

# South Dakota Unified Judicial System



## FY2020 ANNUAL REPORT

### VISION STATEMENT: *Justice for All*

#### South Dakota Courts: At A Glance

Population of South Dakota:.....	899,174
Geographic Area.....	77,116
Court Locations .....	62

#### FY2020 BUDGET:

Judicial Branch Budget.....	\$59,965,869
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#### FY2020 EXPENDITURES:

Personal Services .....	\$45,988,301
All Other/Operations Expenses.....	\$11,864,817
Total Judicial Branch Operations .....	\$57,853,118
% of State General Fund .....	2.9%

#### FY2020 STAFFING (FTE):

Supreme Court Justices .....	5
Circuit Judges .....	44
Magistrate Judges .....	16
Supreme Court .....	16
Clerk's Offices.....	194
Circuit Administration.....	34
Official Court Reporters.....	45
Court Services' (Probation) .....	142
Problem Solving Courts.....	37
State Court Administration .....	50

#### FY2020 Supreme Court

Combined Filings .....	317
Combined Dispositions.....	337
Total Pending- End of FY.....	179
Appeals Screened.....	317
Bar Admissions .....	122

#### FY2020 Circuit Courts

Total Criminal Filings.....	125,965
Total Civil Filings .....	71,998

Individuals are now able to make payments on their criminal and traffic tickets 24 hours a day, seven days a week using the online system. Parties may still make payments by mail.

<https://ujportal.sd.gov/Portal/>

#### Chief Justice Steven Jensen's First State of the Judiciary Message

His first State of the Judiciary Message was delivered to Governor Noem, Lieutenant Governor Rhoden, members of the Legislature, Constitutional Officers, fellow Justices, Judges, Unified Judicial System (UJS) employees and all citizens of the State of South Dakota on January 13, 2021.

Justice Steven R. Jensen became a circuit judge in 2003 and was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2017. Members of the South Dakota Supreme Court selected Justice Steven R. Jensen to serve as the next Chief Justice of South Dakota's highest court.

Chief Justice Jensen thanked former Chief Justice David Gilbertson and said that "one of his most significant but intangible contributions was his collegiality and goodwill he fostered both inside and outside the court system during his time as Chief Justice." Further he commented that "fairness and sense of justice are deeply embedded in the fabric of his being and have been demonstrated throughout his career as a lawyer, judge and justice."

Chief Justice Jensen told legislators that judges and court staff are "the greatest resource we have in carrying out the core function of the courts." He said judges are underpaid and their court staff are overworked. The Judicial Qualifications Commission has "warned for several years that inadequate compensation is contributing to a lack of applicants for judicial positions," Jensen said. "We have been lucky so far to fill our vacant judicial positions across the state with qualified individuals, but I would respectfully suggest we should not trust the future of our justice system to luck," Jensen said. He will also be asking the legislature to provide funding for additional clerks of court and a full-time position focusing on courthouse security, something that Governor Noem included in her budget.

He also introduced Justice Scott Myren as the newest member to be appointed to the South Dakota Supreme Court. Last week Justice Myren was sworn in as the Courts 53rd Justice.

Chief Justice Jensen closed his message by saying "justice is not just a job, or title, it is a way of life," he said. "It leaves the world a better place."

# THE COURTS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

## SUPREME COURT JUSTICES



From Left to Right: Justice Patricia J. DeVaney, Justice Janine M. Kern, Chief Justice Steven R. Jensen, Justice Mark E. Salter and Justice Scott P. Myren.

## PRESIDING CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES



Cheryl Gering,  
First Circuit



Robin Houwman,  
Second Circuit



Gregory Stoltenburg,  
Third Circuit



Michael Day,  
Fourth Circuit



Scott Flemmer,  
Fifth Circuit



Bobbi Rank,  
Sixth Circuit



Craig Pfeifle,  
Seventh Circuit



Gregory Sattizahn,  
State Court Administrator



## Total FY2020 Circuit Court Case Filings: 197,963

### SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court Appeals.....	244
Intermediate Appeals.....	24
Original Proceedings .....	31
Orders, Writs & Judgments.....	1,180
Bar Applications.....	122
Bar Admissions.....	107
Bar Inquiries Answered .....	1,450

### CRIMINAL FILINGS: 125,965

Felony and Extradited .....	13,476
Class I Misdemeanor .....	19,725
Class II Misdemeanor <sup>1</sup> .....	92,764

