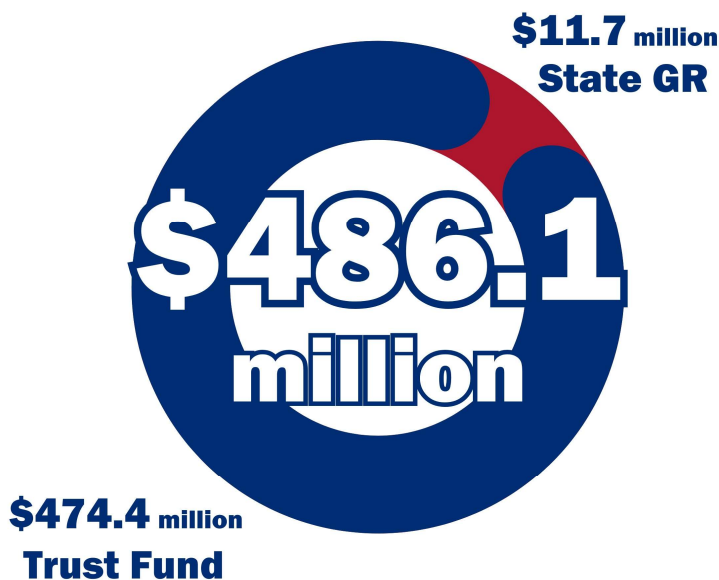
## Clerks' Court-related Budget Authority





## CFY 2023-24 Budget Authority

The clerks' total court-related budget authority for CFY 2023-24 was \$486.1 million, 97.6 percent of which comes from revenue from fines, fees, service charges, and court costs. This budget was \$12.7 million (2.7 percent) higher than the previous year's budget. The clerks' budget authority also included \$11.7 million of General Revenue (GR) appropriated by the Legislature for Juror Management; however, the clerks' total juror costs for SFY 2023-24 were just over \$15.6 million, a deficit of \$3.9 million.



## Revenue Collection

The clerks of court collect revenue for their budgets and many other entities within the justice system as well as other entities unconnected to the judiciary. The REC met in July 2023 to set the projected annual revenues at \$458.5 million. Actual revenues collected exceeded this estimate by almost \$22 million. Fifty percent of this cumulative excess total (\$11 million) will be sent to the State's General Revenue Fund as required by statute.

Like the Department of Revenue, clerks collect money for other entities established by the Legislature. During SFY 2023-24, the clerks collected \$852.9 million, of which \$116.8 million went to state trust funds. The previous year's total was \$860.2 million collected, of which \$102.6 million went to state trust funds. During SFY 2023-24, revenue collected by the clerks went to 39 different state trust funds.

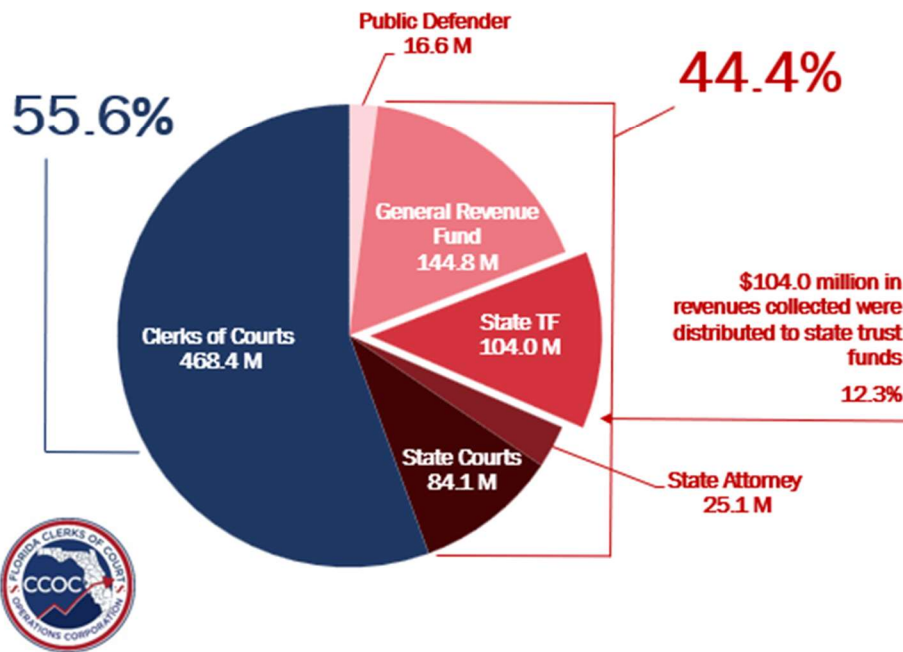
## DURING SFY 2023-24, 44% OF REVENUES COLLECTED BY CLERKS WERE DISTRIBUTED ELSEWHERE

