
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Full-time Judges

Salaries for full-time municipal court judges consist of two components: a base share of \$61,750 (paid for by local governments) and a supplemental amount (paid for by the state). The base share will be paid entirely by Clermont County. The board of county commissioners of a county in which a county-operated municipal court is located pays all of the local costs of operating the municipal court, including the local base share of salary. The state paid share is currently set at \$32,650 for calendar year 2000 and will rise to \$35,500 in calendar year 2001, pursuant to section 141.04 of the Revised Code. This municipal court judge will run for election in November of 1999 and will be seated on January 1, 2000.

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 Clermont County Municipal Court Judge joins PERS. The state contributes at the rate of 13.31 percent of its supplemental salary amount, while the county pays 13.55 percent on its base share amount. The county will pay \$8,367 towards PERS, while the state will contribute \$3,700 in calendar year 2000 and \$4,725 in calendar year 2001. In addition to PERS, the state also makes contributions for other purposes: 1.45 percent of gross salary for Medicare for all employees hired after April 1986, 0.67 percent for worker's compensation, and 0.28 percent for the administration of the Central Accounting System. These costs have also been included in the State and Local Fiscal Highlights section as appropriate.

Additional Local Costs

An additional full-time judge may create some additional costs for the county in increased staff and/or equipment. LBO contacted the current Clermont County Municipal Court Administrator and one of the sitting judges and was informed that there would be minor additional costs for the court directly related to the staffing of the additional judge. The court anticipates hiring one additional secretary, but believes that no other employees will be immediately necessary. The current number of bailiffs should be able to accommodate the additional judge. The additional judge is in response to an already high caseload being handled in the court. For this reason, there are no anticipated additional expenses related to either prosecution or public defense. There are three courtrooms, in two separate buildings, currently available that can accommodate the two sitting judges and this additional judge. Construction of a new municipal court facility is scheduled to be started in calendar year 2000 and was planned prior to the decision to seek an additional judgeship.

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