

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.....	1,372,247
GEOGRAPHIC AREA.....	30,843 sq. mi.
COURT LOCATIONS.....	34



Judicial Branch Operations.....	\$65,742,787
Personal Services.....	\$51,420,319
All Other Operational Expenses.....	\$14,322,468
Debt Service.....	\$16,822,294
Guardians ad Litem and Psychological Exams.....	\$4,486,643
Capital.....	\$523,108
FY21 EXPENDITURES	TOTAL: \$87,574,832
% of State General Fund:	2.33%

FY21 REVENUE	TOTAL: \$25,390,672
Deposited to Maine's General Fund.....	\$16,600,394
Deposited to Dedicated Revenue Accounts.....	\$8,790,278



JUDICIAL OFFICERS & STAFF	TOTAL: 549
JUDGES (Total).....	63
District Court Judges.....	39
Superior Court Justices.....	17
Supreme Judicial Court Justices.....	7
*FAMILY LAW MAGISTRATES.....	8
*STAFF.....	478
Administration.....	6
Clerks.....	249
Court Process, Services.....	18
Court Reporters/Tech Asst.....	12
Finance, HR, Facilities.....	19
Information Technology.....	23
Judicial Admins.....	12
Law Clerks.....	27
Security.....	93
Service Center.....	19

*Magistrates: one-third General Fund, two-thirds federally funded.
*Staff: categories adjusted to reflect positions & functions from all funds.



FY21 CASES FILED	TOTAL: 130,886
Violations Bureau.....	49,689
Unified Criminal Docket.....	40,859
District Court.....	37,353
Superior Court.....	2,587
Supreme Judicial Court.....	398

2021 in Review: Pandemic Challenges & the Judicial Branch's Response

Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, the needs of Maine people for access to justice together with the operational and budgetary pressures on the Judicial Branch have never been greater. Throughout 2021, we continued to keep courthouse doors open with the assistance of new processes, technologies, and the expanded use of remote proceedings. However, court proceedings conducted during a pandemic, whether remote or in person, take more time and resources. As a result, cases are backlogged in many, though not all, dockets.

As pandemic conditions eased in the summer and early fall of 2021, we began to return to full pre-pandemic operations. After a short reprieve, COVID-19 cases began to surge last fall. Thanks to high vaccination rates in many areas, courts continued in-person proceedings, including jury trials in many locations. Remote proceedings made possible with new technology and procedures helped move the caseload. While we made progress in 2021, cases took longer to resolve. Reasons were varied, including limited court resources, slowed processes, delays involving litigants, unreliable internet connections, attorneys' conflicting schedules, and overwhelming caseloads. We worry that justice delayed is truly justice denied.

Despite applying all available resources, technologies, and revamped processes, we continue to have an enormous backlog of cases. We are making small inroads, but the pandemic has exposed the uncomfortable reality that we simply lack the capacity to just "catch up" or to schedule and hear more cases with our existing workforce. We are looking for additional, targeted resources to add capacity to schedule and hear more cases.

Accepting the challenge to innovate

The pandemic upended longstanding court processes, but it also presented an opportunity to seek and implement new solutions. In 2021 we:

Expanded remote proceedings in all case types. The widespread use of remote technologies can result in great savings to court users in time, expenses, fees, and travel.

Enhanced courthouse safety and security for our employees and the public. Thanks to the Governor and the Legislature, we added 10 new marshal positions in 2021. These new positions have helped keep courthouses open to the public and move the courts closer to providing appropriate security at our courthouses statewide.

Increased collaboration with system partners to improve processes. Throughout 2021, we re-energized our outreach to the

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James T. Glessner
Former State Court
Administrator

Farewell and Thank You James "Ted" Glessner

We would be remiss if we didn't note Ted Glessner's retirement at the end of 2021, after 29 years of service to the people of Maine as State Court Administrator. Ted's dedication to the continuous improvement of the court system continues to inspire.

THE COURTS OF MAINE

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT



From Left to Right: Justice Andrew M. Horton, Justice Joseph M. Jabar, Justice Andrew M. Mead, Chief Justice Valerie Stanfill, Justice Ellen A. Gorman, Justice Thomas E. Humphrey, and Justice Catherine R. Connors

TRIAL CHIEFS



Robert Mullen
Chief Justice,
Superior Court



Jed J. French
Chief Judge,
District Court



Rick E. Lawrence
Deputy Chief Judge,
District Court

Year in Review — Continued

bar associations, the Prosecutor's Association, and the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services (MCILS) to problem solve and identify new possibilities in the areas of scheduling, and the use of remote technologies for contested traffic trials, small claims cases, and jury selection in civil cases.