### Revenue Distributed to CLERKS OPERATIONS

In SFY 2023-24, Clerks collected \$843.1 million in statutorily mandated fines and fees, of which they only retained \$468.4 million to provide services to the Floridians who depend on the timely resolution of their cases

### Revenues Distributed ELSEWHERE

\$374.7 million of the \$843.1 million collected by Clerks was distributed elsewhere

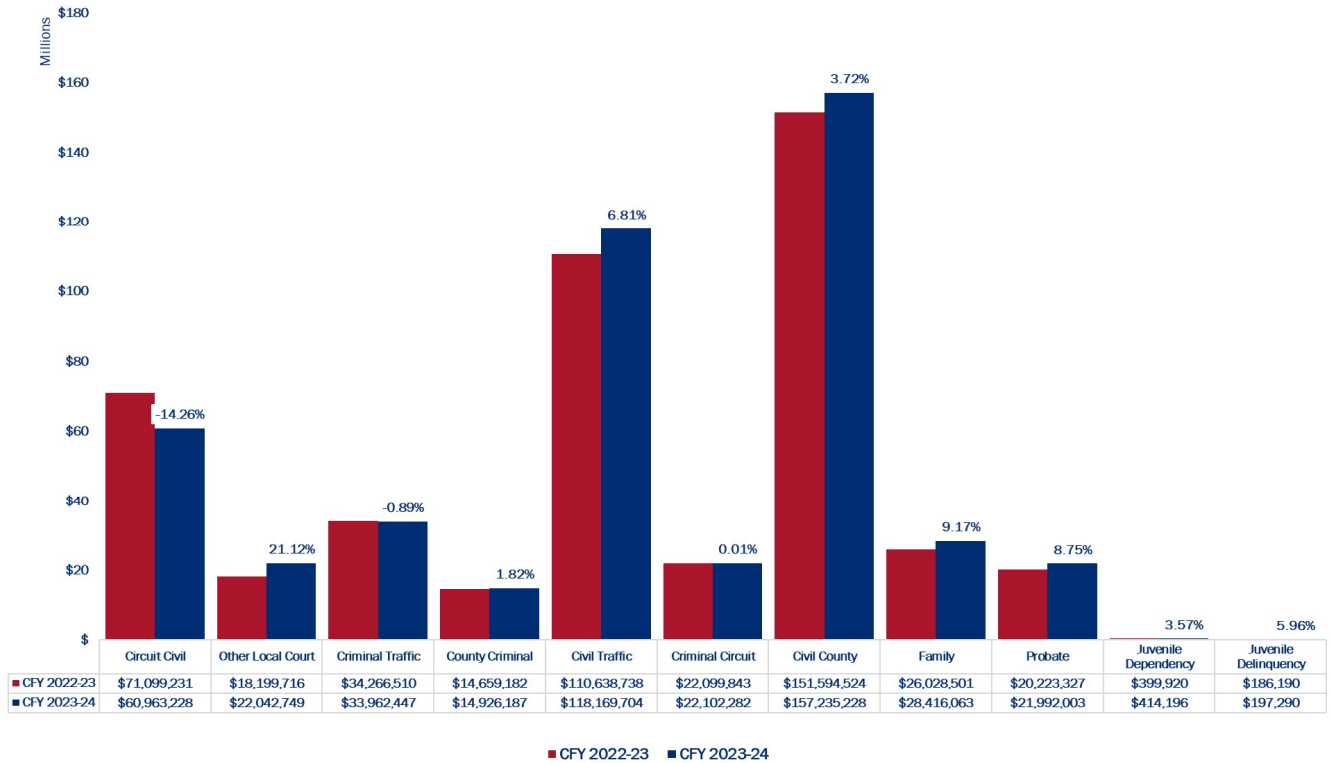


State Trust Fund	Distribution
ADDITIONAL COURT COSTS - TF	\$ 9,083,824
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO REFUNDS	\$ 4,281
AUDIT & WARRANT CLEARING TF	\$ 61,614
BRAIN & SPINAL CORD INJURY PROGRAM TF	\$ 8,845,802
CHILD WELFARE TRAINING TF	\$ 1,616,101
COURT EDUCATION TF	\$ 4,097,298
CRIMESTOPPERS TF	\$ 3,493,881
CRIMES COMPENSATION TF	\$ 12,821,279
CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS & TRAINING TF	\$ 2,334
DEPT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES ADMIN TF	\$ 2,189,835
DFS Operating TF	\$ 87,924
DIA REVOLVING TF	\$ 77,212
DOE GRANTS AND DONATIONS TF	\$ 1,274,405
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TF	\$ 9,174,208
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TF	\$ 18,323,353
EPILEPSY SERVICES TF	\$ 301,553
FDLE OPERATING TF	\$ 1,774,298
FL Coastal Protection TF	\$ 952
FORFEITURE AND INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT TF	\$ 93,963
FWC Operating TF	\$ 54,439
General Inspection Trust Fund	\$ 12,853
GRANTS & DONATIONS TF	\$ 402,540
INLAND PROTECTION TF	\$ 1,885
Insurance Regulatory TF DOI	\$ 9,490
JAC GRANTS AND DONATIONS TF	\$ 78,284
JUVENILE WELFARE TRAINING TF	\$ 1,280,747
LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIO SYSTEM TF	\$ 4,147,980
MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TF	\$ 1,080,591
MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE CLEARING TF	\$ 19,952,217
NONGAME WILDLIFE TF	\$ 1,364,355
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE TF	\$ 418,023
PLANNING AND EVALUATION TF	\$ 1,088,878
PROJECTS, CONTRACTS & GRANTS TF	\$ 94,861
RAPE CRISIS PROGRAM TF	\$ 2,389,827
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT TF	\$ 31,418
STATE GAME TF	\$ 77,284
STATE TRANSPORTATION TF	\$ 2,080
SWP GRANTS & DONATIONS TF	\$ 233,412
WATER QUALITY ASSURANCE TF	\$ 50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 104,024,848.59</b>

As noted above, the clerks experienced an increase in total revenues collected during CFY 2023-24. However, these increases were not uniform across court divisions. County civil and civil traffic saw the most significant increases among court divisions year-over-year, totaling \$13.2 million. These two court divisions were the main drivers in the 2.3 percent year-over-year increase. Circuit civil and criminal traffic revenues each experienced a decrease from the prior fiscal year, totaling a combined \$10.4 million decrease.

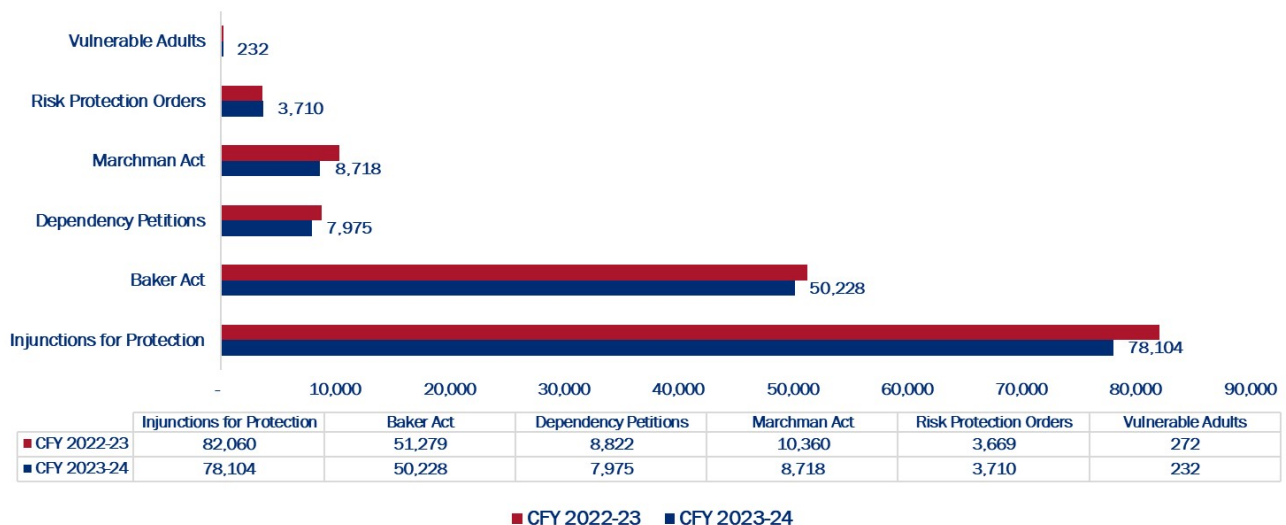
For the portion of collected revenues that the clerks can retain, the chart below highlights the percentage increase or decrease by court division. Other Local Court saw the greatest percentage increase year-over-year (21.1 percent), and Civil Traffic had the largest amount increase year-over-year (\$7.5 million).

