

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MISSION: To administer justice by providing a safe, accessible, efficient, and impartial system of dispute resolution that serves the public interest, protects individual rights, and instills respect for the law.

MAINE STATE COURTS: AT A GLANCE



POPULATION OF MAINE..... 1,344,212
 GEOGRAPHIC AREA.....30,843 sq. mi.
 COURT LOCATIONS.....34



Judicial Branch Operations.....\$64,265,774
 Personal Services.....\$48,925,702
 All Other Operational Expenses.....\$15,340,072
 Debt Service.....\$15,239,161
 Guardians ad Litem and Psychological Exams.....\$4,991,626
 Capital.....\$1,162,908

FY20 EXPENDITURES TOTAL: \$85,659,469
% of State General Fund:..... 2.24%

FY20 REVENUE TOTAL: \$28,466,379
 Deposited to Maine's General Fund.....\$19,187,745
 Deposited to Dedicated Revenue Accounts.....\$9,278,634



JUDICIAL OFFICERS & STAFF TOTAL: 527.5
JUDGES (Total).....63
 District Court Judges.....39
 Superior Court Justices.....17
 Supreme Judicial Court Justices.....7

***FAMILY LAW MAGISTRATES 8**
STAFF.....456.5
 Clerks' Offices.....255
 Security.....91
 Administration.....37.5
 Research.....25
 Violations Bureau & Service Center.....17.5
 Finance & Human Resources.....11
 Office of Information Technology.....11.5
 Official Court Reporters.....8

**One-third General Fund, two-thirds federally funded.*



FY20 CASES FILED TOTAL: 143,522
 Violations Bureau.....56,221
 Unified Criminal Docket.....45,911
 District Court.....37,928
 Superior Court.....2,993
 Supreme Judicial Court.....469

Year in Review: Maine Courts Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic



Remote proceedings became the new normal during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The work of the Judicial Branch is essential and never more so than during the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the pandemic, the Judicial Branch has tried to balance two goals:

- Providing access to justice, and
- Ensuring the safety of the public and employees that enter Judicial Branch facilities.

Beginning in March 2020, the Supreme Judicial Court issued a series of Pandemic Management Orders to limit community transmission of COVID-19, while ensuring access to justice for those who seek protection from personal violence and whose liberty interests are at stake. This was no small task, as court proceedings tend to bring many people together often in small courtrooms. Much of our business is still conducted by paper. And although we have been diligently working to automate operations, digitize court records, and implement electronic filing, we are at least two years away from statewide implementation.

In May 2020, the Judicial Branch developed a Phased Management Plan (revised many times since), which laid out steps to resume full operations by November. Working groups were convened to reinvent almost all aspects of Judicial Branch operations. Unfortunately, worsening pandemic conditions in late fall required that we maintain very limited capacity restrictions in our facilities, which interrupted our progress toward resuming most in-person proceedings.

Undaunted, the Judicial Branch adapted to these challenging circumstances by turning to broader technology solutions. The expanded use of video conferencing and virtual hearings is a major historical shift in Judicial Branch operations. Video conferencing has become an important tool as the Supreme Judicial Court has directed that hearings, trials, and conferences be conducted remotely where possible. With the move to remote events, we have worked hard to address public and media access to court proceedings. And it turns out that one of our ongoing initiatives — the Maine eCourts case management and eFiling system — is, perhaps, among the most effective tools to address



Chairs placed six feet apart to allow for social distancing in the courtroom.

Continued on next page

THE COURTS OF MAINE

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT



Andrew M. Mead
Acting Chief Justice &
Sr. Associate Justice



Ellen A. Gorman
Associate Justice



Joseph M. Jabar
Associate Justice



Robert Mullen
Chief Justice,
Superior Court



Thomas E. Humphrey
Associate Justice



Andrew M. Horton
Associate Justice



Catherine R. Connors
Associate Justice



Jed J. French
Chief Judge,
District Court



James T. Glessner
State Court Administrator

STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR



Rick E. Lawrence
Deputy Chief Judge,
District Court

TRIAL CHIEFS

TOTAL FY20 COURT CASE FILINGS: 143,522

CRIMINAL FILINGS: 42,079

Unified Criminal Docket (UCD).....	39,209
Probation Revocations (UCD).....	2,633
Superior Court Probation Revocations....	235
District Court Probation Revocations.....	2

The Unified Criminal Docket (UCD), completed statewide in 2016, transformed the two-tiered trial court system into a single, more efficient process for criminal and some civil violation cases.

