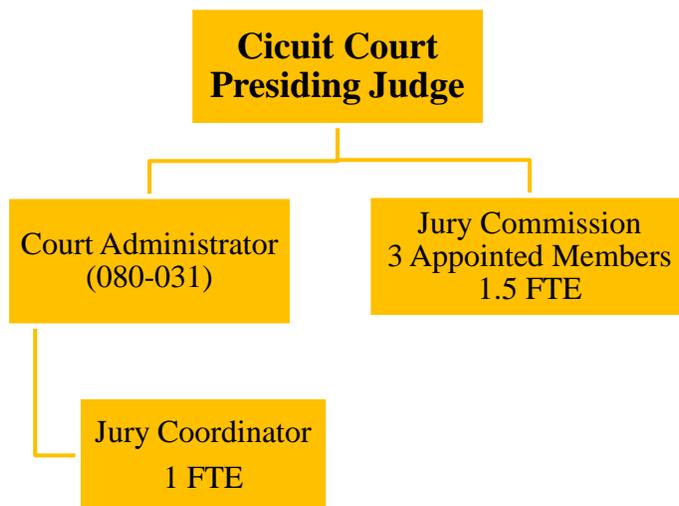


JURY COMMISSION

Fund 080-032



Jury Commission positions: 2.5 FTE

The positions and duties of the jury commissioners are statutorily defined in the Jury Commission Act (705 ILCS 310/). The Jury Coordinator position was expanded from 0.67 FTE to 1 FTE in 2020. Responsibility for the Jury Commission Fund was transferred back to the Circuit Court in 2021.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Jury Commission is to carry out the constitutional and statutory responsibilities vested in the Jury Commission.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Jury trials were suspended in January and February 2021 after the Presiding Judge determined that proper distancing and facilities limitations prevented jury trials from proceeding safely due to the several factors including the increase in COVID-19 positivity rates, jurors' safety concerns, and a reduction in requests for jury trials in prior months. Consequently, Jury Commission (and related Circuit Court line items) expenditures were lower than expenditures for the same period in pre-pandemic fiscal years.

The Jury Commission budget was maintained by the Circuit Clerk from FY 2014 until the end of FY 2020. The only costs associated with this fund were for personnel until FY 2018, at which time all jury-related expenditures were made from this fund. These expenses included licensing and maintenance fees for the proprietary software used to manage juror information and communications, the printing of summonses, questionnaire postcards, parking passes, juror badges, and miscellaneous supplies needed for jury coordinating operations.

While the most significant expenses in past years have been for personnel and juror information and communication, the Juror Expense line item (533.63), which is being transferred from the Circuit Court to the Jury Commission budget, will become the most significant. This line item is used to pay jurors \$10 per day served plus mileage during their service. Most of this expense occurs on the first day of jury service each term, when all jurors who will serve during that term attend juror orientation. Historically, orientation took place at the courthouse only. With the transition from one-week to two-week terms in FY 2020,

expenses from this line item are expected to decrease because the number of orientation days has been nearly halved.

In response to safety concerns during the pandemic, juror orientation has been offered remotely since FY 2020. In 2021, approximately 33% of jurors reporting have attended orientation remotely. There are no plans to discontinue the remote option at this time.

FINANCIAL

Fund 080 Dept 032			2020	2021	2021	2022
			Actual	Original	Projected	Budget
332	38	CURE PROGRAM	\$2,686	\$0	\$0	\$0
		FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL SHARED REVENUE	\$2,686	\$0	\$0	\$0
REVENUE TOTALS			\$2,686	\$0	\$0	\$0
511	2	APPOINTED OFFICIAL SALARY	\$4,475	\$4,341	\$4,341	\$4,341
511	3	REG. FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES	\$29,426	\$41,272	\$41,272	\$42,511
511	4	REG. PART-TIME EMPLOYEES	\$6,104	\$0	\$0	\$0
511	5	TEMP. SALARIES & WAGES PERSONNEL	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$0
			\$40,005	\$47,613	\$45,613	\$46,852
522	1	STATIONERY & PRINTING	\$680	\$2,750	\$2,078	\$2,200
522	2	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$387	\$1,700	\$437	\$1,600
		COMMODITIES	\$1,067	\$4,450	\$2,515	\$3,800
533	29	COMPUTER/INF TCH SERVICES	\$207	\$0	\$825	\$908
533	42	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$16,271	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,500
533	62	JUROR MEALS	\$262	\$725	\$0	\$4,700
533	63	JUROR EXPENSE	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$107,000
		SERVICES	\$16,740	\$12,725	\$12,825	\$125,108
EXPENDITURE TOTALS			\$57,812	\$64,788	\$60,953	\$175,760

DESCRIPTION

The Champaign County Jury Commission and jury personnel are responsible for the summoning of jurors for trial, reviewing requests for excusal or deferment, and providing orientation and guidance during jurors' service. The jury commission is comprised of three members appointed by the Circuit Judges of the Sixth Judicial Circuit for three-year terms. The Circuit Court will continue to work with the Circuit Clerk to provide optimal juror pools for trials in Champaign County.

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a sufficient number of jurors for trials in the Champaign County Circuit Court
2. To ensure that jurors receive thorough information and support during their jury service
3. To provide a jury pool that is a representative cross-section of the community

4. To provide an understanding forum for individuals to request excusal or deferment of their jury service

ALIGNMENT to STRATEGIC PLAN

County Board Goal 1 – Champaign County is committed to being a high performing, open and transparent local government organization

- The members of the jury commission and the jury personnel are working to make the juror processes easier to navigate through upgrades to the current jury system.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Projected	FY2022 Budgeted
Number of questionnaires sent	13,500	20,000	22,000
Questionnaires not returned	4,927	7,300	8,030
Questionnaires returned as undelivered	2,218	3,268	3,615
Number of jury trials	19	30	45
Number of jurors summoned	1,950	1,800	2,800
Number of jurors excused	302	356	315
Number of jury terms	19	19	20