

# Rhode Island Judiciary

Governor's FY 2024 Revised,  
FY 2025 Recommended & Capital Budget  
Staff Presentation to the House Finance Subcommittee  
on Public Safety  
April 2, 2024

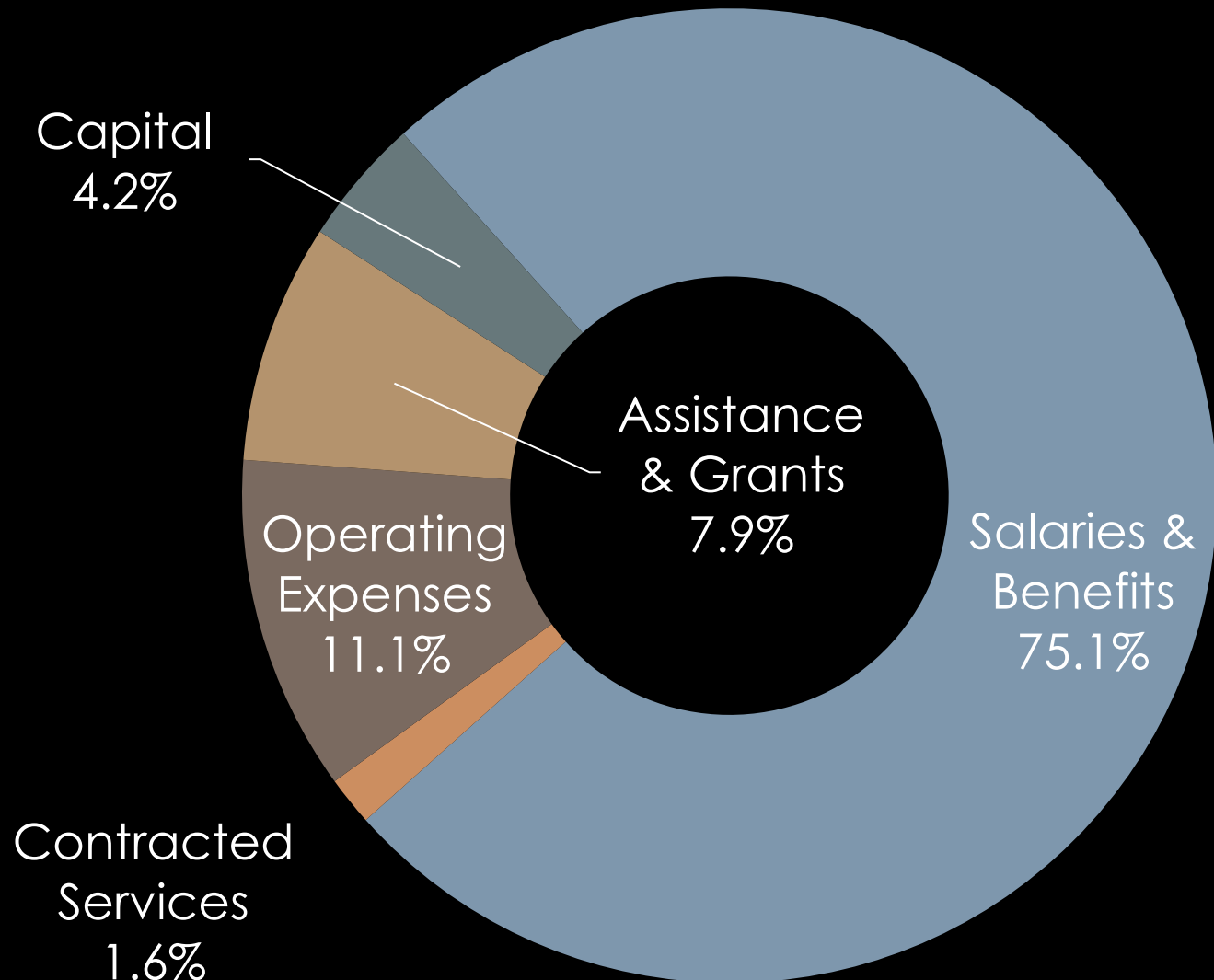
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# Summary by Source