FAMILY DIVISION: 19,343

Protection from Abuse	5,454
Family Matters Post-Judgment	4,629
Divorce	4,563
Parental Rights & Responsibilities	1,581
Child Protection.....	1,260
Juvenile	1,149
Adoptions	261
Foreign Judgments	131
Guardianships	120
Emancipations.....	82
Other Family Matters	80
Grandparents' Rights	21
Name Changes	12

CIVIL FILINGS: 18,152

	SUPERIOR	DISTRICT
Small Claims		5,276
FEDs (Evictions)		3,858
Contract	424	2,574
Money Judgments		1,504
Other Civil	1,050	1,167
Foreclosure	410	876
Tort	874	139
TOTAL(S):	2,758	15,394

OTHER ACTIONS:

Civil Violations (UCD).....	4,069
Protection from Harassment (District Court).....	1,999
Mental Health (District Court)	1,190

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

Supreme Judicial Court	469
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VIOLATIONS BUREAU

Traffic Infractions	56,221
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Year in Review — Continued

the challenges caused by the pandemic. The automated case management system was implemented for Violations Bureau cases in 2018 and eFiling went live in Bangor for most civil and family matters last fall. We are continuing to expand to other case types, courts, and regions. Court systems around the country that implemented electronic filing prior to the pandemic have reported far less disruption to their operations and have been able to shift to remote court proceedings more easily.

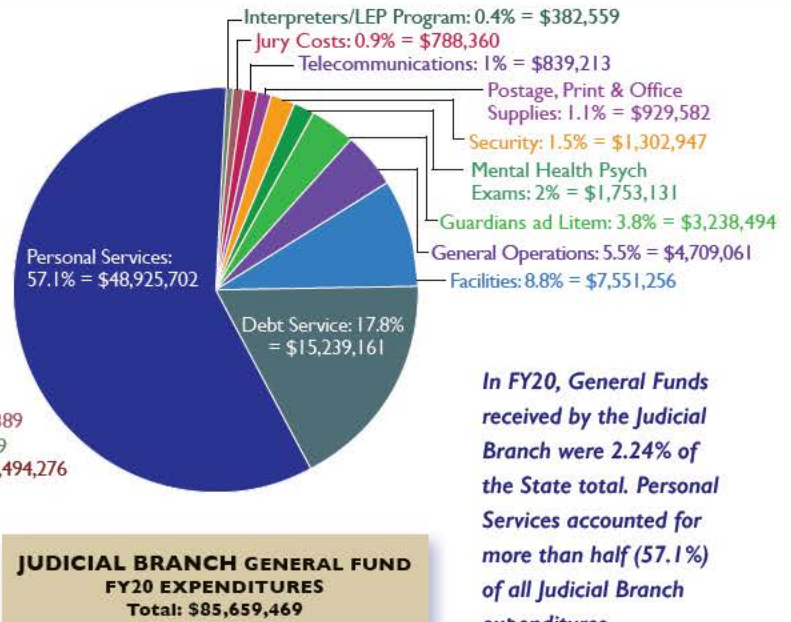
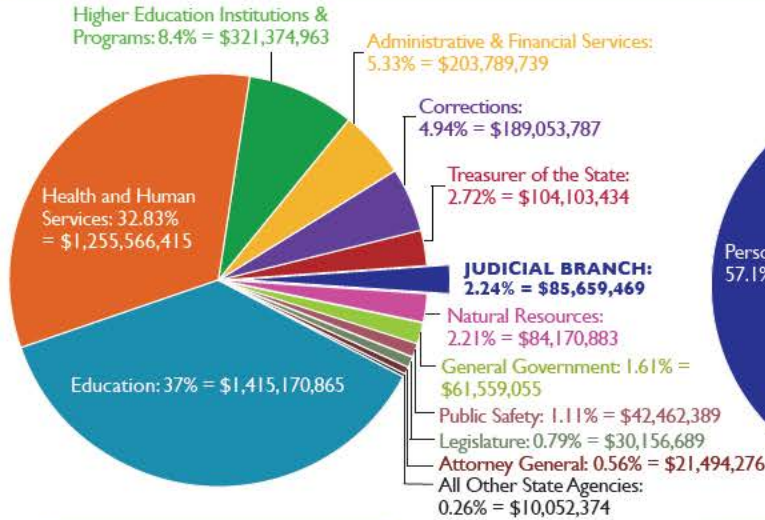
Unfortunately, video conferencing is not an ideal solution for all court proceedings — especially jury trials. Despite challenges, we were able to hold a handful of jury trials this fall in larger courthouses in Augusta and Bangor by managing traffic flow, using technology and multiple courtrooms to distance litigants and attorneys, judges and court staff, juries, and the public. But the extreme demand on resources is not sustainable.

