



Law Library

FY 2019-20 Budget Presentation

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Department Mission, Core Values & Services

- The mission of the Alden E. Miller Law Library of Clackamas County is to provide equal access to legal information, research, services and resources to everyone without discrimination.
- The Law Library is a resource for advanced legal information and research. It serves everyone, including but not limited to, lawyers, judges, pro se litigants, students, authors and the general public.
- It provides specialized services and a well-balanced collection of materials that are available in both print and online formats.
- Professional Law Library staff assist patrons in person, by telephone, and electronically.
- The Law Library also serves as the information hub for the local legal community.

Department Mission, Core Values & Services

- “The vast majority of civil cases resolved in our civil justice system are high-volume debt collection, landlord-tenant and small claims cases that typically involve one or more self-represented litigants.” S. Bushong, D. Sullivan, L. Norris-Lampe, “Plan for Reform,” *OSB Bulletin*, at 32, Dec. 2018.
 - With its trained personnel and quiet, controlled atmosphere, the Law Library helps improve SRL understanding of law and processes in space that is sensitive to stress and trauma.
 - It also assists efforts of court personnel to manage those with mental health-related conditions.
 - The Law Library helps fill the Court gaps in equal access information dissemination by providing the more complex and complicated assistance to people in need.

Law Library Funding

History

In 1965, all county law libraries were funded by up to 40% of the uniform filing fee. In 1981, the judicial branch assumed administration of the court system, including all court personnel, from the counties. Law libraries and courthouses remained under the counties. In 1997, funding was reduced to up to 33% of the uniform filing fee. In 2007, funding was further reduced to up to 28% of the uniform filing fee. In 2011, HB 2710 eliminated the law library portion of filing fees and directed all revenue from the filing fees into the State's General Fund. HB 5056 appropriated \$7.4 million of General Fund to the Judicial Department for distributions to the counties for law libraries or law library services during the 2011-13 biennium with the appropriation to be based on the prior biennium's collections of civil filing fees in each county's circuit court. The amount was equal to the average biennial amount generated from the law library fee during the 2005-07 and 2007-09 biennia.

County Law Library funding was directly tied to its courthouse activity levels. It is no longer. 100% of our revenue is exactly the same as it was over a decade ago.

