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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
August 19, 2025

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## CCOC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

August 19, 2025

Meeting: 1:00 – 3:00 PM, Eastern

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87311151971>

Meeting ID: 873 111 1971; Conference Call: 1-305-224-1968

The Duties of the Corporation shall include: *“Recommending to the Legislature changes in the amounts and distribution of the various court-related fines, fees, service charges, and costs established by law to ensure reasonable and adequate funding of the clerks of the court in the performance of their court-related functions.”* Section 28.35(2)(c)1., F.S.

- 1) Call to Order and Introduction ..... Hon. Carolyn Timmann
- 2) Public Comment ..... Hon. Carolyn Timmann
- 3) Approve Minutes from 10/31/24 Meeting ..... Jason L. Welty
- 4) CCOC Legislative Budget Request (LBR) Issue ..... Jason L. Welty
- 5) 2026 Legislative Agenda ..... Hon. Carolyn Timmann
- 6) Other Business ..... Hon. Carolyn Timmann
  - a) Legislative Session begins January 13, 2026

**Committee Members:** Carolyn Timmann (Martin), Chair, Barry Baker (Suwannee), Matt Brooks (Levy), Ken Burke (Pinellas), Stacy Butterfield (Polk), Pam Childers (Escambia), Angel Colonnese (Manatee), Gary Cooney (Lake), Greg James (Wakulla), Crystal K. Kinzel (Collier), Michelle R. Miller (St. Lucie), Jody Phillips (Duval), Laura Roth (Volusia), Tiffany Moore Russell (Orange)



**Attendance**

**Legislative Committee**

**August 19, 2025**

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Present (via Zoom)</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Honorable Carolyn Timmann, Chair		
Honorable Barry Baker		
Honorable Matt Brooks		
Honorable Ken Burke		
Honorable Stacy Butterfield		
Honorable Pam Childers		
Honorable Angel Colonnese		
Honorable Gary Cooney		
Honorable Greg James		
Honorable Crystal Kinzel		
Honorable Michelle Miller		
Honorable Jody Phillips		
Honorable Laura Roth		
Honorable Tiffany Moore Russell		



## Minutes of October 31, 2024, CCOC Legislative Committee Meeting Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**Committee Action:** Review and approve with amendments, as necessary.

### Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Approve Agenda

Clerk Carolyn Timmann, Chair of the Legislative Committee, called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM. Griffin Kolchakian, CCOC Budget and Communications Director, called roll.

Present via WebEx: Honorable Carolyn Timmann, Chair, Honorable Tara S. Green, Vice-Chair, Honorable Barry Baker, Honorable Doug Chorvat, Honorable Crystal Kinzel, Honorable Victoria L. Rogers, Honorable Cindy Stuart, Honorable Jason L. Welty.

Absent from meeting: Honorable Jerald D. Bryant, Honorable Roger Eaton, Honorable Michelle R. Miller, Honorable Rachel Sadoff.

### Agenda Item 2 – Approve Minutes from 12/18/23 Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chair Timmann; the motion was adopted without objection.

### Agenda Item 3 – CCOC Legislative Agenda Update

Mr. Kolchakian provided an overview of the clerks' legislative wins from last session, including \$29 million in recurring revenue redirects and increased flexibility to fund court-related technology. These items helped establish a Revenue-Limited Budget of \$518.8 million for the current year.

The CCOC Legislative Committee has three recurring budget-related items under its purview, including the State jury reimbursement funding, the annual Legislative Budget Request (LBR) issue requesting State reimbursement for Baker Act, Marchman Act, and Sexually Violent Predator cases, and requesting State funding if new judges are certified.

For jury funding, the Legislature appropriated \$11.7 million of State General Revenue to the clerks for SFY 2024-25. This is the recurring amount provided since its inception in 2016. Unfortunately, clerks' quarterly reimbursement costs will continue to exceed the budget amount in each quarter moving forward. Therefore, the legislative team plans to request additional State funding to fully cover these annual costs.

Legislation passed in 2022 requires the clerks to submit a LBR issue through the JAC for the reimbursement of Baker Act, Marchman Act, and Sexual Violent Predators cases. To

meet this statutory requirement, the CCOC submitted this issue to the JAC totaling \$2.5 million.

Legislation passed in 2022 also requires the CCOC to develop a formula to estimate the cost of clerk support for circuit and county judges and to use it to request additional funding from the Legislature if new judges are approved. Therefore, this formula was created to determine the funding and FTE needed and was used last year when the Supreme Court certified new judges and will be used this year as well if additional new judges are certified. This is to request State dollars in addition to the CCOC Revenue-Limited Budget.

There was committee discussion on the timing of the new judges funding request, the potential concerns the Legislature had with the clerks' request for additional jury funding, potentially partnering with the Courts on legislative requests, the jury reimbursement model compared to the prior jury budget model, the FCCC's list of potential legislative priorities for the upcoming session, fiscal impact of senior judge days, and potentially reviewing and addressing the fiscal impact of hearing officers and magistrates.