The Judicial Branch has taken several steps to ensure that our facilities are safe for our employees and the public. All persons entering a courthouse must wear face coverings or masks, answer screening questions, and have their temperatures checked. This entry screening for COVID-19, which is an important component of the Judicial Branch's pandemic response and has been implemented at every open courthouse, has been limited by the short supply of Judicial Marshals to conduct the screening. As a result, we have had to temporarily close some courthouses to the public. Although we have worked diligently to ensure that such closures have not affected access to justice, the need for pandemic-related screening reinforces the longstanding Judicial Branch request for additional marshals so that we can provide entry screening at every courthouse every day.

We know that people have been adversely affected by the courts' limited ability to hear cases during the pandemic. Priority cases involving life and liberty interests currently fill our dockets. As of February 2021, we cannot predict when other cases may be heard. Despite all the work we have done to implement new processes, technology solutions, and safety measures, we recognize that we cannot get back to business as usual while the pandemic threat continues. The Judicial Branch is working on plans to address the backlog of cases that has accumulated since the beginning of the pandemic. We acknowledge the need to get cases resolved fairly, effectively, and efficiently, and will continue to pursue additional innovations and every possible technology and human resource to meet that demand.

FISCAL INFORMATION

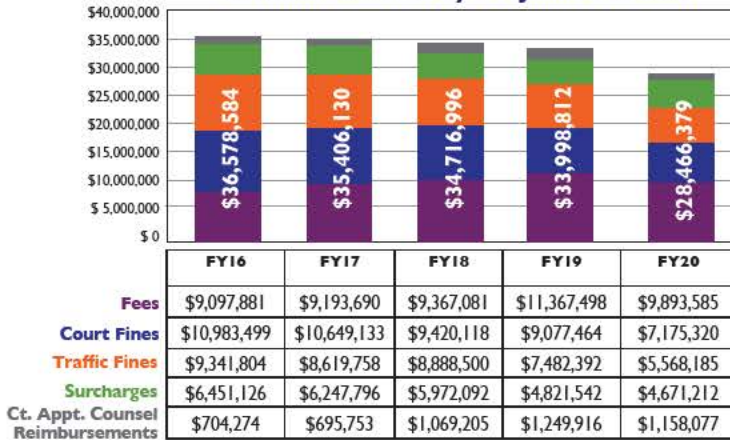
GENERAL FUND AND JUDICIAL BRANCH EXPENDITURES



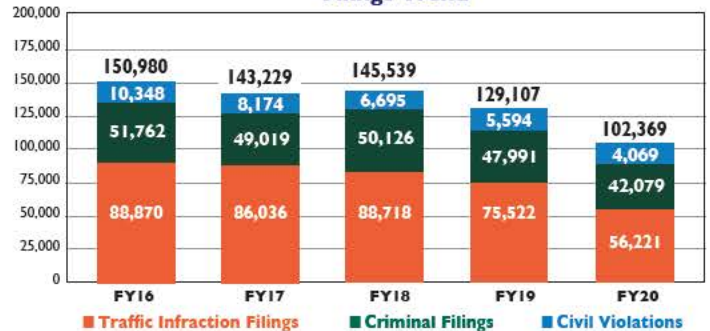
In FY20, General Funds received by the Judicial Branch were 2.24% of the State total. Personal Services accounted for more than half (57.1%) of all Judicial Branch expenditures.

