

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
SECRETARY'S
ACTION AGENDA
July 1, 2026**



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**1. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
*Proposed Circuit Court Clerks Salaries***

Recommendation: The State Court Administrator recommends that the Board of Public Works increase the salaries for the Clerks of the 24 Circuit Courts effective December 1, 2026.

Authority: Section 2-504(a), Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, Annotated Code of Maryland

The 2026 amendment to Section 2-504 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article in the Laws of Maryland states: “The clerk of each circuit court shall receive an annual salary of not more than [\$146,500 as set by the Board of Public Works on the basis of the relative volume of business and receipts in the clerk’s office] the salary of a state employee at Grade 26, Step 20 of the State of Maryland Standard and bargaining Salary Scale in effect on the day before the day that the clerk begins a new term of office.”

Circuit Court Clerk salaries may increase only every four years upon each election. Maryland Constitution Article III, Section 35.

Salary Table:

Subdivision	Current \$	Proposed \$
Caroline Dorchester Garrett Kent Somerset Talbot	\$140,600	\$167,482
Allegany Calvert Cecil Queen Anne’s St. Mary’s Wicomico Worcester	\$143,600	\$170,482

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1. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS (continued)

Salary Table (continued):

Subdivision	Current \$	Proposed \$
Carroll Charles Frederick Harford Howard Washington	\$144,750	\$171,632
Anne Arundel Baltimore City Baltimore County Montgomery Prince George's	\$146,500	\$173,382

Background: The Board of Public Works last approved an increase in salaries of the Circuit Court Clerks on May 11, 2022 (Secretary's Agenda, Item 6). The proposed revisions are offered after a comprehensive review of the volume of business and receipts in each Circuit Court jurisdiction. The goal of the proposed recommendation is to reflect the very high volume of cases and the collection of significant funds, both for the State and local jurisdictions, for which Circuit Court Clerks are responsible, as well as the quality of services provided.

The increase for the elected Clerks will not be provided until December 1, 2026. The General Assembly has funded these increases in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

The salary recommendations for each jurisdiction are tiered according to population size and the relative volume of business and receipts per large, medium-large, medium, and small court classifications established by the Comptroller's Office some time ago. While there are several statutory functions that all Circuit Court Clerks must perform, quantitative differences exist in the volume of their daily work. Larger volumes of workload generally require more staff, thus increasing the managerial responsibility of Circuit Court Clerks in large jurisdictions. Larger jurisdictions also typically have more judges, magistrates, and courtrooms, all of which result in greater clerical workload. Yet, unlike Circuit Court Clerks in larger jurisdictions, Circuit Court Clerks in smaller jurisdictions may have to assume at any time the duties of any position in the office due to staff absences and vacancies.

The Circuit Court Clerks are a critical component, not only of the operation of the Circuit Courts, but of the overall criminal and civil justice systems in Maryland.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

THIS ITEM WAS:

APPROVED

DISAPPROVED

DEFERRED

WITHDRAWN

WITH DISCUSSION

WITHOUT DISCUSSION