

2021 Budget Request

Gwinnett County Courts
Superior – State – Magistrate



Mission Statement

The Georgia Constitution established the Courts of the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit to enforce and administer the laws of this State and of the United States. As a separate and distinct branch of government, the Courts are under a constitutional mandate to resolve disputes and enforce laws in a fair and impartial manner.

Vision

The judges of the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit are committed to professional, efficient, and impartial case resolution.



Superior Court

- Superior Court is a trial court of general jurisdiction.
- The Superior Court has exclusive Constitutional authority over all felony cases, domestic cases, cases involving title to real property and any case seeking equitable relief.
- Criminal cases are prosecuted by the District Attorney's Office.
- The Superior Court also has jurisdiction to correct errors made by lower courts by issuing certiorari; as well as hearing direct appeals from the Board of Workers' Compensation, Department of Labor (unemployment benefits) and lower courts such as municipal courts.

Superior Court



State Court

- State Court is a trial court with limited jurisdiction.
- Cases include misdemeanors as well as traffic violations.
- These cases are prosecuted by the Solicitor's Office.
- Civil cases handled by State Court include torts, contract actions, product liability, medical malpractice, and personal injury.
- State Court can also handle all other civil actions except where the Superior Court has exclusive jurisdiction such as divorce, equity, and title to land.

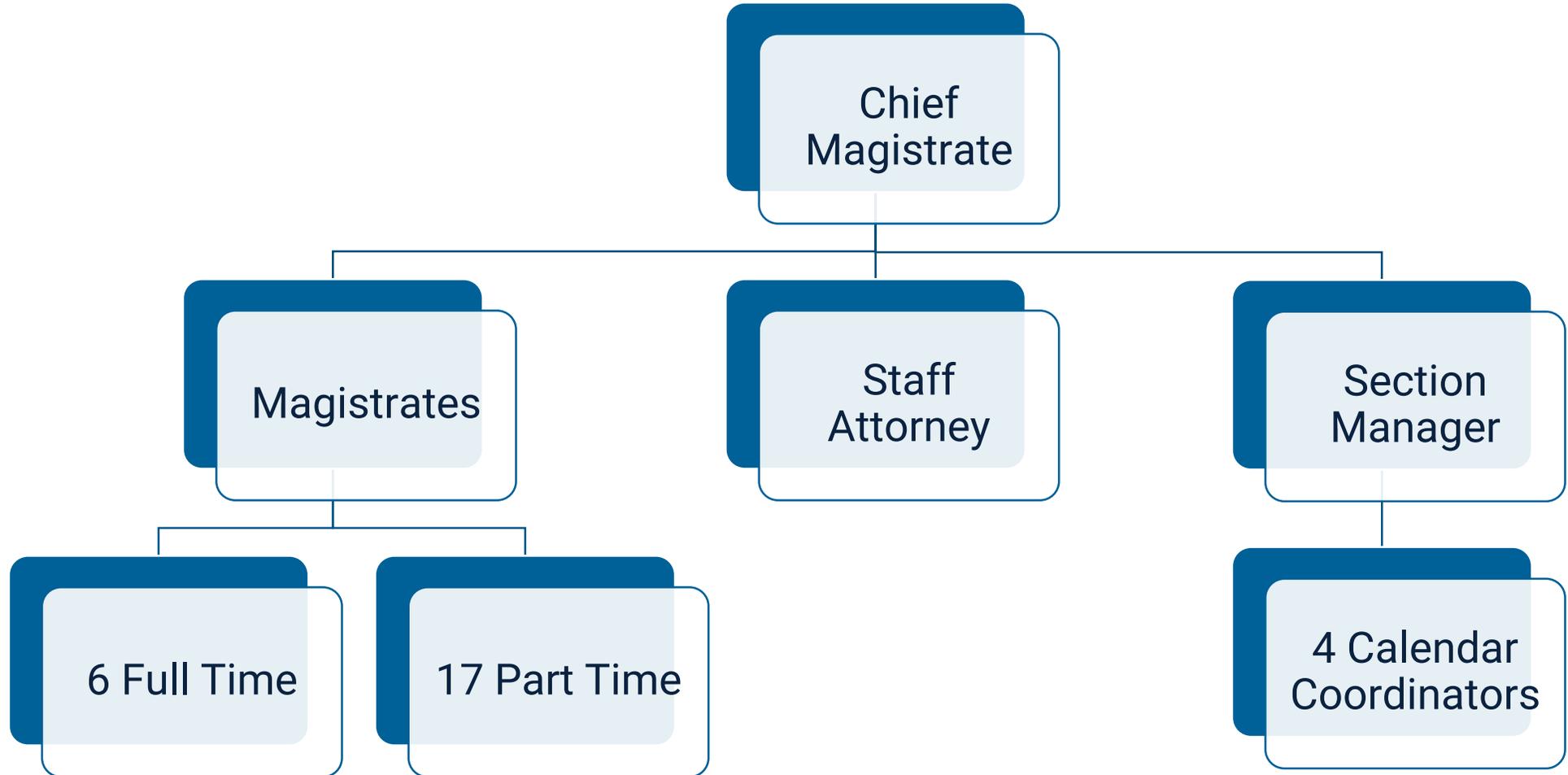
State Court



Magistrate Court

- Operates 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.
- Is directly accessible to the self-represented public and law enforcement.
- Magistrate Court provides judicial assistance to all other courts.
- Magistrate Court hears both civil and criminal cases, including:
 - Civil Cases less than \$15,000
 - Garnishment Actions
 - Post-Judgment Collection
 - Landlord/Tenant Cases
 - Family Violence/TPO
 - Abandoned Motor Vehicle Claims
 - Personal Property Foreclosures
 - Arrest & Search Warrants
 - Citizen Warrant Applications
 - First Appearance Hearings
 - Preliminary/Committal Hearings

Magistrate Court



Administrative Office of the Courts



Operational Decisions

- Increase communication and coordination with other departments to enable virtual court proceedings.
- Increase the use of e-filing in collaboration with the Clerk of Court.
- Modify workflow processes to increase staff's ability to work remotely.