FY20 REVENUE

Revenue Collected by the Judicial Branch



Filings Trend

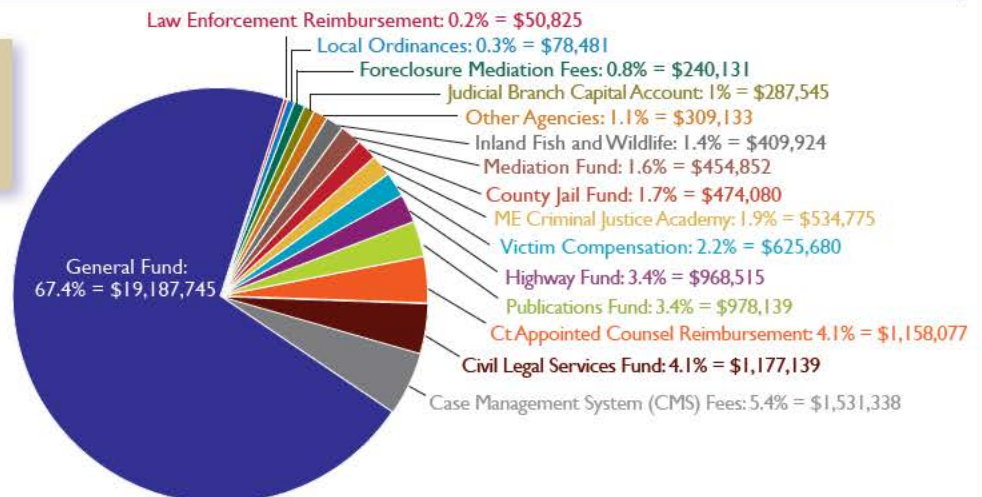


REVENUE DISTRIBUTED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

FY20 Revenue Distribution Total: \$28,466,379

Deposited to Maine's General Fund.....\$19,187,745
Deposited to Dedicated Revenue Accounts...\$9,278,634

Revenue collected by the Judicial Branch is deposited into the State's General Fund and to other State-dedicated accounts as required by Maine Statutes.



COURT REGIONS AND CASES FILED

REGION 5

CASE TOTAL 13,109
REGIONAL POPULATION 168,933
COURT LOCATIONS 5

PENOBSCOT 3,397 sq. miles/pop. 152,148
 Bangor Superior 236
 Penobscot UCD 6,675
 Bangor District 3,483
 Newport District 870
 Lincoln/Millinocket District 637

PISCATAQUIS 3,961 sq. miles/pop. 16,785
 Dover-Foxcroft Superior 21
 Piscataquis UCD 720
 Dover-Foxcroft District 467

REGION 4

CASE TOTAL 12,792
REGIONAL POPULATION 172,786
COURT LOCATIONS 4

SOMERSET 3,924 sq. miles/pop. 50,484
 Skowhegan Superior 67
 Somerset UCD 1,780
 Skowhegan District 1,663

KENNEBEC 868 sq. miles/pop. 122,302
 Augusta Superior 362
 Kennebec UCD 4,344
 Augusta District 2,756
 Waterville District 1,820

REGION 3

CASE TOTAL 12,953
REGIONAL POPULATION 196,451
COURT LOCATIONS 6

FRANKLIN 1,697 sq. miles/pop. 30,199
 Farmington Superior 39
 Franklin UCD 1,065
 Farmington District 780

OXFORD 2,077 sq. miles/pop. 57,975
 South Paris Superior 127
 Oxford UCD 1,676
 South Paris District 809
 Rumford District 559

ANDROSCOGGIN 468 sq. miles/pop. 108,277
 Auburn Superior 269
 Androscoggin UCD 3,680
 Lewiston District 3,949

REGION 2

CASE TOTAL 15,246
REGIONAL POPULATION 295,003
COURT LOCATIONS 2

CUMBERLAND 835 sq. miles/pop. 295,003
 Portland Superior 761
 Cumberland UCD 8,434
 Portland District 5,105
 Bridgton District 946

REGION 1

CASE TOTAL 13,657
REGIONAL POPULATION 207,641
COURT LOCATIONS 4

YORK 991 sq. miles/pop. 207,641
 Alfred Superior 429
 York UCD 7,679
 Biddeford District 2,347
 Springvale District 2,358
 York District 844

REGION 8

CASE TOTAL 5,498
REGIONAL POPULATION 67,055
COURT LOCATIONS 5

AROOSTOOK 6,671 sq. miles/pop. 67,055
 Caribou/Houlton Superior 273
 Aroostook UCD 3,135
 Caribou District 530
 Presque Isle District 724
 Houlton District 474
 Fort Kent/Madawaska District 362

REGION 7

CASE TOTAL 4,910
REGIONAL POPULATION 86,366
COURT LOCATIONS 3

HANCOCK 1,587 sq. miles/pop. 54,987
 Ellsworth Superior 73
 Hancock UCD 1,740
 Ellsworth District 1,271

WASHINGTON 2,563 sq. miles/pop. 31,379
 Machias Superior 49
 Washington UCD 1,038
 Machias District 433
 Calais District 306