	<b>FY 2024 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2024 Revised</b>	<b>FY 2025 Governor</b>	<b>Chg. To Enacted</b>
General Revenues	\$121.4	\$122.8	\$124.3	\$2.9
Federal Funds	5.0	4.6	4.4	(0.6)
Restricted Receipts	14.9	14.8	14.8	(0.1)
Other Funds	5.6	6.0	4.4	(1.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$146.9</b>	<b>\$148.2</b>	<b>\$147.9</b>	<b>\$1.0</b>
<b>FTE</b>	<b>743.3</b>	<b>743.3</b>	<b>745.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>

\$ in millions

# FY 2025 by Category

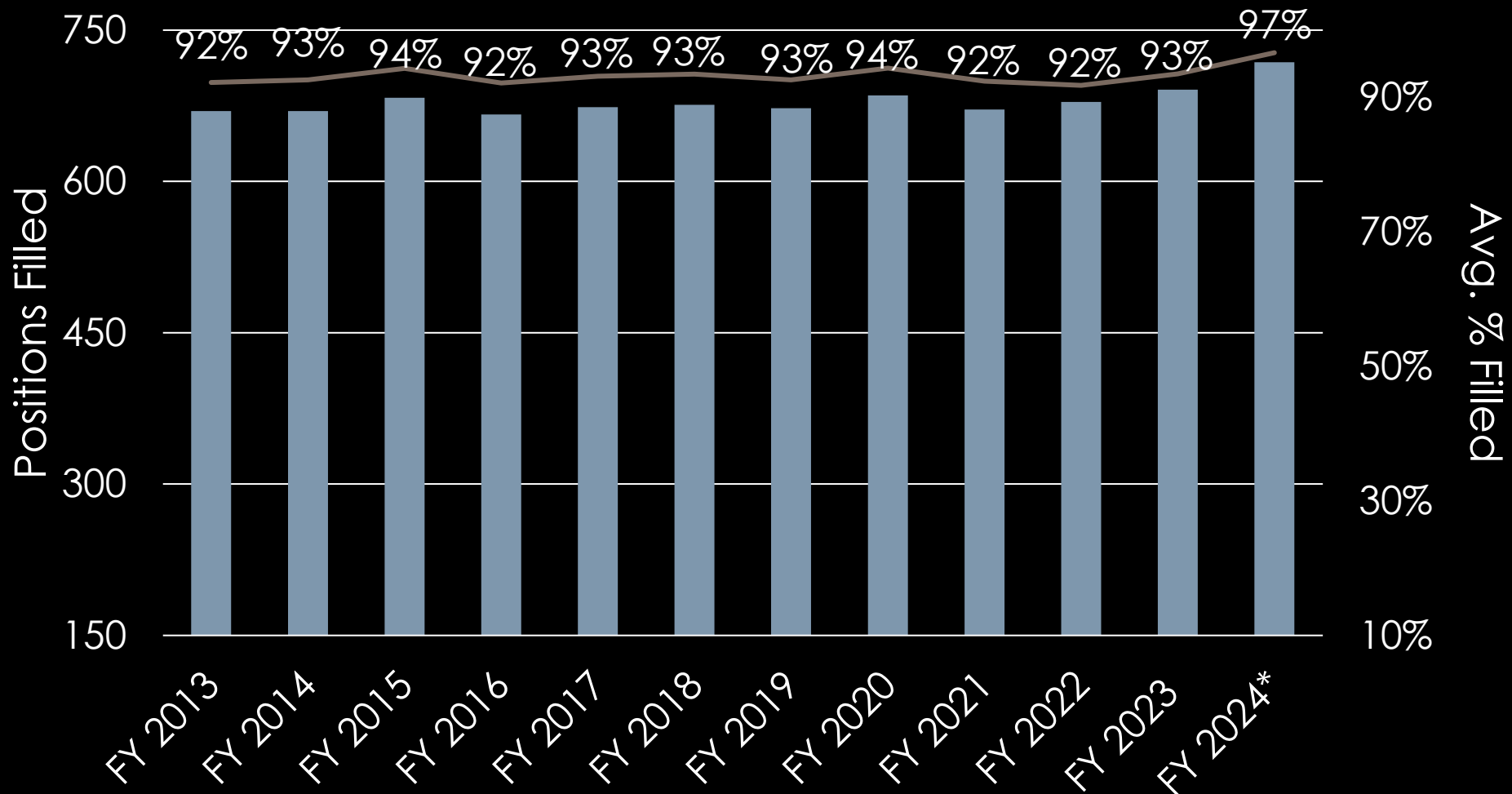


# Staffing

## *Full-Time Equivalent Positions*

<b>Full-Time Positions</b>	<b>FTEs</b>	<b>Chg. To Enacted</b>
Enacted Authorized	743.3	-
FY 2024 Gov. Rev.	743.3	-
FY 2025 Request	745.3	2.0
FY 2025 Governor	745.3	2.0
FY 2025 Funded FTE	726.1	(17.2)
Filled as of March 23	718.2	(25.1)
FY 2023 Average Filled	691.1	(52.2)

# Staffing History – Filled FTEs



2022 Assembly added 13.0 FTE; \*Avg. filled as of end of March

# Overhead Functions

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# Overhead Functions FY 2025

## Changes to Enacted

Change to Enacted	Gen. Rev.	All Funds
Indigent Defense	\$ 1.0	\$1.0
Pay-Go Judges Pensions	(0.3)	(0.3)
Court Technology	0.1	0.1
Facilities & Operations	0.0	0.0
Clerks/Record Center	0.0	0.0
Employee Relations, Fin./Budget, & Planning	0.3	0.3
Community Outreach/Public Support	0.1	0.1
Overhead Functions - Legal	0.1	0.1
Security Services	(0.1)	(0.1)
Insurance	0.4	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.7</b>	<b>\$1.7</b>

\$ in millions

# Indigent Defense

- Court appoints legal representation when Public Defender has conflict of interest
- Governor includes \$1 million more as requested
  - In FY 2024 and FY 2025

Indigent Defense Spending			
Fiscal Year	Amount	Fiscal Year	Amount
