WASHINGTON COURTS
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Revenue and Budget Update-April 2021 JISC

State Revenue Summary (statewide)
The March 17, 2021 forecast is substantially higher than the previous forecast. Revenues for the current and ensuing biennium are now back to pre-pandemic levels.

2021-2023 Budget
As of April 2021:
Both the House and Senate have released their versions of the operating budget.

Highlights include:

Senate:
All of the budget requests submitted by AOC are included.
The Senate budget also proposes funding for:
An eviction resolution program, court costs associated with the Blake decision and, court costs for the Uniform Guardianship

A few other Senate specific funding items based upon Senate bills

House:
The House proposal would fund some, but not all of AOC's requests.
Those not funded include:
Judicial Need Development
Court Equity Access Team

The House budget also proposes a budget proviso that would place the funding and management of the CLJ CMS and INF projects with the Office of the State Information Officer (OCIO) and the Office of Financial Management (OFM). Several communications have been sent regarding our objection to this.

The House budget would also provide funding for court costs associated with the Blake decision and an LFO refund pool for refunds related to the Blake decision.

A few other House specific funding items are based upon House bills.

Neither budget proposal includes budget reductions.

American Rescue Plan Act Funding (federal)
On March 22, 2021, Chief Justice González and Dawn Marie Rubio co-authored a letter to legislative leadership requesting approximately $85-$102 million for Washington courts. No word has been received regarding the request as of this writing. Both the SCJA and DMCJA have also communicated the need for funding.

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CARES-For Courts and County Clerk's Offices
Approximately $1.8 million or the $13.3 million remains. Funding is focused on working through the trial court case backlog.

CARES-For Eviction Resolution Program
$976,000 has been awarded and is being distributed to pilot Eviction Resolution Programs (ERP) in six counties. Funding between January 1, 2021, and June 30, 2021, will go to the Department of Commerce to distribute to the six pilot counties (ESHB 1368). Funding for 2021-2023 will most likely go to AOC either for a continuation of the pilot programs or for a statewide time-limited implementation (the current proposal is 2SSB 5160).