REGION 6

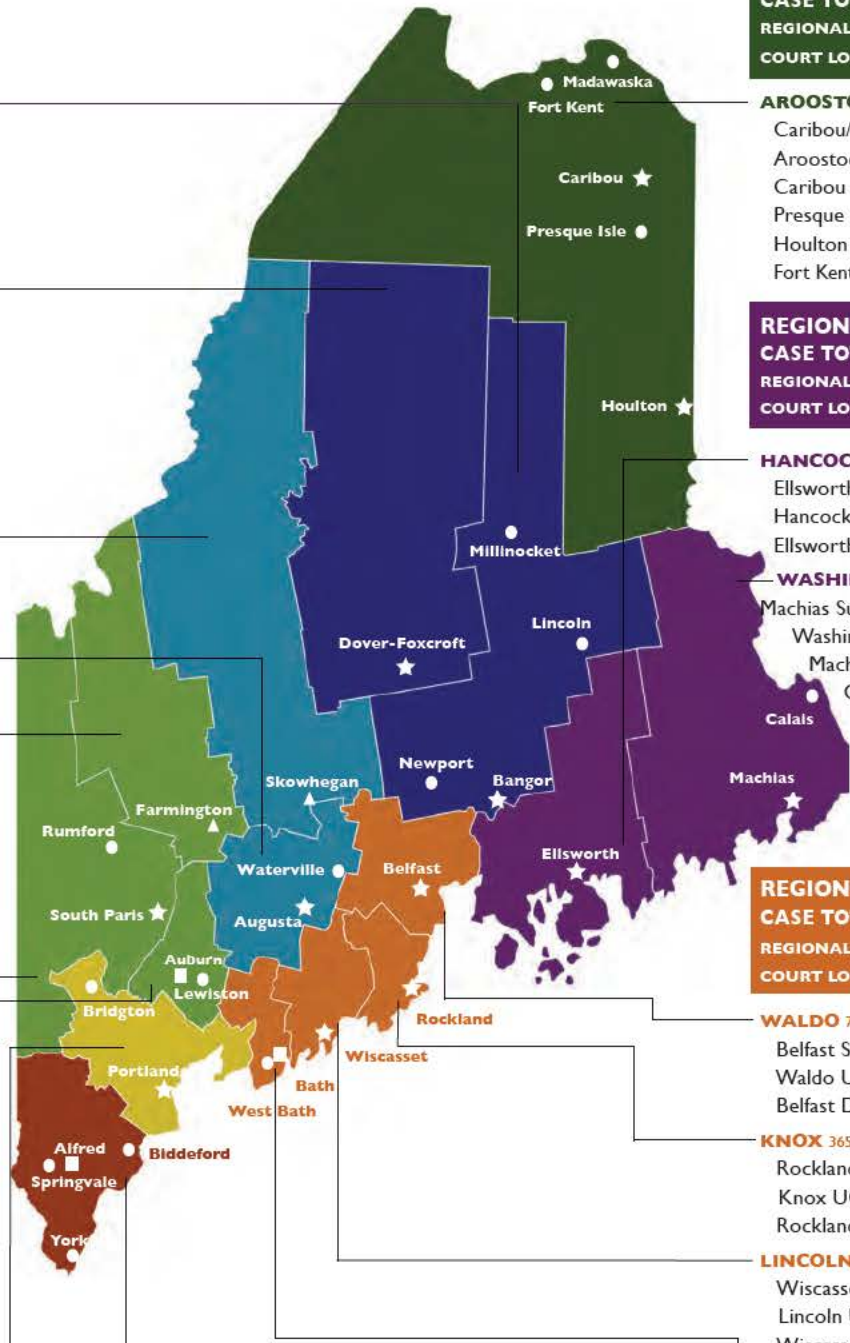
CASE TOTAL 8,667
REGIONAL POPULATION 149,977
COURT LOCATIONS 5

WALDO 730 sq. miles/pop. 39,715
 Belfast Superior 60
 Waldo UCD 1,001
 Belfast District 1,108

KNOX 365 sq. miles/pop. 39,772
 Rockland Superior 103
 Knox UCD 1,164
 Rockland District 1,028

LINCOLN 456 sq. miles/pop. 34,634
 Wiscasset Superior 68
 Lincoln UCD 844
 Wiscasset District 772

SAGadahoc 254 sq. miles/pop. 35,856
 Bath Superior 56
 Sagadahoc UCD 936
 West Bath District 1,527



KEY

- District Court
 - Superior Court
 - ▲ District and Superior in the same city/town
 - ★ District and Superior Court occupy the same building
- Counties grouped together by color are part of a single court **REGION**, where resources and scheduling are coordinated.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information about the Courts
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
 PO Box 4820
 Portland, ME 04112-4820
 (207) 822-0792 711 (Maine Relay)

Visit the website: courts.maine.gov
 or scan the QR code

TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS

Total: 56,221

* Square mileage and population data source: US Census Bureau 2019 Estimates