

# Washington State Judicial Branch

## 2025-27 Biennial Budget

### Continue Merit Increases

**Agency:** Supreme Court

**Decision Package Code/Title:** 97 – Merit System Increases

**Agency Recommendation Summary Text:**

The Supreme Court requests funding to continue providing merit increases for eligible employees. (General Fund-State)

**Fiscal Summary:**

	FY 2026	FY 2027	Biennial	FY 2028	FY 2029	Biennial
<b>Staffing</b>						
FTEs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Operating Expenditures</b>						
Fund 001-1	\$266,000	\$385,000	\$651,000	\$385,000	\$385,000	\$770,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>						
	\$266,000	\$385,000	\$651,000	\$385,000	\$385,000	\$770,000

**Package Description:**

The Supreme Court has fewer than 100 employees. This request will fund merit increases for eligible employees.

**Fully describe and quantify expected impacts on state residents and specific populations served:**

None.

**Explain what alternatives were explored by the agency and why they were rejected as solutions:**

There is no alternative. When necessary, Supreme Court staff served the people of Washington without receiving the merit increments they earned. Most state employees receive annual salary step increases. It is appropriate for the Supreme Court to provide periodic salary step increases for eligible staff.

**What are the consequences of not funding this request?**

The agency cannot absorb the increases. If this request is not funded, salary step increases would be frozen.

**Is this an expansion or alteration of a current program or service?**

This is not an expansion or alteration of a current program or service.

**Decision Package expenditure, FTE and revenue assumptions:**

The request is based on a calculation of the merit increases that are scheduled to occur in the 2025-27 biennium.

Expenditures by Object	<u>FY 2026</u>	<u>FY 2027</u>	<u>FY 2028</u>	<u>FY 2029</u>	<u>FY 2030</u>	<u>FY 2031</u>
A Salaries and Wages	226,000	328,000	328,000	328,000	328,000	328,000
B Employee Benefits	40,000	57,000	57,000	57,000	57,000	57,000
<b>Total Objects</b>	<b>266,000</b>	<b>385,000</b>	<b>385,000</b>	<b>385,000</b>	<b>385,000</b>	<b>385,000</b>

**How does the package relate to the Judicial Branch principal policy objectives?**

Providing merit increases to eligible employees demonstrates effective support for Supreme Court personnel. Continuing to support personnel will help the Supreme Court provide employees that oversee the fair and effective administration of justice, make sure customers have accessibility to the Supreme Court and its services, and ensure that Supreme Court can maintain sufficient staffing and support.

**How does the package impact equity in the state?**

**Address any target populations or communities that will benefit from this proposal.**

Not applicable.

**Describe the how the agency conducted community outreach and engagement.**

Not applicable.

**Consider which target populations or communities would be disproportionately impacted by this proposal.**

**Explain why and how these equity impacts will be mitigated.**

Not applicable.

**Are there impacts to other governmental entities?**

Not applicable.

**Stakeholder response:**

Not applicable.

**Are there legal or administrative mandates that require this package to be funded?**

No

**Does current law need to be changed to successfully implement this package?**

No

**Are there impacts to state facilities?**

No

**Are there other supporting materials that strengthen the case for this request?**

No

**Are there information technology impacts?**

No

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