### CIVIL FILINGS: 71,998

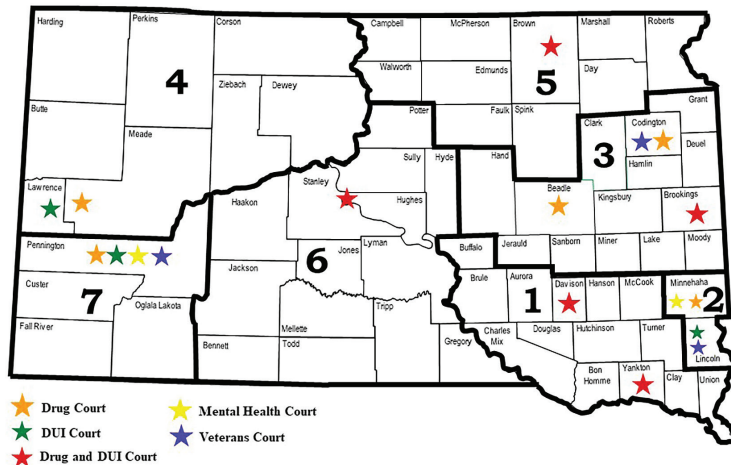
Divorce .....	4,028
Protection Order .....	4,030
Modification Proceedings.....	1,722
Foreign Support Orders .....	3,766
Juvenile Dependency & Neglect.....	610
Juvenile Delinquency & Children In Need of Supervision .....	3,825
Juvenile Citations .....	1,286
Adoptions .....	371
Guardianships & Trusts .....	936
Termination of Parental Rights.....	110
Informal Probate .....	2,256
Formal Probate.....	271
Mental Illness .....	4,400
Drug & Alcohol Commitment .....	444
Civil .....	13,085
Small Claims .....	25,976
Search Warrants .....	4,667
Administrative Appeals .....	101
Expungements.....	117

### MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Record Searches .....	217,803
Passport Applications.....	540
Weddings.....	365

<sup>1</sup> Includes Petty Offense and Municipal Ordinance Violations.

## PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS South Dakota Unified Judicial System

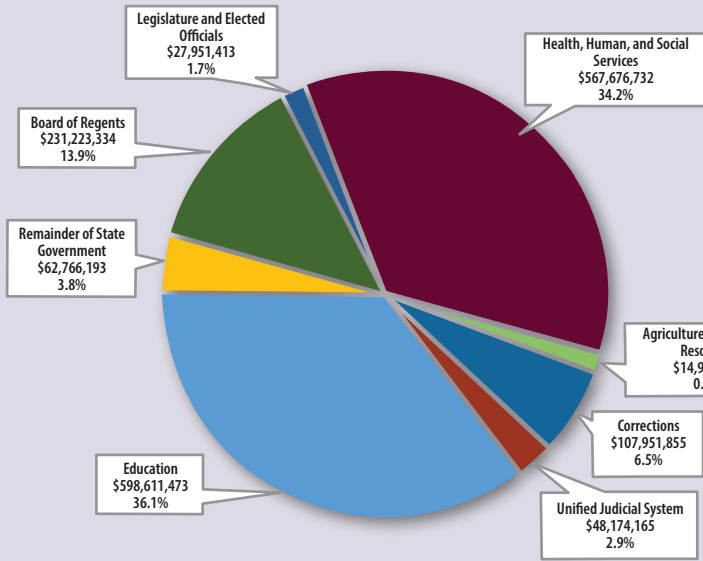


Revised 1/1/2021

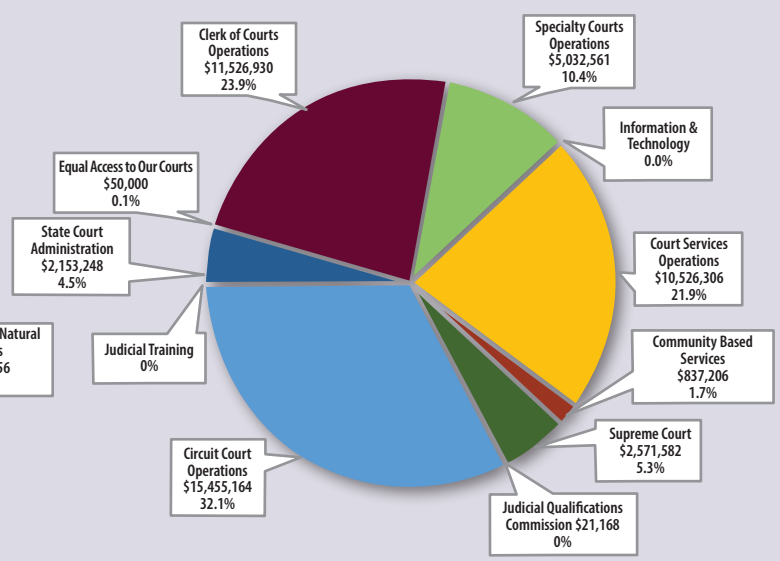
Currently, there are five Drug Courts, three DUI Courts, five Combined Drug & DUI Courts, three Veterans Courts and two Mental Health Courts in South Dakota.

