



K-1
District Court Docket Fees

K-2
Introduction to State Budget

K-3
State General Fund Transfers

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State Budget

K-1 District Court Docket Fees

Kansas established a uniform system of district court docket fees in 1974. These original docket fees were \$35 for civil cases and varying amounts for criminal cases, depending upon the nature of the crime.

From 1984 to 1995, local law libraries were allowed to charge differing library fees in addition to statutorily set docket fees, which caused docket fees to be non-uniform.

In 1996, the Legislature passed legislation that returned docket fees to a uniform level and also added docket fees for filing post-divorce motions for changes in child custody, child support orders, or visitation. The 2006 Legislature passed legislation specifying only the Legislature can establish fees or moneys for court procedures, including docket fees, filing fees, or other fees related to access to court procedures.

The 2006 Legislature raised docket fees for four purposes: to provide additional funding for the State General Fund associated with an approved judicial branch salary increase, to provide an increase in funding for the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center Fund, to provide funding for the Kansas Judicial Council's judicial performance evaluation process, and for the Child Exchange and Visitation Centers Fund.

The 2009 Legislature raised docket fees to provide funding for the first phase of a statewide non-judicial personnel salary adjustment and raised the docket fee in criminal cases by \$1 to fund a \$186,239 increase to the Prosecuting Attorneys' Training Fund.

The 2014 Legislature redirected docket fees from state agencies to the Judicial Branch starting in fiscal year (FY) 2014. Starting in FY 2015, docket fees were deposited in three places: the Judicial Council, the Electronic Filing Management Fund, and the Judicial Branch Docket Fee Fund. Through FY 2021, the Electronic Filing Management Fund will receive the first \$3.1 million in clerk's fees. From FY 2022 forward, that amount will be reduced to \$1.5 million for annual maintenance and upkeep.

The Office of Judicial Administration collected \$30.1 million in district court docket fees, surcharges, and miscellaneous revenue for the State Treasury in FY 2019.

Fines, penalties, and forfeitures. In FY 2019, the Judicial Branch collected \$17.6 million in fines, penalties, and forfeitures. A portion of funds collected, 33.6 percent, is earmarked for assisting victims of crime, alcohol, and drug abuse programs; children’s services; and other law enforcement-related activities. The remainder is transferred to the State General Fund for general operations.

Other fees. In addition to docket fees, the Judicial Branch also imposes other fees and assessments on individuals who use the judicial system. The Judicial Branch collected \$8.3 million in other fees and assessments in FY 2019. These fees

support law enforcement-related activities within the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Office of the Attorney General, Board of Indigents’ Defense Services, and the Department of Corrections.

The 2009 Legislature authorized the Supreme Court to enact a new surcharge in FY 2009. The surcharge is approved annually by the Legislature. The 2011 Legislature increased the surcharge by 25.0 percent. The 2014 Legislature abolished the Surcharge Fund and directed all docket fees generated by the surcharge be deposited in the Docket Fee Fund. The 2019 Legislature extended the surcharge through FY 2025.

		FY 2019 Actual		FY 2020 Estimate	
Name of Fund	Administering Authority	Percent of Fees	Revenue to Fund	Percent of Fees	Revenue to Fund
Docket Fee Distribution					
Judicial Branch Docket Fee Fund	Chief Justice, Kansas Supreme Court	99.01%	\$26,783,272	99.01%	\$26,783,272
Judicial Council Fund	Judicial Council	0.99	206,294	0.99	206,294
Electronic Filing Management Fund	Chief Justice, Kansas Supreme Court	N/A	3,100,000	N/A	3,100,000
<i>Subtotal - Docket Fee Distribution</i>		<i>100.00%</i>	<i>\$30,089,566</i>	<i>100.00%</i>	<i>\$30,089,566</i>
Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures					
Crime Victim’s Compensation Fund	Attorney General	10.94%	\$1,923,325	10.94%	\$1,923,325
Crime Victim’s Assistance Fund	Attorney General	2.24	393,807	2.24	393,807
Community Alcoholism and Intoxication Programs Fund	Department for Aging and Disability Services	2.75	483,468	2.75	483,468
Dept. of Corr. Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Fund	Department of Corrections	7.65	1,344,921	7.65	1,344,921
Boating Fee Fund	Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism	0.16	28,129	0.16	28,129
Children’s Advocacy Center Fund	Attorney General	0.11	19,339	0.11	19,339
EMS Revolving Fund	Emergency Medical Services Board	2.28	400,839	2.28	400,839
Trauma Fund	Secretary of Health and Environment	2.28	400,839	2.28	400,839
Traffic Records Enhancement Fund	Department of Transportation	2.28	400,839	2.28	400,839
Criminal Justice Information Systems Line Fund	Kansas Bureau of Investigation	2.91	511,597	2.91	511,597
State General Fund	Kansas Legislature	66.40	11,673,562	66.40	11,673,562
<i>Subtotal - Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures</i>		<i>100.00%</i>	<i>\$17,580,666</i>	<i>100.00%</i>	<i>\$17,580,666</i>

		FY 2019 Actual		FY 2020 Estimate	
Name of Fund	Administering Authority	Percent of Fees	Revenue to Fund	Percent of Fees	Revenue to Fund
Other Fees and Assessments					
State General Fund	Various	Fee	\$242,445	Fee	\$242,445
Law Enforcement Training Center Fund	Various	Fee	2,245,619	Fee	2,245,619
Marriage License Fees	Various	Fee	696,470	Fee	696,470
Correctional Supervision Fund	Various	Fee	1,069,428	Fee	1,069,428
Drivers License Reinstatement Fees	Various	Fee	1,076,603	Fee	1,076,603
KBI-DNA Database Fees	Various	Fee	722,102	Fee	722,102
Community Corrections Supervision Fee Fund	Various	Fee	514,854	Fee	514,854
Indigents' Defense Services Application Fee	Various	Fee	598,230	Fee	598,230
Indigents' Defense Services Bond Forfeiture Fees	Various	Fee	509,844	Fee	509,844
Other (Law Library, Court Reporter, Interest, etc.)	Various	Fee	317,781	Fee	317,781
<i>Subtotal - Other Fees and Assessments</i>			\$7,916,065		\$7,916,065
Total of all Docket Fees, Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Assessed			\$55,936,608		\$55,936,608

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