

County Manager's Proposed FY 2027 Budget

Clerk of the Circuit Court

*County Board Work Session
April 7, 2026 | 3:00 p.m.*



Clerk of the Circuit Court

Mission Statement

To ensure that Circuit Court records are easily accessible and maintained in an orderly and secure fashion; that the public is fully and fairly served; and that justice is administered promptly and without favor to any party.

Department Overview

- Civil cases increased notably
 - Contract complaints up 108%
 - Garnishments up 83%
 - Expungement petitions up 74%
- Land transactions in Arlington County increased
- Criminal cases were relatively unchanged

	CY 2024	CY 2025	Change
Civil cases	4,459	5,713	+28 %
Criminal cases	4,182	4,092	-2 %
Land records documents	15,048	17,147	+14 %
Probate cases	728	730	0%

FY 2027 Budget Highlights

- Introduce Property Alert monitoring system for land record recordings
- Implement online credit card payment process for copies of civil records
- Prepare new procedures for automatic and petition-based sealing which will be introduced on July 1, 2026

Focus on Equity

- 24/7, remote public access to [land record documents](#) from 1869 to 2026.
- Continue to waive credit card fees for defendant's paying fines and costs online.
- Multi-lingual staff in the office including Spanish, Amharic, French and Korean.
- Updated [website](#) for ADA compliance.
- [Divorce packet](#) for self-represented filers available in office and online (English and Spanish).



Summary of Proposed Changes

	FY 2026 Adopted	FY 2027 Proposed	Change	% Change
Expenses	\$4,975,559	\$5,036,963	+\$61,404	+1.2%
Revenue	\$1,994,458	\$1,951,352	-\$43,106	-2.2%
Staff	34.5 FTEs	34.5 FTEs	-	-

- Non-personnel Changes:
 - Removal of FY 2026 one-time funding for temporary contract support for indigent clients at the law library (\$25,000)
 - Contractual Increases (CPI) +\$15,282
- Revenue Changes:
 - Falls Church reimbursements: +\$11,452
 - State Compensation Board reimbursements: (\$48,272)

Key Budget Considerations

Sealing Legislation 1.0 FTE

- New sealing legislation prohibits public access to records relating to an arrest, charge, or conviction on eligible cases back to January 1, 1986
 - Marijuana Possession
 - Petit Larceny
 - Trespassing
 - Disorderly Conduct
 - Shoplifting
- The Compensation Board (CB) funded one additional FTE to each Clerk's Office due to the anticipated workload increase associated with sealing
 - During FY 2026 closeout, position was funded for January 1 to June 30, 2026
 - Expected this position to be extended in FY 2027
- Net cost to fund the position for FY 2027 is \$28k (Personnel Expense: \$76K – CB Revenue: \$48k)
 - If the position is not authorized in the FY 2027 budget, the additional revenue from the CB for the 1.0 FTE (\$48k) is forfeited.

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