



IDAHO JUDICIAL BRANCH

PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE: FY2027-29

This document represents a locally informed vision for Idaho's state courts over the next three years.

The Idaho Judicial Branch is constitutionally charged to provide a justice system that is fair, timely, impartial, and accessible to all. From small claims matters in our most rural communities to complex trials in our population centers, our state depends on a court system that can meet diverse local needs while operating as a unified branch of government.

In early 2025, we undertook a comprehensive effort to gather input from those who know our courts best: the personnel who staff them and the citizens who use them. We surveyed court personnel and court users statewide on their experiences — what works well and what needs improvement.



CHIEF JUSTICE
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Court leadership from across Idaho then met to discuss the survey results and identify priorities based on operational realities and community needs.

The recommendations in this plan reflect that collaborative work. They establish goals to guide the Judicial Branch's efforts across three years, with priorities focused on efficiency, technology, security, and workforce development. The plan also addresses transparency and public understanding — helping Idahoans know their courts and the essential role courts play in our constitutional system.

We extend sincere appreciation to all who contributed to this effort. We also thank the National Center for State Courts for its valuable expertise and support.

MISSION

As the third branch of government, we provide access to justice by ensuring fair processes and the timely, impartial resolution of cases.

VALUES

*Integrity • Fairness • Independence
Respect • Excellence • Innovation*

OUR GOALS

ENHANCE PUBLIC TRUST, EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Build trust and confidence in the courts through transparency, communication, education, and community outreach.

1

Foster partnerships with court partners and the community to promote and enhance the courts' work.

2

Promote transparency and accountability by making accurate data available, making data-driven decisions, and enhancing efforts to keep the public, court partners, and employees informed.

3

Leverage educational initiatives and outreach opportunities to increase public and media awareness of the court system's purpose and responsibilities.

IMPROVE COURT OPERATIONS AND EFFICIENCIES

Continuously pursue effective and efficient process improvements through collaboration and innovation to maximize court operations.

1

Identify opportunities to align statewide policies and practices with consistency, while ensuring courts maintain the flexibility to respond to unique community needs.

2

Promote and implement best practices that optimize court operations, efficiencies, and docket management.

3

Improve access to justice and transparency by providing user-friendly resources and support for self-represented litigants.

FOSTER A STRONG WORKFORCE

Strengthen the judiciary by attracting, developing, and retaining a talented and committed workforce, and by proactively defining and preparing for future needs.

1

Develop a workforce that has access to the skills, knowledge, and tools required to succeed and adjust to changing job demands and meet organizational needs.

2

Retain talented employees by creating a supportive workplace culture that values well-being, open communication, and trust.

3

Regularly assess workforce staffing needs and requirements to align resources with organizational goals today and into the future.

OUR GOALS

ENSURE A SAFE AND SECURE WORK ENVIRONMENT

Provide a safe and secure work environment for all by addressing both physical court security and the cybersecurity of court systems.

1

Partner with counties to fund, implement, evaluate, and maintain secure court facilities where the public, employees, and court partners are safe.

2

Establish proactive measures to identify, assess, and mitigate threats against judicial officers and court personnel.

3

Ensure the security and integrity of court technology systems through proactive cybersecurity strategies, monitoring, and training.

USE TECHNOLOGY AND DATA TO IMPROVE COURT OPERATIONS

Use data and technological innovations to improve court operations and efficiencies and inform policy decisions.

1

Develop tools to ensure data is effectively used when making decisions regarding court operations, system improvements, and court programs.

2

Monitor innovations — including artificial intelligence, digital evidence management, case management systems, and remote platforms — to improve operations and enhance public accessibility and access to justice.

3

Equip judges, staff, and court partners with the skills and ongoing support needed to effectively use existing and emerging technologies.

