

Redbook

LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

Judicial Conference of Ohio

Robert Meeker, Senior Budget Analyst
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LBO Redbook

Judicial Conference of Ohio

Quick look...

- The Judicial Conference of Ohio (JCO) is charged with studying and recommending changes in the procedures and practices of Ohio’s court system.
- Total executive budget recommendations: \$2.1 million in FY 2026 and \$2.3 million in FY 2027.
 - Sources of the budget: GRF (64.8%), and state non-GRF (35.2%).
 - Staff payroll (personal services) is the largest spending area (68.6%).
- The Conference has a staff of eight full-time employees.

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
GRF ALI 018321, Operating Expenses					
\$1,076,674	\$1,084,187	\$1,140,683	\$1,231,000	\$1,398,265	\$1,475,131
% change	0.7%	5.2%	7.9%	13.6%	5.5%
DPF Fund 4030 ALI 018601, Ohio Jury Instructions					
\$520,289	\$551,713	\$558,358	\$674,109	\$746,000	\$814,899
% change	6.0%	1.2%	20.7%	10.7%	9.2%
Total funding:					
\$1,596,963	\$1,635,900	\$1,699,041	\$1,905,109	\$2,144,265	\$2,290,030
% change	2.4%	3.9%	12.1%	12.6%	6.8%

Agency overview

The Judicial Conference of Ohio’s primary charge is to continually study and recommend changes in the procedures and practices of Ohio’s court system in an effort to promote a fair and effective administration of justice. The General Assembly created the Conference in 1963 as a statutory entity within the judicial branch of state government. The Conference’s primary duties and responsibilities are codified in R.C. 105.91. The Conference fulfills this statutory responsibility primarily through research projects, program activities, and published materials that allow information, experiences, and ideas to be shared with and among judges.

Organization

Membership

The Conference’s membership consists of:

- All 721 active judges in Ohio from the courts of appeals, courts of common pleas, municipal courts, and county courts, as well as the justices of the Supreme Court of Ohio;

- All retired judges that have continued judicial work via assignment; and
- Six related associations including the Ohio Courts of Appeals Judges Association, the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association, the Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Judges, the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges, the Ohio Association of Probate Judges, and the Association of Municipal/County Judges of Ohio.

Executive Committee

The general charge and supervision of the administration of the Conference’s affairs rests with the Executive Committee, which meets quarterly. The Executive Committee is comprised of approximately 50 members, including the officers of the Judicial Conference, the chairs of the Judicial Conference committees, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice and Chief Justice-elect of the Court of Appeals of Ohio, the presiding officer and the presiding officer-elect of each member judicial association, the Administrative Director of the Supreme Court of Ohio, and the Executive Director of the Judicial Conference.

Staff

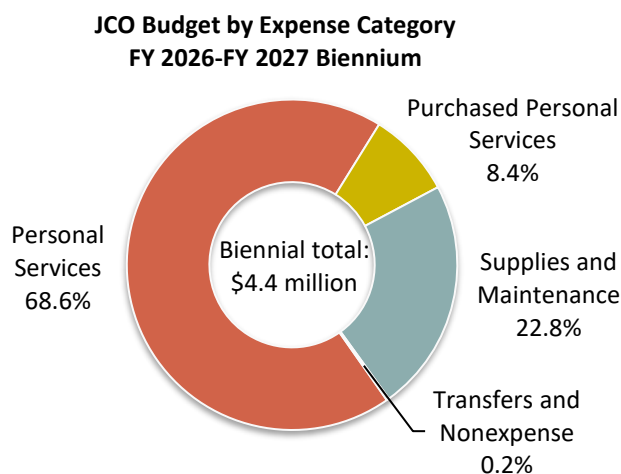
The Conference has a staff of eight full-time employees who provide administrative and research support for 21 standing committees consisting of hundreds of judges who volunteer their time. While judges serving on committees receive no compensation for services rendered to the Conference, judges may receive reimbursement for reasonable and necessary expenses.

Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget proposal

R.C. 107.03(D) states that “no alterations shall be made in the [budget] requests for the legislative and judicial branches of the state filed with the director of budget and management” Therefore, the Governor has made no alterations to the budget request submitted by the Judicial Conference of Ohio.

Proposed budget by expense category

The chart below shows the Conference’s total recommended biennial appropriation (FY 2026 and FY 2027) by expense category. Almost 69% of the appropriation is allocated for personal services (payroll), followed by supplies and maintenance (22.8%), and purchased personal services (8.4%).



Operating Expenses (ALI 018321)

This GRF line item is the Conference's primary source of funding for its day-to-day operations. Relative to the line item's estimated expenditures for FY 2025, the executive budget increases its FY 2026 appropriation by \$167,265 (13.6%) and its FY 2027 appropriation by an additional \$76,866 (5.5%).

State Council of Uniform State Laws¹

A temporary law provision requires up to \$103,315 in FY 2026 and up to \$108,481 in FY 2027 of the line item's appropriation be used to pay the expenses of the State Council of Uniform State Laws, including membership dues to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL).²

Ohio Jury Instructions (ALI 018601)

This line item draws its appropriation from the Ohio Jury Instructions Fund (Fund 4030), which largely consists of: (1) annual membership dues and meeting, seminar, and conference fees and (2) royalties from the Conference's publication known as Ohio Jury Instructions. Historically, the Conference used the line item to support activities and services not directly related to its ongoing day-to-day business. This includes costs associated with meetings, conferences, seminars, printing, publishing, website maintenance and development, information technology, and other nonpersonnel activities.

Fund 4030 revenue trends

From FY 2020-FY 2024, annual revenues credited to Fund 4030 averaged \$523,094. The fund's revenues for the upcoming biennium are forecasted as follows:

- Annual dues of approximately \$180,250 from all active members (currently \$250 per member).
- Annual meeting registration fees totaling up to \$131,000 (based on approximately 350 judges attending with a \$375 or more registration fee; possible fee increase being considered).
- \$120,000 per year over the next biennium in royalties from the publication and sale of Ohio Jury Instructions.
- Other sources of revenue include Court Technology Conference registration fees (\$50 per attendee and \$575 per vendor), retired judges seminar registration fees (generally \$75), and brochure sales (brochures sold at cost).

JCO/zg

¹ The duty of the State Council, a four-person Ohio council of commissioners appointed by the Governor, is to study the prevailing law in the U.S. and other countries on subjects where uniformity is important.

² NCCUSL, a Chicago-based nonprofit unincorporated association largely comprised of state commissions of uniform laws, studies and reviews the law of the states to determine which areas of law should be uniform.