## Revenue by Court Division



Certain case types that clerks work do not have a fee associated with them. However, these case types serve a vital public policy, and the clerks complete the work with no supporting revenue source to offset the cost. No-fee cases slightly decreased year-over-year during CFY 2023-24 by almost five percent. Risk protection orders had the only percentage increase year-over-year at just over one percent. Injunctions for protection had the highest case total of 78,104 for the year.

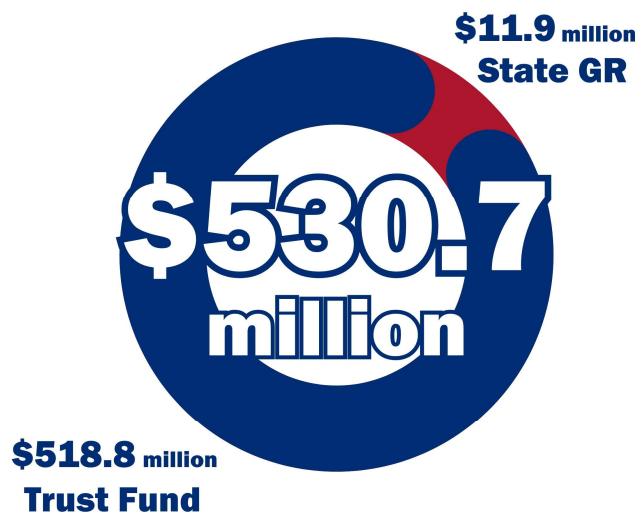
## Non-Paying Civil Cases



## CFY 2024-25 Budget Development Process

Florida law requires CCOC to approve a statewide balanced budget each year. For CFY 2024-25, the revenue available includes the total of the \$494.1 million revenue projection established at the most recent REC, the \$12.8 million clerks' share of the Cumulative Excess over the CFY 2022-23 REC estimate (excluding the amount required to go to the Reserve Fund), and the \$11.9 million of Unspent Budgeted Funds carried forward from the previous fiscal year. Therefore, the total available budget authority to build the CFY 2024-25 Revenue-Limited Budget is \$518.8 million.

To allocate this funding, the Budget Committee established a Base Budget of \$482.6 million, which includes the CFY 2023-24 Revenue-Limited Budget of \$474.4 million, \$164,000 for the calculated FRS increase, and \$8 million for the prior year "glitch" fix allocation. During the budget deliberation process, the committee considered the funding issues submitted by each clerk. The committee then added \$658,000 for FTE associated with the nine newly established judges, \$17.8 million via a weighted cases allocation using the Weighted Workload Measure (statewide distribution), \$13.6 million for a 3% salaries and benefits increase for each clerk, \$4.6 million allocation based on the prior-year jury reimbursement shortfall, and a requirement that each clerk shall receive no less than a 6% year-over-year increase unless this amount exceeds that clerk's total budget request. This set the approved CFY 2024-25 Revenue-Limited Budget at \$518.8 million which the Executive Council approved in September. In addition to this amount, clerks were appropriated \$11.9 million in State General Revenue, including \$11.7 million for jury reimbursement funding and \$176,000 for the Hope Cards Program. Therefore, the clerks' total available court-related budget authority for CFY 2024-25 is \$530.7 million. This is a \$44.3 million, or 9.1 percent, year-over-year increase.





# PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCIES (PIE) COMMITTEE

*The Performance, Improvement, and Efficiencies (PIE) Committee aims to review and recommend performance measure changes and provide for the reporting needs of the CCOC.*

## The Role of the PIE Committee

The PIE Committee has three critical purposes:

**"P" – Performance:** Florida Statutes require the CCOC to develop a statewide set of performance measures. The current performance measures include standards in four categories:

- Revenue collections
- Timeliness of cases filed and docketed
- Timeliness of juror payments
- Fiscal management

In CFY 2023-24, the PIE Committee continued its commitment to reviewing and enhancing performance measures to reflect the evolving needs of the clerks' offices.

**Future and Wholistic Review Workgroup:** Due to multiple staffing transitions within the CCOC, the activities of this workgroup were temporarily paused. With the appointment of new staff members, the workgroup plans to resume its efforts in the upcoming fiscal year to evaluate and recommend updates to performance measures and standards.

**Payment Plan Workgroup:** The workgroup advanced its investigation into the workload from the increased use of payment plans to assist customers in meeting their legal financial obligations. A payment plan tracking form was developed and piloted by select counties. Based on the pilot's success, the PIE Committee approved a motion for all clerks to start reporting information on the number of payment plans effective October 1, 2024. This initiative aims to collect comprehensive data to assess the effectiveness of payment plans and their impact on workload and collections.

**Timeliness Workgroup:** After assessing the current timeliness standards for filing and docketing cases, the workgroup determined that the existing measures remained adequate for CFY 2023-24 and did not recommend any changes.