Continued offering eFiling in select courts and worked toward the next phase of implementation. The Judicial Branch continued to offer eFiling for most civil and family matters cases in the Bangor courts and the statewide Business & Consumer Docket (BCD). We also began a review of project goals, the work accomplished to date, and the necessary next steps to increase the likelihood of project success in the future. Where the new system is not yet available, the courts developed an informal new process to allow filing using a web-based platform instead of having to go to a courthouse. The pilot launched in York County Courts in January 2022 and will be expanded.

Continued work to create safe and dignified courthouses. Construction on the new York Judicial Center (YJC) continued. The project remains on budget at just over 50% completion and occupancy is expected in the spring of 2023. The building will provide ample space for court proceedings and related meetings and will take advantage of the latest solar and geothermal energy sources and technology.

Innovative referee pilot program to address the backlog in family and non-jury cases. In a newly created program, recently retired judges will be appointed as referees to handle civil and family cases remotely. The program will be launched as a pilot with family cases in which both sides have an attorney, but we hope to expand it to cases with unrepresented parties as well as other civil non-jury cases. The goal is to add capacity in the short-term to allow us to address the backlog without adding work to existing personnel.

Much has changed since the beginning of the pandemic. Like so many organizations, the Judicial Branch has faced significant challenges and has had to adapt to new ways of doing things. But the pandemic has also inspired creativity and innovation — maybe even experimentation. Through it all, we remain committed to our mission to provide access to justice to the people of Maine.

TOTAL FY21 COURT CASE FILINGS: 130,886

CRIMINAL FILINGS: 38,288

Unified Criminal Docket (UCD)	35,717
Probation Revocations (UCD)	2,417
Superior Court Probation Revocations	153
District Court Probation Revocations	1

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: 18,139

Protection from Abuse	5,338
Divorce	4,628
Family Matters Post-Judgment	3,873
Parental Rights & Responsibilities	1,686
Child Protection	1,002
Juvenile	849
Adoptions	380
Guardianships	101
Foreign Judgments	96
Emancipations	88
Other Family Matters	70
Grandparents' Rights	21
Name Changes	7

CIVIL FILINGS: 17,918

	SUPERIOR	DISTRICT
Small Claims		4,229
FEDs (Evictions)		3,439
Other Civil	1,030	4,291
Tort	842	135
Contract	415	3,085
Foreclosure	147	244
Money Judgments		61
TOTAL(S):	2,434	15,484

OTHER ACTIONS: 6,454

Civil Violations (UCD)	2,725
Protection from Harassment (District Court)	2,471
Mental Health (District Court)	1,258

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

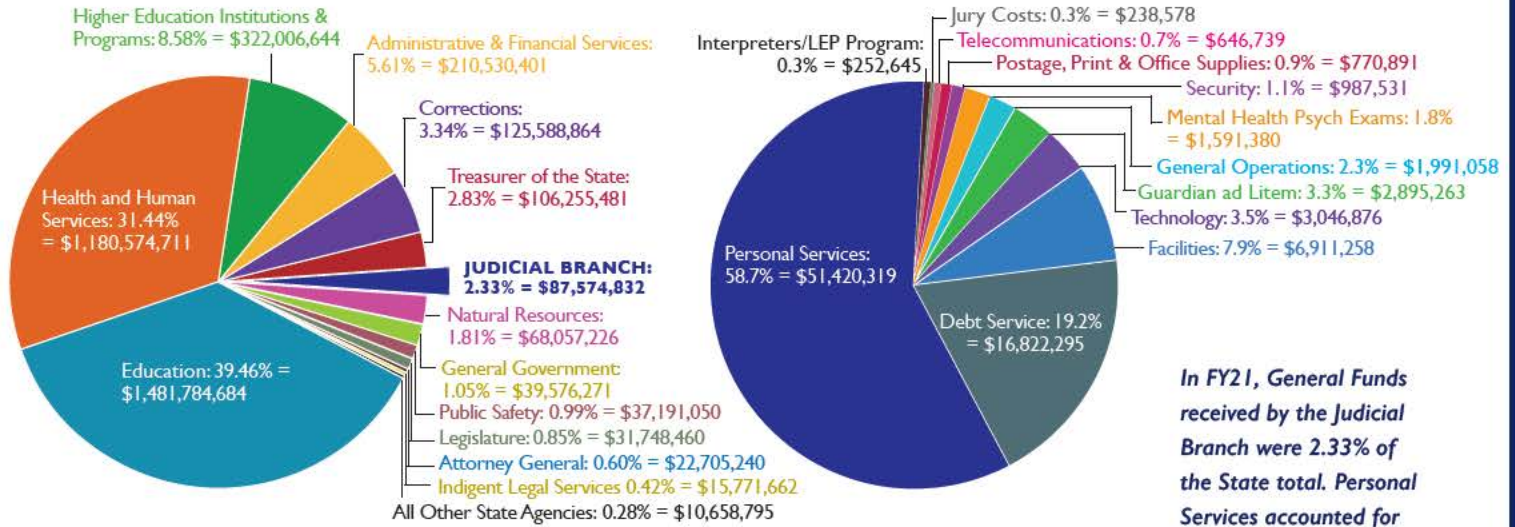
Supreme Judicial Court	398
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VIOLATIONS BUREAU