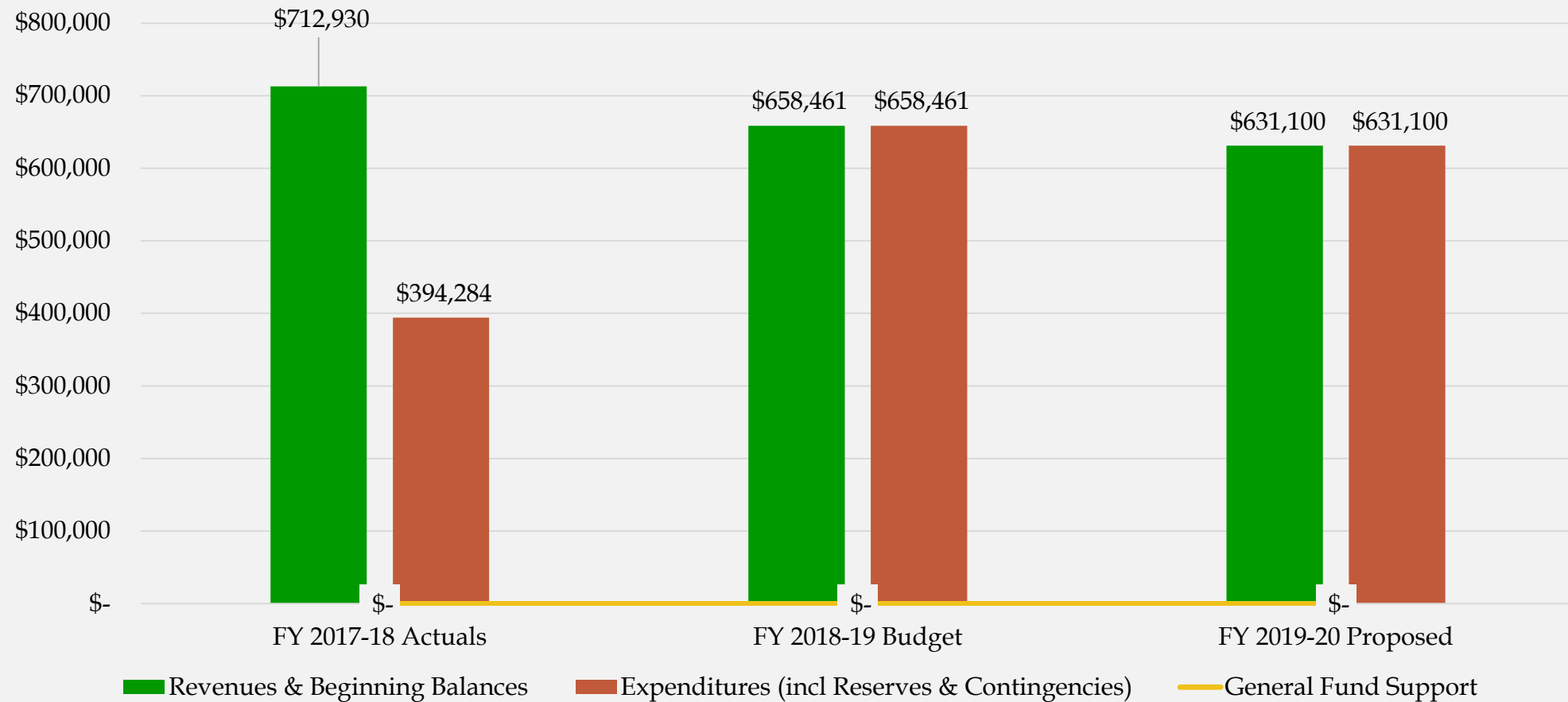
Current

In 2012, the 2011-13 biennium General Fund appropriation for county law libraries was further reduced by 3.5%. The county law library appropriation was combined with the mediation and arbitration program appropriation into a single \$14.28 million appropriation with each county having authority over distribution.

Law library revenue has consistently been reduced and remained stagnant for the past 11 years. Legal publication costs in print and online have continued to rise. All other costs have continued to rise. Budget reductions have been constant and extreme. The collection, including access to legal research resources that are not available online for low or no cost, has suffered the greatest.

The Law Library has never sought support from the General Fund. Existing services and collection levels are being maintained by tapping into our reserve fund. At this rate, this fund will be depleted within the next biennium.

Departmental Budget Request



Patron Usage Statistics

ATTORNEYS

	Phone	Email	In Person	Totals
July	29	9	240	278
August	27	1	247	275
September	32	2	263	297
October	35	9	336	380
November	51	6	353	410
December	54	7	398	459
	Phone	Email	In Person	Totals
January	43	3	231	277
February	34	1	219	254
March	24	8	220	252
April	32	12	142	186
May	35	10	250	295
June	35	10	250	295
Total	431	78	3149	3658

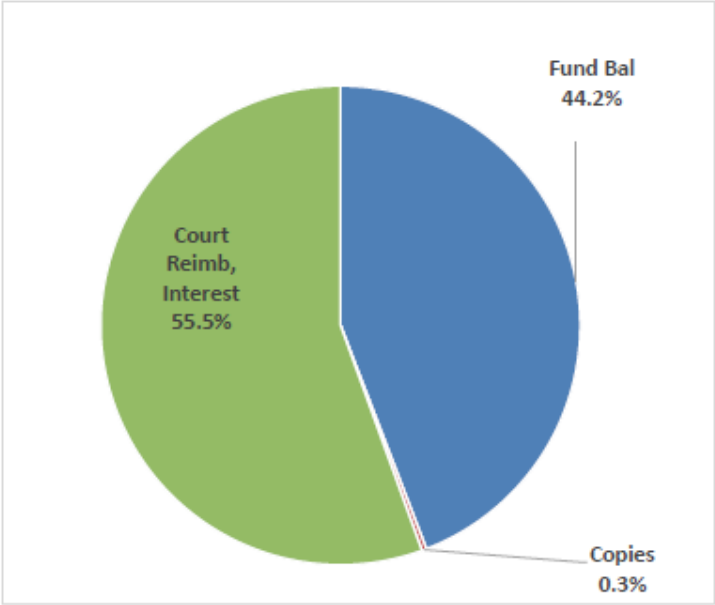
Advanced Law Librarian (2,336), CALR (1,292), and Website Assistance (862). ESTIMATED GRAND TOTAL 9,658

NON-ATTORNEYS

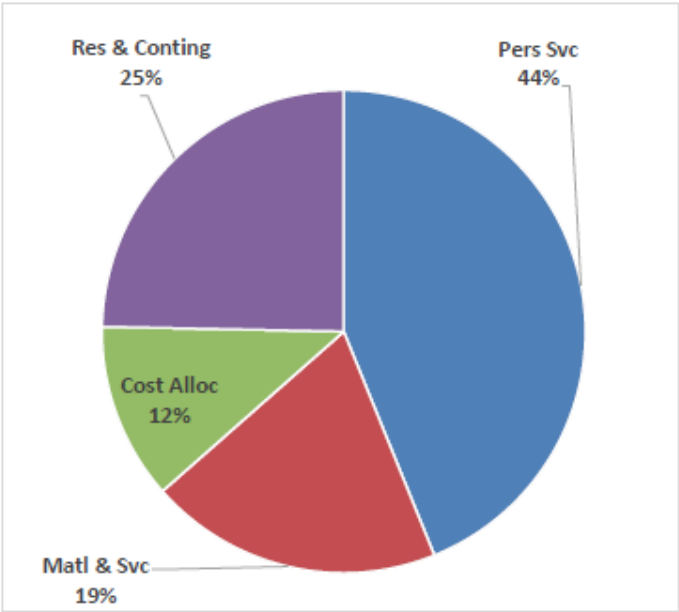
	Phone	Email	In Person	Totals
July	43	0	67	110
August	24	0	97	121
September	36	1	94	131
October	36	4	93	133
November	54	0	62	116
December	32	2	87	121
	Phone	Email	In Person	Totals
January	47	0	78	125
February	27	0	82	109
March	21	4	109	134
April	31	0	115	146
May	30	2	100	132
June	30	2	100	132
Total	411	15	1084	1510