**"I" – Improvement:** This function includes follow-up on current action plans when clerks fail to meet performance measures and determine whether the steps taken will improve future performance. The CCOC also develops Business Rules to ensure consistency in reporting and output data.



**PAC Framework Update:** Recognizing the need to reflect legislative changes and technological advancements, the PIE Committee established a standing PAC (Performance and Accountability of Clerks) Framework Workgroup, chaired by Clerk Tara S. Green, to review and update the Clerks' Court Services Framework. This framework outlines all statutory duties of Florida's Clerks of Court and organizes these duties into nine service areas, over 50 activities, and more than 400 tasks across ten court divisions. The updated framework will ensure accurate representation of current duties and inform the weighting of cases for resource allocation.

**Case Weights Workgroup:** Working in conjunction with the PAC Framework Workgroup, the Case Weights Workgroup, chaired by Clerk Gary J. Cooney, continued its efforts to review and update the case weights that demonstrate the workload for each case type. Given that the initial time study is over six years old and technology has significantly changed clerk operations, the workgroup aims to ensure that case weights accurately reflect current workloads, efficiencies, and legislative changes.

**Peer Groups:** The PIE Committee approved new peer groups based on weighted cases to ensure fair and equitable comparisons among counties for budgeting and performance evaluation purposes. This enhances the ability to allocate resources effectively and benchmark performance.

**"E" – Efficiencies:** This function includes identifying best practices for court-related services and developing effective means to communicate, educate, and share these practices among the clerks.

**Compliance Best Practices:** In CFY 2023-24, the CCOC continued its collaboration with the Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers (FCCC) on revising Best Practices related to Compliance. The updated guidelines aim to provide clerks with enhanced strategies to encourage compliance with court-related financial obligations, ensuring that all measures are taken to support customers effectively.

**Training Initiatives:** The CCOC expanded its training programs to improve compliance and collections. Compliance Improvement Services (CIS), Inc., conducted several regional trainings focusing on communications, process improvement, and reporting analytics. These sessions culminated in a summary and certification ceremony, enhancing clerk staff skills in promoting compliance and improving collection rates.

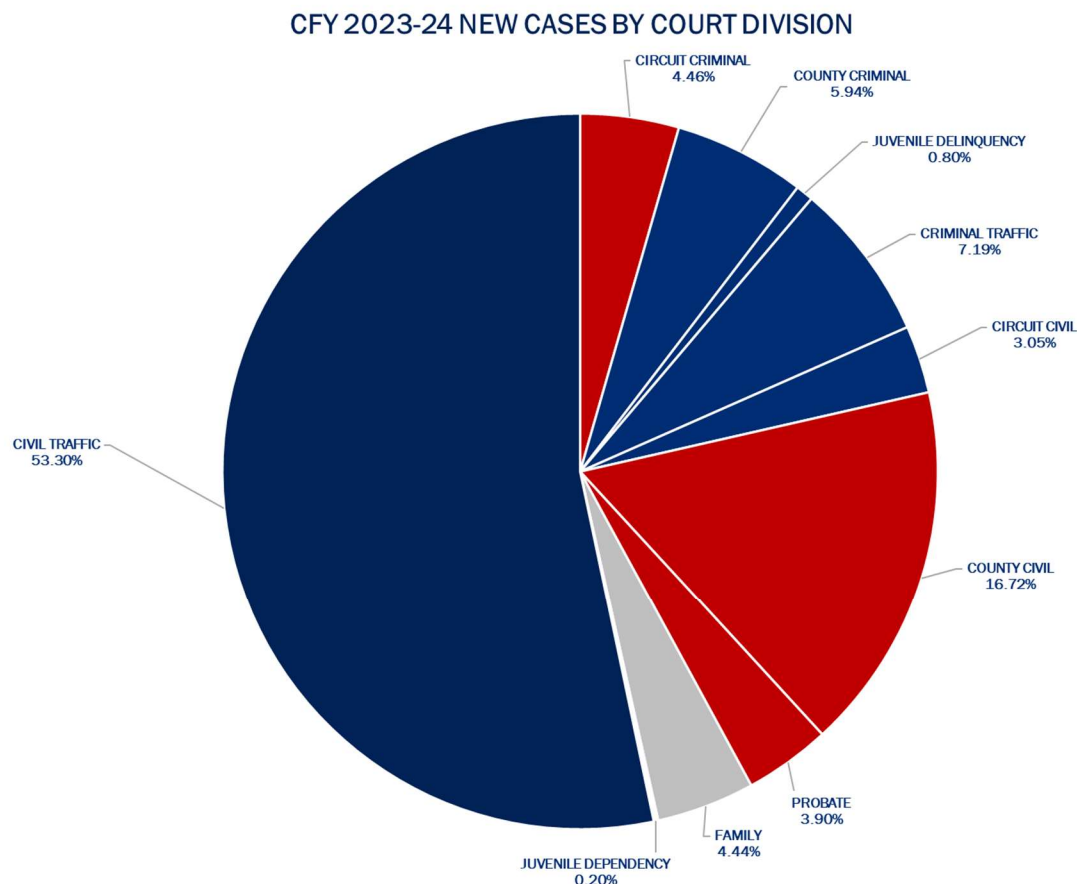
**Succession Planning and Education:** Emphasized involving new clerks and staff in workgroups for training and succession planning purposes. By engaging newer members in the PAC Framework and Case Weights Workgroups, the committee aims to build a bench of expertise and ensure continuity in efforts to improve performance and efficiencies.