Traffic Infractions	49,689
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FISCAL INFORMATION

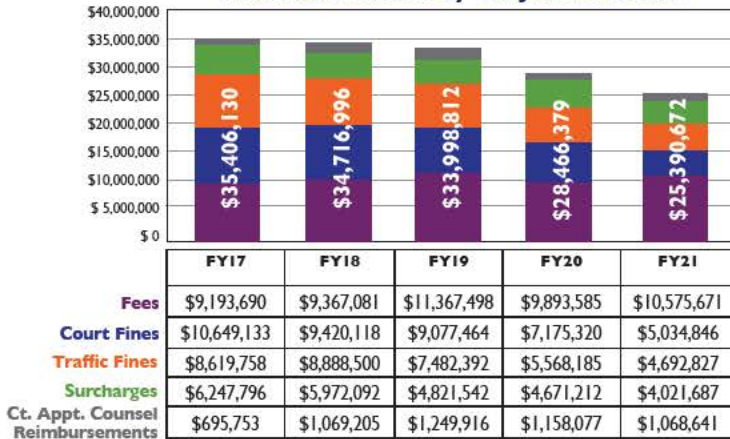
GENERAL FUND AND JUDICIAL BRANCH EXPENDITURES



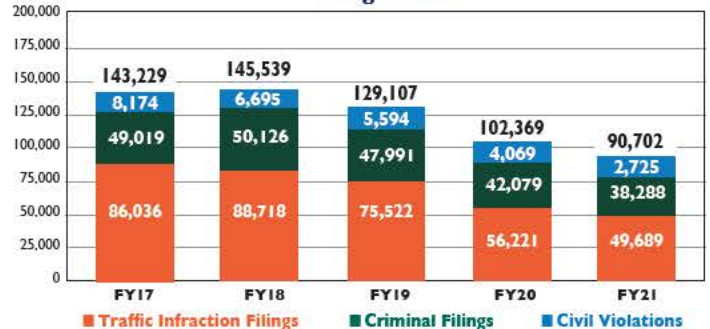
In FY21, General Funds received by the Judicial Branch were 2.33% of the State total. Personal Services accounted for more than half (58.7%) of all Judicial Branch expenditures.

