

SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

In Re: Certification of Need for Additional Judges

In re Certification of Need for Additional Judges, No. SC2025-1808 (Fla. Nov. 26, 2025) · No. SC2025-1808 ·
Decided November 26, 2025

SUMMARY

The Florida Supreme Court certifies the need for 13 additional circuit court judgeships and 12 additional county court judgeships for fiscal year 2026–27. It certifies no need for additional district court judgeships and recommends no reduction in circuit or county court judgeships.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Florida
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam; Chief Justice Muñoz; Justice Canady; Justice Labarga; Justice Couriel; Justice Grosshans; Justice Francis; Justice Sasso
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of Florida
DECIDED	November 26, 2025
DOCKET	SC2025-1808
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Original proceeding in which the Supreme Court of Florida certified its findings and recommendations to the Florida Legislature concerning the need for additional or reduced judgeships for fiscal year 2026-27.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The Court applied a verified, objective weighted-caseload methodology supplemented by qualitative secondary factors concerning judicial workload, efficiency, effectiveness, professionalism, fiscal considerations, and local conditions.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion of the Supreme Court of Florida; its principal effect is the annual constitutional certification of judicial-need recommendations to the Legislature.

TOPICS

- constitutional law
- separation of powers

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Court should certify a need for additional circuit or county court judgeships for fiscal year 2026-27.
2. Whether the Court should certify a decrease in the number of circuit or county court judgeships.
3. Whether the Court should certify a need for additional district court of appeal judgeships for fiscal year 2026-27.

HOLDINGS

1. The Court certified the need for 25 additional trial court judgeships for fiscal year 2026-27, consisting of 13 circuit court judgeships and 12 county court judgeships.
2. No reduction in the number of circuit court or county court judgeships was warranted for fiscal year 2026-27.
3. No need for additional district court of appeal judgeships was certified for fiscal year 2026-27.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Having conducted both a quantitative and qualitative assessment of trial court judicial workload, we certify the need for 25 additional trial court judges, consisting of 13 in circuit court and 12 in county court, as set forth in the appendix to this opinion.” (at 9)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Court reevaluated judicial workload using updated case weights from a June 2024 judicial workload assessment and reviewed annual judgeship-needs applications from the chief judges of Florida's judicial circuits. The analysis showed the greatest need in the Twentieth Judicial Circuit and Walton County, while also identifying limited potential excess capacity in some areas. Considering fiscal conditions, resource limitations, case complexity, geographic factors, and access to justice, the Court certified 13 additional circuit judgeships and 12 additional county judgeships, with no reductions and no additional district appellate judgeships.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Supreme Court conducted its annual certification process under article V, section 9 of the Florida Constitution and Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.240. After reviewing objective weighted-caseload data and qualitative factors submitted by the chief judges, the Court issued this certification directly to the Florida Legislature.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- In re Certif. of Need for Add'l Judges, 407 So. 3d 1222, 1226 (Fla. 2024)

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