2018	\$4.1	2022	\$4.4
2019	\$4.6	2023	\$5.6
2020	\$4.4	2023 Revised	\$6.0
2021	\$3.6	2024 Governor	\$6.0

\$ in millions



# Pay-Go Pensions

- Judges & magistrates hired before 1990
  - Not part of Employees' Retirement System
    - Paid through annual appropriation rather than through the retirement trust fund
  - 4 active judges in this category
    - All are eligible to retire
- \$4.6 million for FY 2024 & FY 2025
  - \$4.1 million from general revenues
    - \$0.3 million less than enacted

# Court Technology

- \$9.4 million & 26.0 FTE
  - \$0.1 million more than enacted
  - Case Management System
    - Electronic filing for all courts
      - Computers, servers, software
      - Increased efficiency for data management
  - Other Court Technology
    - Computers, copier & scanner replacement
    - Contract work for reporting, network support, & applications support

# Facilities & Operations

- \$9.1 million & 25 FTE for maintenance of judicial complex facilities
  - Funding essentially as enacted
- Custodial and maintenance
- Minor renovations and repairs

# Clerks/Records Center

- \$4.4 million & 34.6 FTE
  - Clerks provide legal research & writing assistance to the judges & magistrates
  - Judicial Records Center
    - Central repository for the state's court records.
      - Current records stored at the Clerk's Office of the respective court.
  - \$34,098 & 0.6 FTE more than enacted

# Overhead Functions

- Employee Relations, Finance, Budget, & Planning
  - \$3.1 million & 18.8 FTE
    - \$0.1 million more than enacted
    - Current service adjustments
    - 0.8 FTE more than enacted
- Community Outreach & Public Support
  - \$1.4 million & 11.0 FTE including interpreters
    - \$0.1 million & 1.0 FTE more than enacted
    - Current service adjustments