Throughout CFY 2023-24, the PIE Committee remained dedicated to its mission of enhancing performance, driving improvements, and promoting efficiencies within the clerks' offices. By establishing workgroups, updating critical frameworks, and emphasizing data-driven decision-making, the committee is well-positioned to address future challenges and continue its role in supporting the CCOC and Florida's clerks.

## New Cases

The PIE Committee continues to collect case data which is used in a variety of ways. The Legislative Committee uses case data to analyze the workload or fiscal impact of bills during session. The PIE Committee uses case data to analyze trends in the judiciary and identify workload. The Budget Committee uses case data in the Weighted Workload Measure (WWM) and determines how to apply that data budgetarily. CCOC shares its case data with outside entities such as the REC and the Office of the State Courts Administrator for making projection trends for new revenue. Finally, case data is available to the public interested in the services clerks provide, including individuals, advocacy organizations, and media outlets who request this information. The pie chart below shows the new cases for CFY 2023-24; new cases increased 23,352 year-over-year (a 0.5% increase).



# ANNUAL REINSTATEMENT DAYS PROGRAM

Clerks of court have a statutory duty to facilitate compliance with court orders, including payment of fines and fees, on behalf of the state. Consequences to individuals for not complying with court orders can be significant, including license suspension. It is essential to note that clerks only start the suspension process when an individual takes no action to comply with the court's order. Clerks take payment plans on most case types and work with individuals to maintain their licenses. However, if a person fails to pay, one of the tools in the clerk's tool belt to ensure compliance is the suspension of a person's driver's license.

## Operation Green Light



In 2019, to reduce the number of Floridians with suspended licenses, the Legislature created an Annual Reinstatement Days Program. The CCOC partners with the Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers (FCCC) to publicize the events that are held statewide. This program is open to individuals who lost their driver license due to:

- Driving without a valid driver license;
- Driving with a suspended driver license;
- Failing to make a payment on penalties in collection;
- Failing to appear in court for a traffic violation; or
- Failing to comply with any provision of Chapter 318 or 322, F.S.

In CFY 2023-24, events were held in October of 2023 (two counties) and in February (two counties), March (two counties), April (41 counties), May (one county), and June (one county) of 2024. Twenty-one counties did not submit a report, and three counties held events in two different months.



## Mandatory Reporting

As required in s. 322.75, F.S., clerks that participated in the Driver License Reinstatement Days reported the following information from their events to the CCOC.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE (s. 322.75(7), F.S.)	
1. Number of Cases Paid in Full	15,114
2. Number of Cases Placed on a Payment Plan	11,602
3. Number of Cases Given Community Service	6
4. Number of Cases Pulled from Collection Agency	19,218
5. Number of DL Reinstatements	2,215
6. Number of DL Reinstatements Made Eligible	11,854
7. Number of Cases Failing to Comply <sup>1</sup>	1,790

The CCOC-developed guidelines for how to count and report cases that failed to comply was revised by the PIE Committee and adopted by the Executive Council on September 5, 2023. After the revision, the period for following up on cases placed on a payment plan was also revised. Starting with CFY 2023-24, those cases are now tracked for three months starting with the event date, instead of the previous 12-month follow-up requirement. The information related to the cases that failed to comply with the terms of their payment plan (program performance #7 above) is updated and reflected in the amount reported as counties submit their updated reports. This change allows for timelier reporting and more accurate data for events held in the fiscal year to be included in the annual report.

<sup>1</sup> Counties are finalizing their figures due to the tracking change, so the reported figures could change.

# LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

*The Legislative Committee aims to review legislative priorities, committee hearings, bills, etc., as they relate to clerk and CCOC activities.*

## Role of the Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee's goal is to increase visibility, improve communication, and build stronger partnerships between the legislature's members and staff. The Legislative Committee accomplishes this mission through communication, legislative analyses, and strategic coordination with the Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers (FCCC).

