



2015 Annual Report 47th District Court

Farmington/Farmington Hills, Michigan

2015 Statewide Court Public Satisfaction Survey

Beginning in 2013, the Michigan Supreme Court and State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) established an annual statewide public satisfaction survey process for all state courts to help determine how the Michigan court system was meeting the needs of the public.

The judges and staff of the 47th District Court are extremely proud of the fact that the Court's annual results consistently have been well above Statewide averages.

Michigan Supreme Court Public Satisfaction Survey Results	Statewide Average 2014	47th District Court 2013	47th District Court 2014	47th District Court 2015
I was able to get my court business done in a reasonable amount of time.	86%	92%	92%	93%
As I leave the court, I understand what happened in my case.	87%	89%	92%	93%
I was treated with courtesy and respect by court staff.	93%	96%	96%	95%
The way the case was handled was fair.	82%	82%	87%	88%

Court Jurisdiction, Mission & Core Values

As part of the Michigan's "One Court of Justice", the 47th District Court has jurisdiction over the following case types arising in the Cities of Farmington Hills and Farmington:

Criminal Felonies (through preliminary exam)

General Civil Lawsuits (up to \$25,000)

Criminal Misdemeanors

Landlord-Tenant Disputes

Traffic and Zoning Infractions

Small Claims Lawsuits

The Mission of the 47th District Court is to provide a safe, neutral, and impartial forum for peaceful resolutions of public and private disputes. In doing so, the Court strives to ensure:

Access to Justice

Public Trust and Confidence

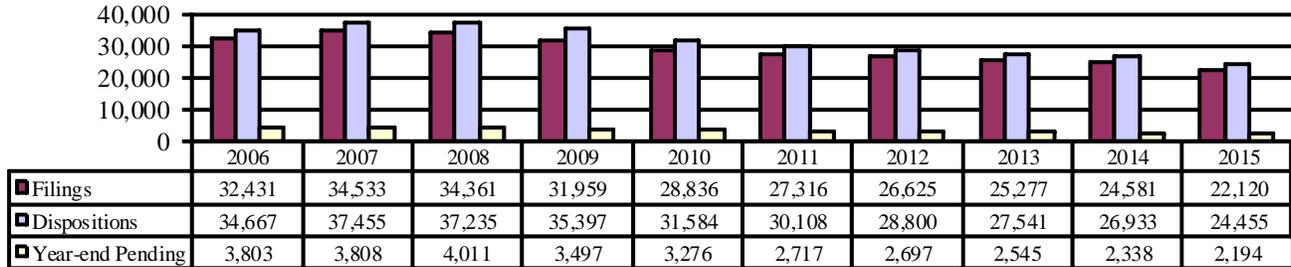
Expedition and Timeliness

Equality, Fairness and Integrity

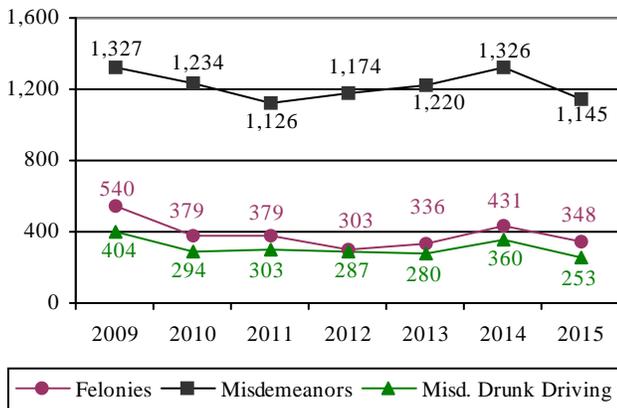
Independence and Accountability

47th District Court Caseload Dashboard

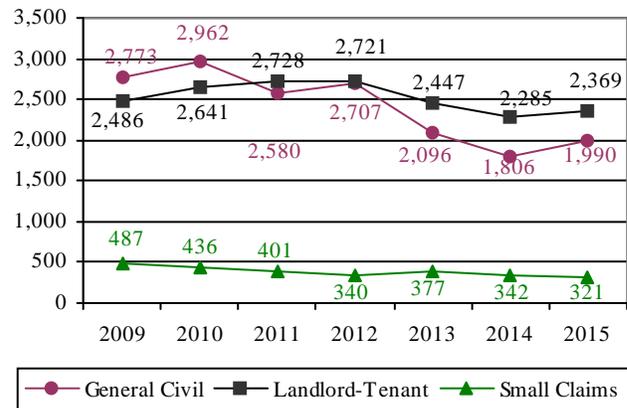
New Filings, Dispositions & Year-end Pending 10 Year Comparison: 2006 - 2015



