

Additional Comments Received

- Have a retention committee for judges, instead of the current political process
- Eliminate hearings on uncontested will admissions
- Eliminate reports on sales of property in estate administration
- Eliminate review of accountings of estates that are uncontested or have a non-judicial submission
- Don't change probate court; it's already economical and user-friendly
- Consolidation might not save money, as the same personnel will still be needed
- Traveling to another county will just shift expense from the courts to litigants
- Increase the use of restorative justice
- Increase the use of ADR
- Increase filing fees to preserve local courts
- Have the courts accept faxed documents
- Each piece of paper costs about \$1.17 to store and retrieve (according to a study done by National Life), while a scanned image costs only 20 cents. Scanners are available that will scan 60,000 pages a day. A central scanning house for the courts with a few high speed scanners and electronic filing would save tons of money.
- Assess each lawyer an additional sum to defray the budget shortfall
- Instead of assistant judges, elect a single county commissioner to serve for a set period of time and handle all the administrative responsibilities such as budget preparation, as well as the county administrative responsibilities currently done by the superior court clerk such as overseeing election recounts
- Do not have assistant judges sit in court
- Have a probate register in each county to process probate files but have estate matters handled by the superior judge and guardianship, adoptions, TPR handled by the family judge.
- Add trial judge positions after eliminating probate and assistant judges
- Small claims court filing fees should go to the judiciary budget, not county budget.
- All court employees should be state employees.
- Consolidate all courts in the county into one courthouse where facilities allow, or if more than one facility is needed, have one manager per facility