## Legislation Impacting the Clerks

During the 2024 Legislative Session in Florida, the legislature introduced several bills that had significant implications for the state's clerks of court. During the session, the Corporation and Legislative Committee supported clerks and the FCCC legislative team in promoting and advancing the 2024 priorities. Clerks were very visible and were in Tallahassee often to stand in dedicated support of the statewide priorities. For the fourth consecutive year, the clerks' main priority bill was passed unanimously in all committees and by both Chambers.

Representative Adam Botana filed HB 1077 Clerks of Court. The bill contains strategies and ideas brought forward by Clerks and Comptrollers. The bill is a continuation plan that builds off prior years' work to help fund clerks' court-related budgets by seeking to implement several concepts that support staffing needs by providing new mechanisms to fund certain Florida Retirement System (FRS) increases, diversify Clerk revenue and prioritize technology improvements, and account for additional services without a funding source.

SB 86 was signed into law which requires the clerks, consulting with the Attorney General, to develop the Hope Card Program to issue a Hope Card to anyone who has been issued a final order of protection and who requests a card. The cards will identify the person restrained by an order of protection, identify those protected by the order, and provide information for the statewide domestic violence hotline. The clerk may not assess a fee for the issuance of a Hope Card. Therefore, SB 86 provided the clerks with \$176,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue funds for SFY 2024-25 to implement this program.

## Let's Make It Work 2024 Clerk Legislative Priorities

The Governor signed CS/CS/HB 1077 on May 6, 2024. This legislation is projected to provide almost \$30 million in new recurring revenues for clerks' court-related services annually. In addition to the revenue redirects, the bill also increases the clerks' ability to fund court technology costs and created a driver license reinstatement pilot program in Miami-Dade County. The Legislature also passed a \$117 billion budget, formally called the General Appropriations Act (GAA). The budget included the annual \$11.7 million for clerk jury management. Clerks also engaged in numerous other issues and legislation throughout the Session; below is an overview of some of those activities and results.

### Budget Items Impacting the Clerks

Legislative items of interest to the clerks, and specifically budget-related items, include:

- HB 1077 provided the clerks with additional revenue redirects totaling approximately \$29 million annually (as outlined above)
- SB 86 provided the clerks with \$176,000 in nonrecurring funds to implement the Hope Cards Program
- Continued State funding for juror management reimbursement expenses
  - No cuts to the recurring \$11.7 million; increased funding was not approved
- Employer portion of FRS costs increased via legislation for an estimated impact of approximately \$164,000 to the clerks
- Continued State funding for eNotify
  - No cuts to the recurring \$370,000
- No new statewide initiatives with a significant fiscal impact
- No reduction in revenue funding sources

# FLORIDA GUARDIANSHIP DATA TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE

*The Legislature has tasked the clerks with establishing a guardianship database to help protect vulnerable citizens statewide.*

## Guardianship Overview

The 2022 Florida Legislature passed HB 1349, creating s. 744.2112, F.S., which requires the CCOC and the clerks of court to establish a statewide database of guardian and guardianship case information to facilitate improving court oversight of guardianship cases. The law required that the database would not be operational for end users until after July 1, 2023. The CCOC, with assistance from a vendor, has developed the database. However, certain statutory requirements were not collected in the Clerks' local case management systems. In 2024, the CCOC and the Florida Court Clerks and Comptrollers Association (FCCC) worked with the 67 Clerks to update their systems to collect additional guardianship data. The majority of Clerks have made the revisions to their local systems and are now reporting the required data. CCOC is reviewing the data to assure accuracy, and it is expected that the database will be used to facilitate improving court oversight of guardianship cases in early 2025.

OPPAGA was required by law to provide an update report on the status of the Guardianship Database to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 15, 2024. The report provided an overview and update of the status of the database and can be found at the following link: <https://oppaga.fl.gov/Documents/Reports/24-07.pdf>.





