

JUDICIAL RETIREMENT FUNDS

Payment to Judiciary Trust Funds

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT REQUIREMENTS

Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriation	\$292,900,000
Fiscal Year 2026 Requested Appropriation	\$309,400,000
Requested Increase from Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriation	\$16,500,000

Title VI Administrative Provisions

Sec. [618]____. (a) There are appropriated for the following activities the amounts required under current law:

(1) Compensation of the President (3 U.S.C. 102).

(2) Payments to--

(A) the Judicial Officers' Retirement Fund (28 U.S.C. 377(o));

(B) the Judicial Survivors' Annuities Fund (28 U.S.C. 376(c)); and

(C) the United States Court of Federal Claims Judges' Retirement Fund (28 U.S.C. 178(l)).

(3) Payment of Government contributions--

(A) with respect to the health benefits of retired employees, as authorized by chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, and the Retired Federal Employees Health Benefits Act (74 Stat. 849); and

(B) with respect to the life insurance benefits for employees retiring after December 31, 1989 (5 U.S.C. ch. 87).

(4) Payment to finance the unfunded liability of new and increased annuity benefits under the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (5 U.S.C. 8348).

(5) Payment of annuities authorized to be paid from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund by statutory provisions other than subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) Nothing in this section may be construed to exempt any amount appropriated by this section from any otherwise applicable limitation on the use of funds contained in this Act.

The Judiciary's starting point for developing its FY 2026 budget request is based on enactment of the FY 2025 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act (P.L. 119-4). The Judiciary's starting point for developing FY 2026 bill language is based on the FY 2024 Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill (division B, sec. 618, P.L. 118-47).

Explanation

The highlighted section provides appropriations for payments to the Judicial Officers' Retirement Fund, the Judicial Survivors' Annuities Fund, and the United States Court of Federal Claims Judges' Retirement Fund. The judiciary proposes to retain this language in Title VI of the Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill.

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST
JUDICIAL RETIREMENT FUNDS
PAYMENT TO JUDICIARY TRUST FUNDS
FISCAL YEAR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)**

<u>Fiscal Year 2026 Resource Requirements:</u>		<u>FTEs</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fiscal Year 2025 Enacted Appropriation		-	\$292,900
Page	<u>No.</u>	<u>Adjustments to Base</u>	
13.6	1.	Increase in Payment to the Judicial Officers' Retirement Fund.....	- 8,400
13.6	2.	Increase in Payment to the Judicial Survivors' Annuities Fund.....	- 7,800
13.6	3.	Increase in Payment to the Court of Federal Claims Judges' Retirement Fund.....	- 300
		Subtotal, Adjustments to Base.....	- 16,500
		Total Appropriation Required, Fiscal Year 2026.....	- \$309,400
		Total Appropriation Increase, Fiscal Year 2025 to Fiscal Year 2026.....	- 16,500

PAYMENT TO JUDICIARY TRUST FUND
Obligations by Activity (\$000)

Activity	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request
Trust Fund, Total Obligations	251,900	292,900	309,400
Available Appropriation	251,900	292,900	309,400

Object Classification (\$000)

Description	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request
25 Other Services	251,900	292,900	309,400
Total Obligations	251,900	292,900	309,400

GENERAL STATEMENT AND INFORMATION

This appropriation is divided among three trust funds that finance payments to (1) retired bankruptcy and magistrate judges, (2) spouses and dependent children of deceased judges, and (3) retired Court of Federal Claims judges. This account is categorized as a mandatory appropriation by Congress.

Statutes governing the three funds authorize the appropriation of amounts necessary to support the liability that accrues each year and to pay an installment on any unfunded liability. Although the funds (except for the Court of Federal Claims fund) receive participant contributions and earn interest on investment holdings, the purpose of the appropriation provision is to ensure that sufficient funds are deposited annually to support anticipated benefit payments in the distant future as well as in the short term. The appropriation request is calculated annually by an enrolled actuary pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 9503.

The Three Trust Funds

- 1) The Judicial Officers' Retirement Fund was established in 1988 to provide a pension to bankruptcy and full-time magistrate judges (28 U.S.C. § 377(o)).
- 2) The Judicial Survivors' Annuities Fund was established in 1956 to provide annuities to widows, widowers, and surviving dependent children of judges and other officials who have elected to participate in the program: Justices and judges of the United States, to include Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands; full-time bankruptcy judges; full-time United States magistrate judges; judges of the United States Court of Federal Claims; Directors of the Federal Judicial Center and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts; and the Counselor to the Chief Justice of the United States (28 U.S.C. § 376(c)).
- 3) The Court of Federal Claims Judges' Retirement Fund was established in 1990 to provide a pension plan to retired United States Court of Federal Claims judges (28 U.S.C. § 178(l)). Appointment under Chapter 7 of Title 28 or service under section 167 of the Federal Courts Improvements Act of 1982 automatically qualifies a judge to participate.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 APPROPRIATIONS

The judiciary's FY 2026 mandatory budget request for the Judicial Retirement Funds reflects an enacted FY 2025 appropriation of \$292,900,000 which is based on the recommended employer contributions calculated by the funds' actuaries. This amount would fully fund the FY 2025 requirements for the three retirement trust funds. Based on enactment of the FY 2025 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act (P.L. 119-4), the judiciary's starting point for developing its FY 2026 budget request reflects bill language enacted in the FY 2024 Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill (division B, title III, P.L. 118-47).

ADJUSTMENTS TO BASE TO MAINTAIN CURRENT SERVICES

The appropriation request for FY 2026 is \$309,400,000, an increase of \$16,500,000 above the FY 2025 enacted appropriation. This increase includes an increase of \$8,400,000 for the Judicial Officers' Retirement Fund, an increase of \$7,800,000 for the Judicial Survivors' Annuities Fund, and an increase of \$300,000 for the Court of Federal Claims Judges' Retirement Fund.

1. Increase in payment to the Judicial Officers' Retirement Fund

Mandatory Increase: \$8,400,000

The enacted appropriation for FY 2025 is \$242,500,000. Based on actuarial calculations, \$250,900,000 is required in FY 2026 to meet the unfunded liability, an increase of \$8,400,000.

2. Increase in payment to the Judicial Survivors' Annuities Fund

Mandatory Increase: \$7,800,000

The enacted appropriation for FY 2025 is \$44,600,000. Based on actuarial calculations, \$52,400,000 is required in FY 2026 to meet the unfunded liability, an increase of \$7,800,000.

3. Increase in payment to the Court of Federal Claims Judges' Retirement Fund

Mandatory Increase: \$300,000

The enacted appropriation for FY 2025 is \$5,800,000. Based on actuarial calculations, \$6,100,000 is required in FY 2026 to meet the unfunded liability, an increase of \$300,000.