Mr. Kolchakian thanked Sara, Morgan, and the FCCC legislative team for their assistance each year, but especially this past year, while the CCOC team was short-staffed.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – CCOC Legislative Budget Request (LBR) Issue**

Mr. Kolchakian stated that the CCOC is statutorily required to submit an annual LBR issue request for reimbursement of Baker Act, Marchman Act, and Sexually Violent Predator petitions and orders. To meet this statutory requirement, the CCOC submitted this LBR issue to the JAC to be included in their LBR submission for Fiscal Year 2025-26. This issue totals \$2.5 million and includes each county's number of cases for the most recent completed fiscal year (CFY 2022-23). This issue is similar to what was submitted last year and uses data collected from the CCOC monthly Outputs Report. Mr. Kolchakian stated that if the legislature funds this issue during the 2025 Legislative Session, each county will receive the reimbursement in a quarterly distribution. Chair Timmann added that the legislative team worked very hard to get this approval (to request this reimbursement) and now we needed to work with the advocacy team to get it funded.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Chapter 2008-111, L.O.F. Report Update**

Mr. Kolchakian presented the proposed updated monthly Chapter 2008-111, L.O.F. Report that tracks specific collected revenues sent to the State General Revenue Fund. Previously, this report had four lines of revenue, including issuance of a summons and traffic administration fees. As part of the clerk's legislative successes last session, the summons and the traffic administration lines are now retained by the clerks instead of being sent to the State. These two lines have been removed from this report. Therefore, the CCOC proposes to replace those two lines with two of the next highest revenue amounts, which have been identified to be traffic additional court costs and criminal traffic additional court costs. These two lines are currently rolled into the "All Other Revenues" Line (multiple lines rolled up into one). This change would break them out onto their own lines and track them separately moving forward, allowing the legislative team to collect this data and potentially request these lines as redirects in the future.

A motion to approve the updated Chapter 2008-111, L.O.F. Report was made by Clerk Welty and seconded by Clerk Green; the motion was adopted with Clerk Kinzel voting nay.

**Agenda Item 6 – New Business**

**a) JAC Legislative Priorities**

Chair Timmann stated that the JAC requested to present their legislative proposals for the upcoming session. Audrey Moore, JAC Deputy General Counsel, provided an overview of their legislative proposals. The JAC indicated that they were interested in including these legislative proposals in the clerks' legislation for the upcoming session. Chair Timmann stated that the FCCC had not finalized their full legislative program, but proposed they could shift the proposals to them if there were no objections.

**b) Injunctions for Protection**

Chair Timmann presented the injunctions for protection issue that was previously raised. She stated that the CCOC, on behalf of the committee, could submit a letter to the Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC) to formally request an amended LBR issue addressing this funding for the clerks. This request would total approximately \$3.3 million. If the committee agreed to move forward with this proposal, this would go before the Executive Council, since this letter would likely come from the Chair of the Executive Council.

**A motion to move forward with proposing this letter to be sent to the TCBC was made by Clerk Welty and seconded by Clerk Kinzel; the motion was adopted without objection.**

**c) Distribution of Fees: Parking Citations**

Clerk Ken Burke presented the parking citations issue and explained how they handle a lot of parking tickets in Pinellas County, how smaller cities had more simple collections for traffic citations, the associated \$10 service fee, and the additional work on offices in larger cities that received the same \$10. Clerk Burke stated that, although this was not an item that was going to bring significant revenue to the clerks, he did not think the Legislature intended for clerks to subsidize cities and municipalities. He believed it was something that needed to be reviewed.

Chair Timmann emphasized the importance of education because legislators may not be aware that the clerks were taking on this workload with essentially nothing to fund it. Chair Timmann asked clerks to look at how their own offices were currently handling this, since they may not be aware they are facing the same issue as Clerk Burke. She suggested the committee send this issue to the FCCC Legislative Committee for additional review. Chair Timmann suggested the motion should also have a research component.

**A motion to research and pursue options on the presented parking citations issue this session, tack it on to anything available, and/or separately move it to the FCCC for discussion with the advocacy team was made by Clerk Kinzel and seconded by Clerk Green. The motion was adopted without objection.**

Clerk Burke stated that he would be glad to work with Sara Sanders Bremer on this issue. Chair Timmann reminded the committee that all the motions passed today would go to the CCOC Executive Council for approval and then to the FCCC Legislative Committee.

**d) Distribution of Fees: School Bus Camera Citations**

Chair Timmann introduced the issue related to the distribution of revenues for school bus camera citations, specifically the associated clerks' workload. This issue stems from legislation passed during last session. There were concerns about the distribution of funded workload and there was some confusion in the language of the bill. She introduced Clerk Cindy Stuart to provide some background and additional information.