FY21 REVENUE

Revenue Collected by the Judicial Branch



Filings Trend

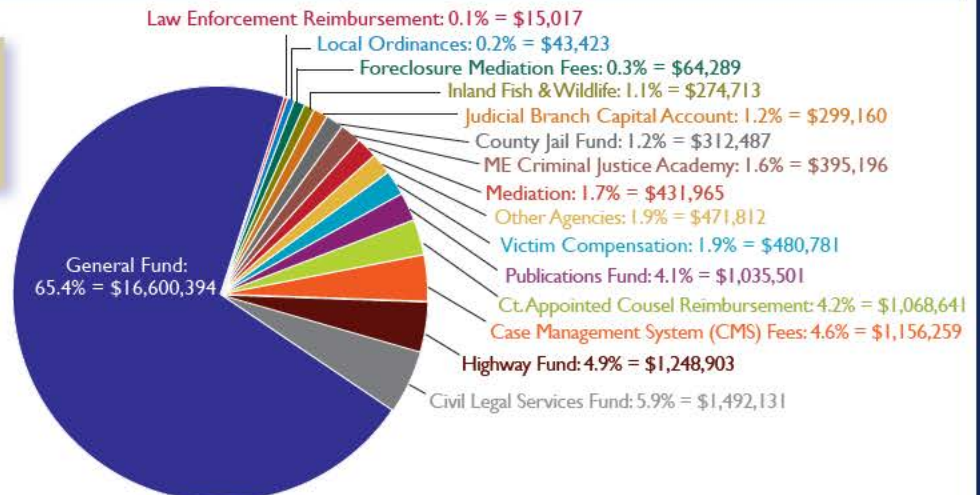


REVENUE DISTRIBUTED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

FY21 Revenue Distribution Total: \$25,390,672

Deposited to Maine's General Fund.....\$16,600,394
Deposited to Dedicated Revenue Accounts...\$8,790,278

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 12,237
REGIONAL POPULATION.....168,999
COURT LOCATIONS..... 5

PENOBSCOT 3,397 sq. miles/pop. 152,199
 Bangor Superior..... 197
 Penobscot UCD.....6,314
 Bangor District.....2,966
 Newport District..... 939
 Lincoln/Millinocket District..620

PISCATAQUIS 3,961 sq. miles/pop. 16,800
 Dover-Foxcroft Superior..... 13
 Piscataquis UCD..... 663
 Dover-Foxcroft District..... 525

REGION 4
CASE TOTAL 11,387
REGIONAL POPULATION.....174,089
COURT LOCATIONS..... 4

SOMERSET 3,924 sq. miles/pop. 50,447
 Skowhegan Superior 76
 Somerset UCD 1,452
 Skowhegan District..... 1,679

KENNEBEC 868 sq. miles/pop. 123,642
 Augusta Superior..... 328
 Kennebec UCD3,433
 Augusta District.....2,643
 Waterville District 1,776

REGION 3
CASE TOTAL 12,590
REGIONAL POPULATION.....198,372
COURT LOCATIONS..... 6

FRANKLIN 1,697 sq. miles/pop. 29,456
 Farmington Superior..... 44
 Franklin UCD 843
 Farmington District.....772

OXFORD 2,077 sq. miles/pop. 57,777
 South Paris Superior..... 97
 Oxford UCD 1,622
 South Paris District..... 833
 Rumford District 579

ANDROSCOGGIN 468 sq. miles/pop. 111,139
 Auburn Superior..... 185
 Androscoggin UCD3,367
 Lewiston District.....4,248

REGION 2
CASE TOTAL 14,061
REGIONAL POPULATION.....303,069
COURT LOCATIONS..... 2

CUMBERLAND 835 sq. miles/pop. 303,069
 Portland Superior..... 645
 Cumberland UCD.....7,518
 Portland District.....4,847
 Bridgton District..... 1,051

REGION 1
CASE TOTAL 11,602
REGIONAL POPULATION.....211,972
COURT LOCATIONS..... 4

YORK 991 sq. miles/pop. 211,972
 Alfred Superior 392
 York UCD5,831
 Biddeford District.....2,371
 Springvale District.....2,216
 York District.....792

REGION 8
CASE TOTAL5,412
REGIONAL POPULATION.....67,105
COURT LOCATIONS..... 5

AROOSTOOK 6,671 sq. miles/pop. 67,105
 Caribou/Houlton Superior.....235
 Aroostook UCD3,103
 Caribou District428
 Presque Isle District787
 Houlton District.....524
 Fort Kent/Madawaska District.... 335

REGION 7
CASE TOTAL4,753
REGIONAL POPULATION.....86,573
COURT LOCATIONS..... 3

HANCOCK 1,587 sq. miles/pop. 55,478
 Ellsworth Superior 90
 Hancock UCD1,547
 Ellsworth District.....1,235

WASHINGTON 2,563 sq. miles/pop. 31,095
 Machias Superior 38
 Washington UCD1,047
 Machias District.....472
 Calais District.....324