# Overhead Functions - Legal

- Overhead Legal Functions - \$4.1 million
  - Law Library
  - Board of Bar Examiners
  - Mandatory Continuing Legal Education
  - Appellate Screening Unit
  - Disciplinary Board/Counsel
- \$0.1 million more than enacted
  - 20.0 FTE – 0.2 fewer than enacted
    - Current service adjustments

# Automatic Expungement

- Enacted budget includes \$340,000 for Automatic Expungement
  - 2022 RI Cannabis Act
    - Provides automatic expungement for decriminalized marijuana offenses
      - Timeline subject to Chief Justice, with completion by July 1, 2024
      - Chief Justice ordered Superior & District Courts, & the Traffic Tribunal to identify & process cases beginning January 27, 2023
- Governor maintains enacted funding

# Special Appropriations

- Article 1 identifies general revenue appropriations to community organizations
  - RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence
    - For Domestic Abuse Court Advocacy Project
    - \$230,000 same as enacted budget
  - RI Legal Services
    - For housing & eviction defense to indigent individuals
    - \$90,000 same as enacted budget
      - Indigent Defense family services ~\$900,000 annually



**Individual Courts  
FY 2025  
Recommendations**

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# Supreme Court

- Final court of review
  - Only constitutionally established court
- 5 Judges, 40.4 FTE
- \$6.4 million for FY 2025
  - \$0.3 million more & 0.4 FTE less than enacted
    - Current service adjustments
    - Restoration of turnover savings

# Superior Court

- Jurisdiction over felony & misdemeanor cases appealed/waived from District Ct.
  - Small claims
  - Violations of municipal ordinances/regs.
  - Misdemeanors when right to jury trial waived
- 27 Judges/Magistrates, 165.7 positions
  - \$28.7 million for FY 2025
    - \$0.4 million & 2.0 FTE more than enacted
      - \$0.2M for 2 new court reporters
      - Current service adjustments

# District Court

- 16 Judges/Magistrates, 101.0 total FTE
- \$17.1 million for FY 2025
  - Small claims
  - Violations of municipal ordinances & regs.
  - Misdemeanors when right to jury trial waived
  - Specialty courts such as drug & veterans
- \$0.1M less than enacted
  - Current service adjustments
  - Turnover savings

# Family Court

- Cases involving
  - Juveniles
  - Parental neglect, child support enforcement, paternity issues & Divorces
- 19.0 Judges/Magistrates, 182.6 positions
- \$30.6 million for FY 2025
  - \$0.3 million more than enacted
    - Current service adjustments

# Traffic Tribunal

- Civil traffic violations
  - License suspensions
  - DOT & DEM violations
- 9 Magistrates, 69.0 total FTE
- \$10.8 million for FY 2025
  - \$0.4 million less than enacted
    - Current service adjustments
    - Additional turnover savings

# Workers' Compensation Court

- Adjudicates all workers' compensation cases
  - Including rehabilitation of injured employees
- 10 Judges, 48.6 total positions
- \$9.9 million for FY 2025 from restricted receipts
  - \$0.1 million less than enacted
    - Current service adjustments

# Judicial Tenure & Discipline

- Judicial Tenure & Discipline Commission
  - Conducts investigations of judges suspected or charged with misconduct
- 14-member commission serves without compensation
  - \$0.2 million – funding for a staff position & operations



# Governor's Capital Plan

Project	Cost	End Date
Judicial Complexes Asset Protection	\$21.8	N/A
Judicial Complexes - HVAC	12.3	N/A
Judicial Complexes - Fan Coil Unit Replacements	5.1	FY 2029
Licht Windows and Masonry Repairs	4.3	FY 2029
Garrahy Judicial Complex - Asset Protection	5.2	FY 2027
Garrahy Courtroom Restoration	1.8	FY 2024
<b>Rhode Island Capital Plan Funds</b>	<b>\$50.5</b>	

\$ in millions

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