FISCAL YEAR 2018-19
TOTAL Phone 842 Email 93 In Person 4233 Total 5168

Budget Comparison (2015 & 2020)



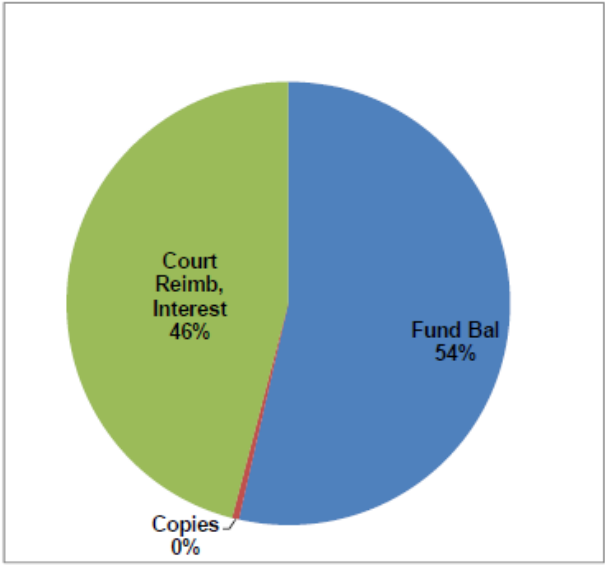
Resources



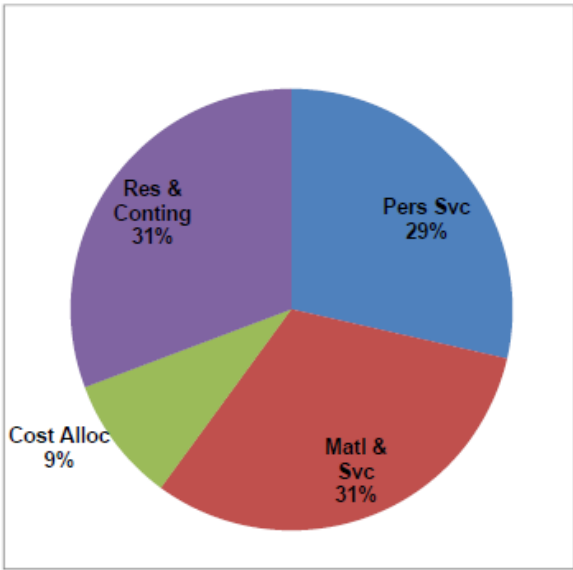
Requirements

Budget Comparison

Law Library
FY 15 Proposed Budget



Resources



Requirements

Department Vision

- We envision an efficient, trauma-informed information flow in the new courthouse that includes the Law Library.
- The Law Library is a key asset in the courthouse information flow system. We have a Strategic Development Plan to maintain the Law Library's existing service and collection levels over the next five years. We also seek to improve coordination of its services with existing access to justice initiatives that are in place now and in the new courthouse.

Department Vision

- While the public information desk and self-help area of the courthouse will meet the basic legal information and assistance needs of the local community, the Law Library will serve the advanced legal information, reference, research and assistance needs of the local community.
- The two will best operate in close proximity to one another in order to minimize frustrations and provide an equal access, well-rounded experience to all users. Both areas will provide a high-tech, high-touch experience for everyone.
- While the Court provides basic electronic forms and instructions, the Law Library provides advanced electronic forms and specialized staff assistance.

Department Vision

- The Court also provides DIY legal services to non-lawyers as part of its eCourt package. The Law Library provides advanced assistance to users struggling with navigating those available online DIY services and those who need legal information or advice prior to doing so.
- In less-populated counties without easy access to public law libraries, partnerships between public libraries and trial courts are helping to expand self-help services to litigants. In more populated counties, specialized local law library services are essential. In more populated counties, public law libraries are integral to the expansion of legal access and services to everyone (not only self-represented litigants) in public libraries, community centers and beyond.
- Our Plan is the Alden E. Miller Law Library and Legal Resource Center of Clackamas County will increase collaborative efforts with the Clackamas County Circuit Court to continue providing and improving equal access to justice for all users.

Emerging Issues

- 2017 Legislation carved out an option for Multnomah County to use up to 100% of its law library funding for a court facilitation program.
- 2018 Legislation introduced expanding the Multnomah option to all counties.
- A work group on county law libraries is being convened for the 2020 Legislative session. We hope to be included with helping plan a sustainable administrative and organizational structure for the future of all Oregon county law libraries.

Questions?

www.clackamas.us/lawlibrary

