

## 2025-27 Budget Review

### District Attorneys

	2021-23 Actual	2023-25 Legislatively Approved *	2025-27 Current Service Level	2025-27 Governor's Budget
General Fund	15,304,988	18,463,050	19,531,454	19,596,588
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>15,304,988</b>	<b>18,463,050</b>	<b>19,531,454</b>	<b>19,596,588</b>
Positions	36	36	36	36
FTE	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00

\* Includes legislative and administrative actions through December 2024.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A District Attorney (“prosecuting attorneys” or DA) is the county chief law enforcement officer. There are 36 DAs, one for each county, who are independently elected to four-year terms. DAs and their deputies prosecute state criminal offenses committed by juveniles and adults at the trial-level.

The DA agency budget funds the compensation of the 36 DA positions, tort liability, other standard agency costs, and any policy measure with a state funding mandate on district attorneys. The funding of county DA positions is a state General Fund obligation, as DAs are classified as state management service employees and, by statute, the state is responsible for providing their salaries and other payroll expenses.

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) has established administratively a two tier, annual compensation plan for DAs comprised of a single step pay range for each tier. DAs in counties with populations exceeding 100,000, of which there are 10, are in Tier 1 and receive higher compensation. Tier 2 is comprised of all remaining counties. DAs are eligible for cost-of-living allowances and selective salary increases granted other state agency management service employees, as determinate by DAS.

### BUDGET ENVIRONMENT

Funding for DA offices is hybrid. In addition to the state’s compensation plan, 24 counties supplement their DA salaries. Counties are also responsible for funding deputy district attorney positions (DDA), investigators, and all other staff, as well as office space, and related services and supplies. In addition, counties fund prosecutorial expenses related to grand jury proceedings such as: expert and other witness fees. The state funds grand jury recordation. The state budget has not contributed to the cost of the DDAs since 2007-09, nor to witness fees for trials nor grand jury hearings in criminal proceedings since 1999-2001, except for grand jury recordation. A statewide case management system does not exist for the DAs.

The Oregon District Attorneys Association, a 501c(6) non-profit Oregon corporation, pays for an executive director who effectively serves as the administrator of the agency with the support of the Department of Justice (DOJ), which provides budgetary and accounting assistance to the agency, as well as IT support for grand jury recordation.

Apart from the DA budget, the state, primarily through DOJ, provides indirect funding in support of the local prosecutorial function, including: (1) trial-level prosecutorial training and support; (b) temporary support to fill vacated DA positions; (c) victim advocate offices and victim assistance; (d) defense of criminal convictions at both the trial and appellate-level; (e) Justice Reinvestment Initiatives; (f) reimbursement of discovery costs for indigent defendants; (g) child abuse investigations, medical assessments, and training; (h) competitive and non-competitive state and federal grants for crime victim assistance.

Other indirect state support from DOJ includes child support enforcement. While DOJ is responsible for managing a statewide child support program, the program enters into a cooperative agreement with 19 DA offices to deliver services for some of the county's caseload, namely for participants who are not currently receiving public assistance or who formerly received assistance. Of note is that even in cooperative agreement counties, DOJ manages the caseloads related to public assistance. For the remaining 17 counties, DOJ provides all child support services. By statute, DOJ also provides funding for a DA liaison position for the Oregon Child Support Program.

While any number of substantive policy measures may impact the prosecutorial function, few, if any, directly impact the state-funded budget of DAs.

## CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL

The 2025-27 current service level (CSL) budget totals \$19.5 million General Fund and includes 36 positions (36.00 FTE). The CSL is \$1.1 million, or 5.8%, more than the 2023-25 legislatively approved budget of \$18.5 million General Fund. The increase is largely comprised of standard inflation but is offset by \$1.5 million in one-time program funding phased out for victim's assistance, investigation and temporary staffing, and other nonroutine prosecution expenses related to nonunanimous jury convictions.

## GOVERNOR'S BUDGET SUMMARY

The 2025-27 Governor's budget totals \$19.6 million General Fund and is \$1.1 million, or 6.1%, more than the 2023-25 legislatively approved budget of \$18.5 million. The budget includes 36 positions (36.00 FTE). The only modification made to CSL in the Governor's budget was \$65,134 in added statewide service charges allocated by the Department of Administrative Services.

## OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The DA budget may require supplemental funding to complete the current 2023-25 biennium. This is a routine request that is needed to reconcile actual Other Payroll Expenses (i.e., flexible health benefits) of each district attorney with the approved budget. Such an adjustment has been required in three of the past biennia.

## KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

A copy of the DA Annual Performance Progress Report can be found on the LFO website:  
[\[https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lfo/APPR/APPR\\_DA\\_2024-07-30.pdf\]](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lfo/APPR/APPR_DA_2024-07-30.pdf).

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