# FISCAL INFORMATION

## FY2020 Fiscal Information



**STATEWIDE GENERAL FUND**  
**FY2020 EXPENDITURES**  
**Total: \$1,659,298,221**

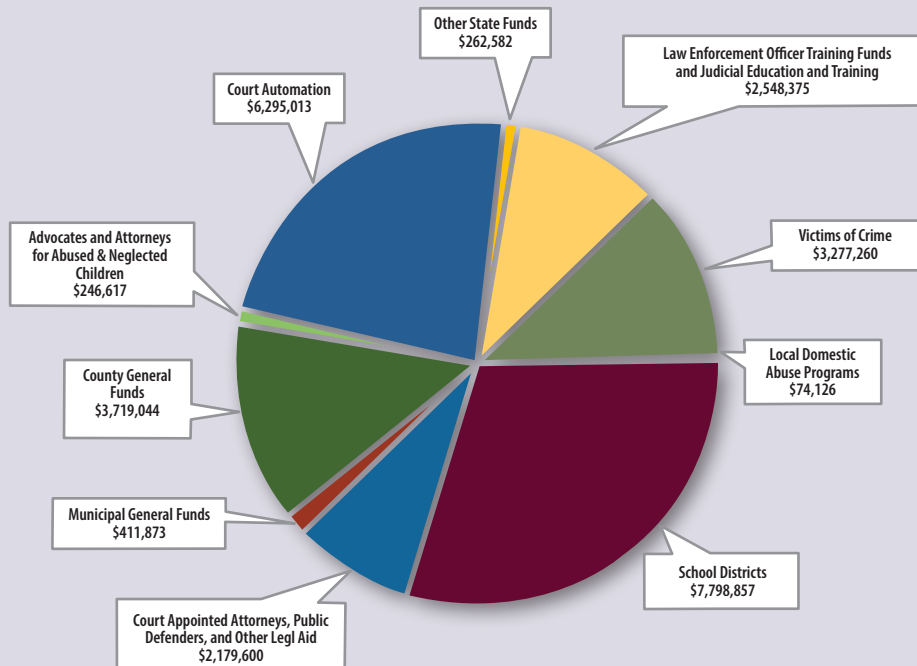


**JUDICIAL BRANCH GENERAL FUND**  
**FY2020 EXPENDITURES**  
**Total: \$48,174,165**

## FY2020 Collection of Money

While the court system does not generate revenue for its own sustainability, it is responsible for taking in and distributing fines, fees, penalties, and costs owed to victims, cities, counties, school districts, and the state.

In FY2020, clerks of court receipted the following:



A map of South Dakota divided into five congressional districts, each labeled with a number and color-coded. The districts and their constituent counties are as follows:

- District 1 (Red):** Lawrence, Butte, Meade, Pennington, Custer, and Fall River.
- District 2 (Blue):** Minnehaha, Lincoln, Union, Clay, Yankton, and Bon Homme.
- District 3 (Purple):** Stanley, Jones, Mellette, Todd, Bennett, Jackson, Haakon, Lyman, Hughes, Bully, Hand, Hyde, Brule, Gregory, Charles Mix, Turner, Hutchinson, Douglas, and Aurora.
- District 4 (Green):** Aurora, Hanson, McCook, Davison, and Sanborn.
- District 5 (Olive Green):** Corson, Campbell, McPherson, Brown, Marshall, Roberts, Day, Grant, Deuel, Hamilton, Codington, Clark, Spink, Faulk, Potter, Walworth, Edmonds, Dewey, Ziebach, Perkins, Harding, and Butte.

The map displays South Dakota divided into seven judicial circuits, each color-coded and numbered. Surrounding the map are seven callout boxes, each providing statistics for a specific circuit. The statistics include Civil Filings, Criminal Filings, Population, and Court Locations. Lines connect each callout box to its corresponding circuit on the map.

Circuit	Civil Filings	Criminal Filings	Population	Court Locations
First Circuit	11,224	15,855	126,429	13
Second Circuit	25,600	42,966	254,262	2
Third Circuit	9,464	19,146	136,918	14
Fourth Circuit	5,341	11,753	81,502	8
Fifth Circuit	6,047	11,168	81,276	10
Sixth Circuit	3,568	7,424	58,770	13
Seventh Circuit	11,419	17,633	143,637	13

For further information about the Courts, please contact: STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota 57501 or <https://UJS.SD.GOV/>