

# Budget Enhancement

FY2023: Judicial Districts



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## **TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATION**

For FY2023, the Idaho Supreme Court requests an ongoing General Fund appropriation for one Deputy Trial Court Administrator in each judicial district. The General Fund appropriation necessary to support this request is \$899,800.

Idaho Code 1-801 through 1-808 establishes seven judicial districts, each consisting of multiple counties. Each judicial district has an administrative district judge and a trial court administrator (TCA) who are, together, responsible for the administration of court business within the district as established by the Constitution, state statute and the inherent power of the court.

The work of Idaho's TCAs is both legally complex and time-intensive. Even before the additional demands of the pandemic, it became clear that a single person cannot accomplish all of the necessary tasks, including work in each county within a district. The Deputy TCA position would assist each TCA with the overall operational management of the courts.

## **FOURTH DISTRICT JUDICIAL NEEDS**

For FY2023, the Idaho Supreme Court requests ongoing General Fund appropriation for one new district judge and an accompanying court reporter, to be chambered in Elmore County, and two new magistrate judges to be chambered in Ada County. The FY2022 General Fund appropriation necessary to support this request is \$549,500, which includes \$194,040 for the district

judge, \$69,114 for the court reporter, and \$128,743 for each magistrate judge. This amount is for nine months, as each position's start date would correspond with the county fiscal year. Thereafter, the funding would need to be annualized. At current salaries, the total annualized cost for these positions would be \$694,086.

These positions will help address several needs. Magistrate judges elected in Boise and Valley counties and an Idaho Court of Appeals judge help preside over certain cases in Ada County due to its high caseloads — in FY2021, Fourth Judicial District magistrate judges averaged 1,628 cases each. The district is attempting to address need through innovative solutions such as a warrant court. The volume of administrative work in the Fourth District also means its Administrative District Judge cannot carry a full traditional caseload, reducing available district judge resources. The Fourth District would also like to expand its treatment courts in response to need, but cannot do so without additional judicial support.

## **LANGUAGE ACCESS**

For FY2023, the Court requests an ongoing appropriation to support language access services in the Third, Fourth and Sixth judicial districts, each of which face additional needs due to local demand. The FY2023 General Fund appropriation necessary to support this request is \$105,000.