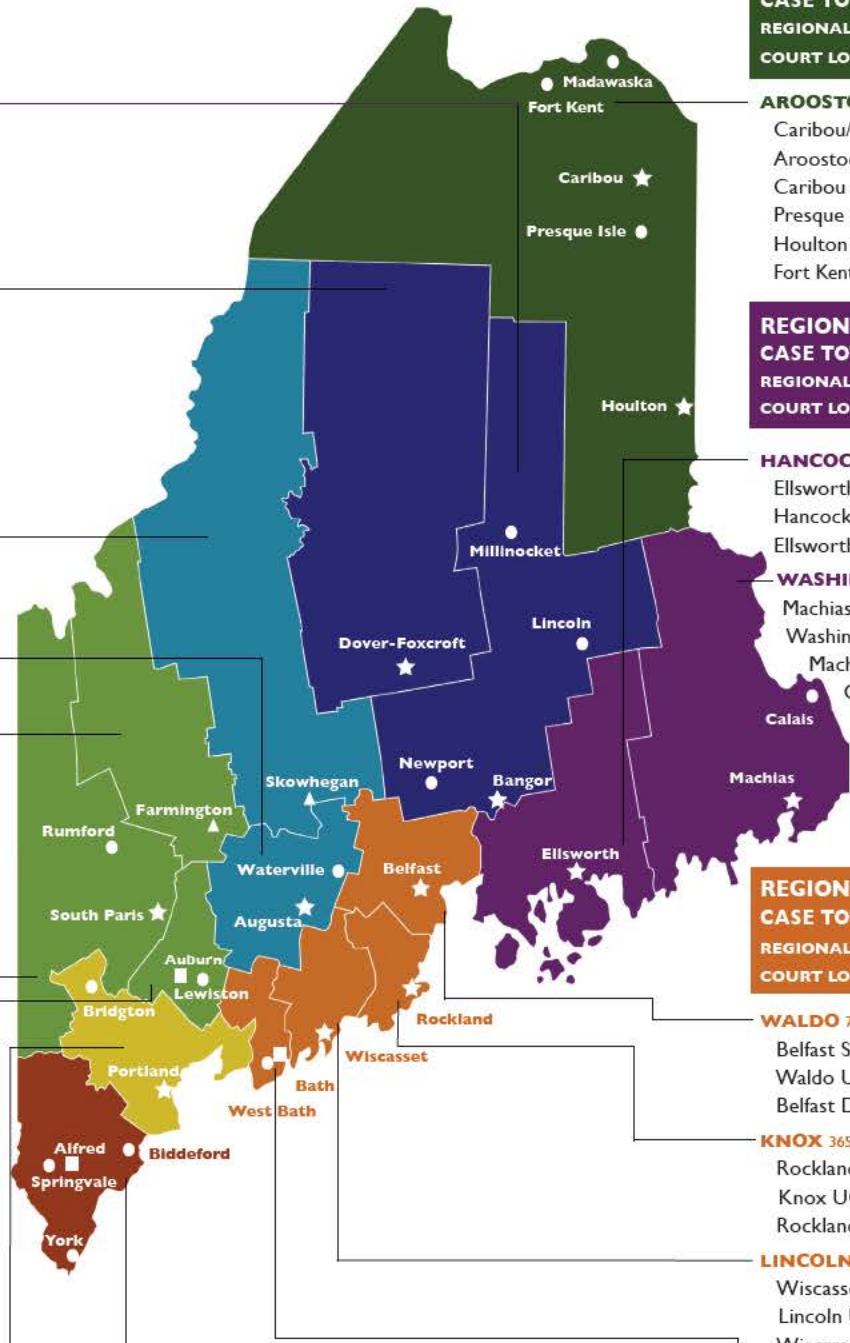
REGION 6
CASE TOTAL8,757
REGIONAL POPULATION.....152,150
COURT LOCATIONS..... 5

WALDO 730 sq. miles/pop. 39,607
 Belfast Superior 58
 Waldo UCD 1,183
 Belfast District.....1,047

KNOX 365 sq. miles/pop. 40,607
 Rockland Superior 92
 Knox UCD.....1,149
 Rockland District.....1,083

LINCOLN 456 sq. miles/pop. 35,237
 Wiscasset Superior 53
 Lincoln UCD873
 Wiscasset District.....740

SAGadahoc 254 sq. miles/pop. 36,699
 Bath Superior..... 44
 Sagadahoc UCD.....914
 West Bath District1,521



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: 49,689

* Square mileage and population data source: US Census Bureau 2020 Estimates