## CFY 2023-24 BUDGET AUTHORITY AND EXPENDITURES

County	CFY 2023-24 Revenue-Limited Budget Authority + \$8 million Current-Year Approp.	CFY 2023-24 Expenditures
Alachua	\$6,261,629	\$5,998,560
Baker	\$773,703	\$512,778
Bay	\$4,254,229	\$4,254,229
Bradford	\$928,373	\$870,542
Brevard	\$12,198,888	\$12,198,888
Broward	\$42,139,295	\$41,277,240
Calhoun	\$482,819	\$482,819
Charlotte	\$3,841,816	\$3,829,513
Citrus	\$3,257,370	\$3,257,370
Clay	\$3,982,762	\$3,982,762
Collier	\$6,962,643	\$6,962,643
Columbia	\$1,664,122	\$1,607,453
DeSoto	\$871,947	\$870,117
Dixie	\$528,837	\$528,837
Duval	\$21,477,520	\$21,475,880
Escambia	\$7,523,670	\$5,958,697
Flagler	\$1,981,952	\$1,981,909
Franklin	\$703,016	\$677,775
Gadsden	\$1,437,222	\$1,437,222
Gilchrist	\$582,306	\$582,306
Glades	\$604,103	\$602,123
Gulf	\$526,970	\$526,970
Hamilton	\$637,994	\$626,450
Hardee	\$965,135	\$775,780
Hendry	\$1,361,481	\$1,351,875
Hernando	\$3,711,148	\$3,275,043
Highlands	\$2,129,790	\$2,101,591
Hillsborough	\$33,003,636	\$33,003,636
Holmes	\$635,878	\$630,830
Indian River	\$3,198,267	\$3,195,113
Jackson	\$1,188,470	\$1,093,226
Jefferson	\$537,677	\$537,677
Lafayette	\$326,437	\$326,437
Lake	\$6,710,257	\$6,612,665

County	CFY 2023-24 Revenue-Limited Budget Authority + \$8 million Current-Year Approp.	CFY 2023-24 Expenditures
Lee	\$12,700,117	\$12,700,117
Leon	\$6,389,269	\$6,388,262
Levy	\$1,220,985	\$1,146,798
Liberty	\$339,456	\$339,456
Madison	\$607,306	\$577,782
Manatee	\$6,441,287	\$6,100,259
Marion	\$7,088,806	\$6,746,263
Martin	\$3,763,271	\$3,763,271
Miami-Dade	\$76,966,372	\$76,966,372
Monroe	\$3,804,238	\$3,804,238
Nassau	\$1,689,679	\$1,631,335
Okaloosa	\$3,974,153	\$3,974,153
Okeechobee	\$1,367,645	\$1,364,419
Orange	\$31,634,226	\$31,634,226
Osceola	\$8,385,492	\$7,551,863
Palm Beach	\$32,574,138	\$31,892,324
Pasco	\$12,463,690	\$12,463,690
Pinellas	\$24,298,912	\$24,298,912
Polk	\$13,548,891	\$13,548,891
Putnam	\$2,314,894	\$2,241,889
Saint Johns	\$3,920,213	\$3,918,154
Saint Lucie	\$7,192,850	\$7,192,850
Santa Rosa	\$3,463,205	\$3,463,205
Sarasota	\$8,796,442	\$8,621,228
Seminole	\$9,551,339	\$9,551,339
Sumter	\$2,075,342	\$2,075,342
Suwannee	\$1,262,555	\$1,262,555
Taylor	\$607,087	\$605,001
Union	\$516,739	\$516,739
Volusia	\$12,685,632	\$12,102,279
Wakulla	\$747,088	\$747,088
Walton	\$1,805,882	\$1,805,882
Washington	\$847,488	\$847,488
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$482,436,051</b>	<b>\$475,250,627</b>

Note: Expenditure data could potentially change as the settle-up process is finalized.

# CCOC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

*The CCOC Executive Council is composed of eight clerks of the court elected by their fellow clerks for a term of two years and representatives from the House, Senate, and Judicial branches as ex officio members. At a minimum, the Council meets quarterly to discuss and make decisions regarding CCOC business and budgetary matters. The Chair of the Executive Council establishes each CCOC Committee's Chair described in the Plan of Operation.*



Honorable  
Stacy Butterfield, CPA  
Chair  
Polk County Clerk &  
Comptroller



Honorable Tiffany Moore  
Russell, Esq.  
Vice-Chair  
Orange County Clerk



Honorable Laura E. Roth,  
Esq.  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Volusia County Clerk



Honorable Todd Newton  
Gilchrist County Clerk &  
Comptroller



Honorable John  
Crawford  
Nassau County Clerk &  
Comptroller



Honorable Michelle R.  
Miller  
Saint Lucie County Clerk  
& Comptroller



[Honorable JD Peacock, II](#)  
Okaloosa County Clerk &  
Comptroller



[Honorable Jody Philips](#)  
Duval County Clerk



[Honorable Bertila Soto](#)  
11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Judge  
Supreme Court Appointee



[Honorable Crystal K.  
Kinzel](#)  
Collier County Clerk &  
Comptroller



[Honorable Tom Bexley](#)  
Flagler County Clerk &  
Comptroller