Internal Strategic Decisions

- Increase the use of technology to make the services of the court more accessible, secure, and convenient while maintaining cost effectiveness.
- Ensure that court facilities accommodate current and future workflow and technology needs.
- Promote timely case resolution by providing optimal resources to all judges and staff, to include the tools needed to operate in a digital court environment.
- Improve communication with the public to provide a better understanding of the issues that affect the delivery of justice.
- Expand cultural awareness and sensitivity training for judges and court personnel.

County Initiatives

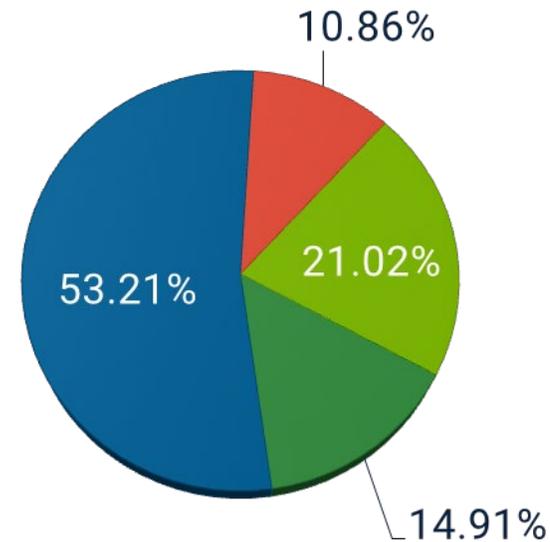
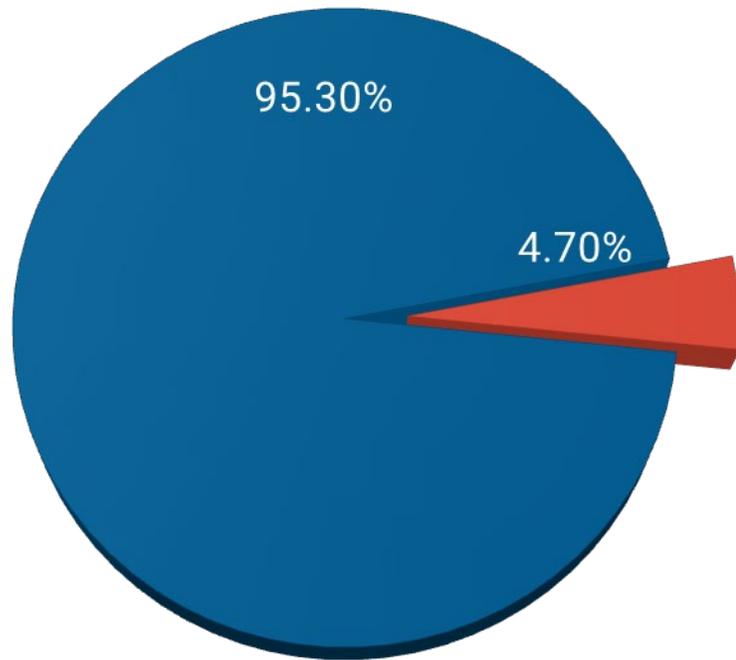
- **Mobility and Access**
We will ensure mobility and access through effective land use planning, and by providing and maintaining an efficient transportation system that meets the diverse and evolving needs of our community.
- **Livability and Comfort**
We will cultivate a strong community through collaboration and partnerships that promotes livability and comfort.
- **Strong and Vibrant Local Economy**
We will grow and maintain a strong and vibrantly connected economy by partnering with all residents to foster, expand and support businesses, development and redevelopment to achieve a thriving community.
- **Communication and Engagement**
Through active listening and engagement with our community, we will tell our story and report our actions through multiple platforms.
- **Smart and Sustainable Government**
We will maintain a smart and sustainable government by consistently operating based on sound reasoning and best practices with a long-term focus.
- **Safe and Healthy Communities**
We will ensure a safe community by providing superior and comprehensive services and engaging partners to create a healthy Gwinnett.

Budget Comparison

	2020 Budget	2021 Request	Difference
Personal Services	\$16,905,695	\$16,766,013	(\$139,682)
General Operating	\$3,695,072	\$3,716,586	\$21,514

Percentage of Department General Fund Utilized

- County Department General Fund
- Superior, State, Magistrate Courts & AOC



- Personal Services
- Operations
- Allocations
- Contributions to Other Funds



Courthouse Expansion Building

- Eight Superior Court Judicial Offices
- Eight Courtrooms
- Jury Operations
- Attorney-Client Conference Rooms
- Mediation Rooms

Decision Package

2021_JUD_001

- Requesting four part time positions to assist the courts and citizens in the courthouse expansion building.
 - Located at transaction windows throughout the building
 - Act as liaison between judicial staff and the public
 - Provide information to patrons
 - Grant access to the secured hallway to authorized personnel and visitors

Budget

2020 Budget	\$20,600,767
Changes To Base	(\$118,168)
2021 Base	\$20,482,599
Decision Package	\$134,348
2021 Budget	\$20,616,947

Questions