Criminal Case Filing Trends By Type 2009 - 2015



Civil Case Filing Trends By Type 2009 - 2015



47th District Court Financial Dashboard

FY 2014-15 Sources of Court Funding

The **State of Michigan** contributes to the Court budget as follows:

- Judges Salaries: \$45,724 per judge outlay by local funding unit reimbursed by the State throughout the year. The remaining amount (\$92,548) is paid directly by the State.
- Drunk driving & drug case funds to help offset case processing costs (FY 2014-15 total: \$26,831).
- Jury fee reimbursement for local funding unit outlay exceeding \$15 per juror, per day.
- Since 2006, the Court has secured an annual reimbursement grant from the State Court Administrative Office for the Sobriety Court Program. The FY 2014-15 grant revenue was \$5,643.

ALL OTHER COURT FUNDING COMES FROM FARMINGTON & FARMINGTON HILLS.

FY 2014-15 Distribution of Court Revenue

The **State of Michigan** receives the following revenues from court cases:

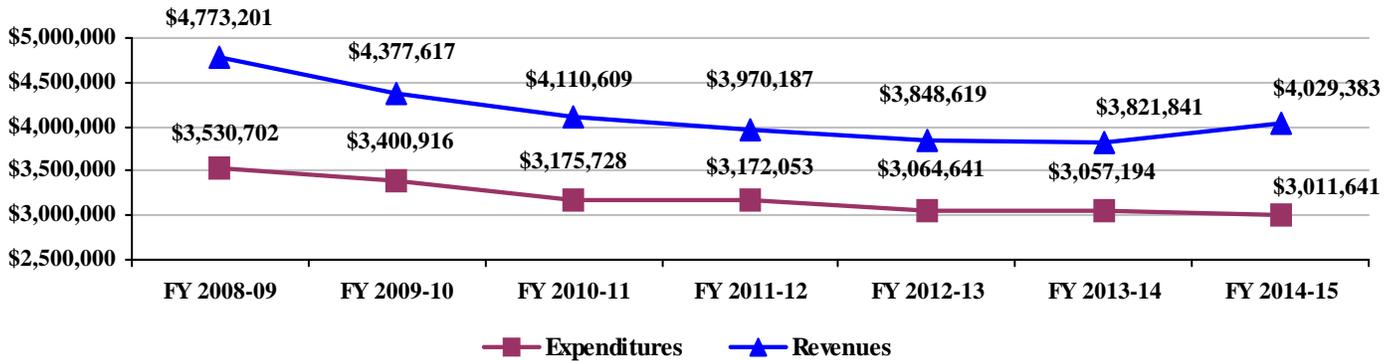
- \$40 from each traffic civil infraction.
- \$10 from each non-traffic civil infraction.
- \$50 costs and \$75 Crime Victim Rights fee on each misdemeanor.
- 56% - 79% from each civil case filing fee (depending on the case value).
- \$10 from each \$20 motion fee.

The **County Library Fund** receives the penal fine portion of assessments on all cases written under state law and 30% of the penal fine on motor carrier cases written under local ordinance.

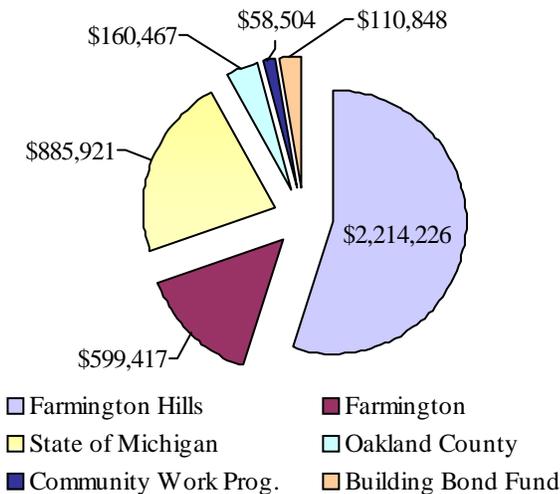
ALL OTHER COURT REVENUE GOES TO FARMINGTON & FARMINGTON HILLS.

47th District Court Financial Dashboard (Cont.)