Clerk Stuart explained this issue in Hillsborough County, the effects of how the bill language was written, the role of the sheriff's office, and mentioned the unanswered questions that now exist. Chair Timmann stated that there could be some different interpretations of the language and that, based on concerns she heard from other clerks, she did not think they could just ignore the issue. She saw this as a growing issue that they needed to keep on the monitoring list and to work with the FCCC as the legislative session approaches. Clerk Butterfield stated they should monitor the situation in case an opportunity presented itself where they could help with clarification of the language.

Clerk Butterfield believed they needed to gather the jurisdictions that were affected. Chair Timmann did not believe they needed a vote to ask the CCOC team to work with the FCCC team to develop a survey or a mechanism to collect the data and to continue monitoring it moving forward.

**e) Other Legislative Ideas**

Clerk Butterfield raised an issue to potentially draft a letter to the TCBC regarding reimbursement for injunctions for protection.

Clerk Butterfield raised an additional item, which was the approved formula for calculating the FTE needed for new judges. She proposed that the Budget Committee re-look at this calculation and the results it has produced recently. Chair Timmann asked Mr. Kolchakian to coordinate that to make sure this issue was addressed by the Budget Committee. Shannon Ramsey-Chessman provided a summary of what the workgroup (who established the calculation) did, including the intent, the information considered, and the thought process behind the final formula. The issue of magistrates and hearing officers was also discussed.

**Agenda Item 7 – Other Business**

Chair Timmann stated that the committee closely monitors relevant legislation for any potential impacts to clerks. Clerks and staff are always needed to volunteer their professional assistance to review these items, especially since it is a very quick moving process. Any volunteers could reach out to Chair Timmann or Mr. Kolchakian.

Chair Timmann stated that, as we monitor legislation moving through the process and are requested to provide fiscal impacts for certain bills, we request the assistance of clerks and staff in completing these bill analyses. Please email Griffin if you are willing to assist in these reviews.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 PM.



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## AGENDA ITEM 4

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**DATE:** August 19, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** CCOC Legislative Budget Request (LBR) Issue  
**COMMITTEE ACTION:** Information Only

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### OVERVIEW:

Subsection 28.35(2)(i), F.S., requires the CCOC to annually prepare a budget request that provides the amount necessary for reimbursement of Baker Act, Marchman Act, and Sexually Violent Predators petitions and orders.

CCOC collects these subcase types on the monthly Outputs Report. To minimize the workload on clerks, CCOC provided the Justice Administrative Commission (JAC) with each county's number of cases for the most recently completed fiscal year (CFY 2023-24). CCOC submitted the LBR issue as directed by s. 28.35, F.S., to be included in the JAC's official LBR submission for Fiscal Year 2025-26. CCOC submitted similar issues on behalf of clerks for the last two years.

If the Legislature funds this issue during the 2026 Legislative Session, each county will receive the reimbursement in a quarterly distribution.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** Information Only

**LEAD STAFF:** Jason L. Welty, Executive Director

**ATTACHMENT:** None



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## AGENDA ITEM 5

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**DATE:** August 19, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** 2026 Legislative Agenda  
**COMMITTEE ACTION:** Discussion and Recommendation

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### OVERVIEW:

The Clerks of Court Operations Corporation (CCOC) is responsible for receiving the budget requests from each clerk, analyzing those requests, and ultimately providing each clerk with a budget that conforms to the revenue available statewide. As such, the 2026 CCOC Legislative Agenda should focus on the difference between the clerks' requested budget and the available revenue and advocate for a budget that will ensure reasonable and adequate funding of the clerks of the court in the performance of their court-related functions.

The total requested budget for the CFY 2025-26 is \$619.3 million, and the Revenue-Limited Budget is \$544.2 million (both numbers include the \$11.7 million for jury costs). The \$75.1 million gap between revenue and requests is a 13.8 percent increase.

In the past, this committee has recommended specific budget proposals as a method of closing the funding request gap. The committee could also adopt a total funding request and submit it to the Legislature to decide how to fund the request. With all recommendations, the CCOC will provide various analyses to assist the Legislature's decision-making process and would work with the FCCC Legislative Team to help advocate and support the request.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1: Adopt the difference between the Revenue-Limited Budget and the Clerks' CFY 2025-26 budget request – \$75.1 million – as the 2026 Legislative Agenda.

Option 2: Adopt a different percent increase as the 2026 Legislative Agenda.

Option 3: Adopt individual proposals or options for the Legislature's consideration.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** Discuss and provide an initial recommendation on the policy direction for CCOC to work with the FCCC for implementation of the 2026 Legislative Agenda.

This recommendation would be the overall 2026 Session goal and would not include ongoing analyses and recommendations by the CCOC Legislative Committee as the Legislative season progresses.

**LEAD STAFF:** Jason L. Welty, CCOC Executive Director

**ATTACHMENTS:** None