
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Part-time Judges

Salaries for part-time judges consist of a base share and a per capita share, both of which are paid by local governments. The base share varies slightly depending on county population (between \$37,950 and \$38,150 in 1996), while per capita share is calculated directly from county population (eighteen cents per capita). For most part-time municipal court judges, the county pays 2/5, and the municipality pays 3/5 of the total compensation. However, for county operated municipal court judges, the county pays the full compensation amount.

Full-time Judges

In contrast, salaries for full-time judges consist of three components: a base of \$51,750 (paid by local governments), a per capita share (also paid by local governments) and a base share (paid by the state). The state paid share varies slightly according to county population (between \$22,000 and \$22,150 in 1996), while the per capita share is calculated directly from county population (eighteen cents per capita). Since the Jackson County Court is a county operated court, the county would be responsible for the entire locally-paid portion of the full-time judge's base of \$51,750, as well as the per capita share of \$5,441.

PERS estimate

State and local elected officials are exempt from membership in PERS (Public Employees Retirement System), unless they choose to become members. However, most do. Therefore, this analysis includes PERS payments assuming that the Jackson County Municipal Court Judge joins PERS. The state contributes at the rate of 13.31% of gross salary, while the county pays 13.55%. In addition to PERS, the state also makes contributions for other purposes: 1.45% of gross salary for Medicare for all employees hired after April 1986, 0.67% for worker's comp (this rate may change slightly beginning July 1, 1996), and 0.28% for the administration of the Central Accounting System. These costs have also been included in the State Fiscal Highlights section.

Additional Local Costs

In theory, the shift from a part-time to a full-time judge could create additional costs for the county for staff and/or equipment required to serve the needs of a full-time judge. LBO contacted the court and was told that there would be no such additional costs for the court directly related to the change in the judge's status.

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