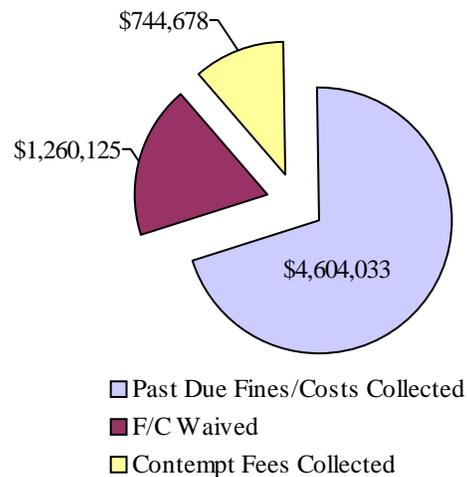
Total Court Revenues and Expenditures - 7 Year Picture



Distribution of Revenues Fiscal Year 2014-15 Total Revenues = \$4,029,383



Show Cause Collection Program Statistics Collection of Past Due Fines/Costs: 2003—2015



Community Work Program

Since its inception in 1986, the *Community Work Program* (CWP) has provided the cities with a labor force for work projects including: the annual set-up and tear-down of the Shiawassee sled hill, planting of public flower beds, road litter pick-up, and maintenance of public building and parks. Annually, the program provides approximately \$200,000 in free labor and supervision costs to the community. Although the program traditionally operates on Saturdays, since 2011 the Court has provided weekday workers based on department needs. **Based on their own statistics, the Parks Division of the Farmington Hills Special Services Department has benefitted from nearly \$115,000 of free labor through the weekday program since 2011** (based on the annual minimum wage rate).

Show Cause Collections Program

Since its inception in 2003, the *Show Cause Docket* has collected over \$5.3 million in past due payments from approximately 25,000 cases. Each month, delinquent payers are noticed to appear in front of Judge James Brady to explain why they have not paid their fines and costs as ordered. The judge will work with the defendants to establish payment plans or in some cases waive certain fines and fees based on the defendant's ability to pay. Defendants that fail to appear or respond are found in contempt of court by Judge Brady, who assesses an additional \$150 fee to their debt and issues a bench warrant for their arrest. Upon arrest on the bench warrant, the defendant is required to post the amount owed to gain release and close the case or, in the alternative, is brought before the Court.

Sobriety Court

Since 2005, the 47th District Court Sobriety Court has focused on protecting society and reducing crime by targeting substance abuse and addiction through intervention, treatment and offender accountability. Under strict court supervision, eligible participants in the 24 month, four phase program must comply with court-ordered requirements including substance abuse treatment, alcohol and drug testing, and education and life skill development.

The program aims to prevent substance use through a strictly enforced drug/alcohol testing regimen for participants. During the six month grant reporting period ending September 30, 2015, the Court had 23 open Sobriety Court cases and administered 2,458 substance abuse tests with a positive test result in just 6 tests (0.2%).

According to State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) statistics for 2014 (most recent available) the two year recidivism rate for Sobriety Court graduates was 4.3 percent, compared to the control group two year rate of 6.5 percent. The four year recidivism rate for both groups leveled off at 10.3 percent. Of the 64 program graduates through 2015 who completed exit interviews, 98 percent indicated that the program was either *Very Helpful* (77%) or *Somewhat Helpful*, and 86 percent indicated that completing the program would *Greatly Improve* their chances of remaining clean and sober in the future.

The Judges



In 2015, **Judge Marla E. Parker** completed her 23rd year as a district judge. She is the longest serving judge in the history of the 47th District Court, as well as the longest serving current district judge in Oakland County. First elected in 1992, Judge Parker won reelection to a fourth six-year term in 2010. At the end of 2015, she completed her 6th two-year term as the Court's chief judge.

Prior to becoming a judge, she served as a magistrate for the Court, and also maintained a private law practice in Farmington Hills.

Judge Parker holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctor degree from Wayne State University Law School.

First elected to the bench in November 2002, **Judge James B. Brady** was re-elected to his third six-year term in November 2014. In January 2015, he began his fourth two-year term as chief judge, having last served as chief judge in 2012-13. In addition, at the end of 2014, Judge Brady completed a term as president of the Oakland County District Judges Association.

From 1985 - 2002, he served the Court as a magistrate. He spent 5 years as an assistant prosecutor for Oakland County (1980 - 1984), and worked at a private law firm from 1984 - 2002.

Judge Brady holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctor degree from Wayne State University Law School.



Appointed Attorney Magistrates

Matthew Friedrich

Dennis Pheny

Michael Sawicky