

## State Courts: Budget Reductions & Technology

### NCSC

Chart of states' cost-saving measures in their court systems, data updated December 2010

- Reduced hours of operation (15 States' Courts)
- Salary freeze (29)
- Salary reduction (9)
- Staff layoffs (14)
- Furlough of judicial officers, with reduction in pay (9)
- Furlough of clerical/administrative staff, with reduction in pay (16)
- Delay in filling judicial vacancies (26)
- Reduced use of retired judges (15)
- Delay in filling vacancies in the clerks' offices (34)
- Delay in filling vacancies in judicial support positions; i.e. court reporters, law clerks, etc. (32)
- Increase fees and fines (22)

Full list of states available at: [http://www.ncsc.org/information-and-resources/~//media/Files/PDF/Information%20and%20Resources/Budget%20Resource%20Center/Cost%20Saving%20Measures%2012\\_10.ashx](http://www.ncsc.org/information-and-resources/~//media/Files/PDF/Information%20and%20Resources/Budget%20Resource%20Center/Cost%20Saving%20Measures%2012_10.ashx)

### State-by-State Report using mostly NCSC information

#### **Alabama:**

- Reductions: Froze salaries and delayed filling vacancies in the clerks' offices and in judicial support positions.
- Technology: E-filing, E- Citations, and E-Payment of fees and fines. Alabama uses videoconferencing for some hearings.
- Articles:
  - o Marty Roney. "[Autauga County District Court Judgeship Won't Be Filled Due to Budget Woes.](#)" MontgomeryAdvertiser.com. April 6, 2010.

#### **Alaska:**

- Technology: implementing E-payment of fees and fines, and an electronic document management system. It is videoconferencing some court hearings

#### **Arizona**

- Reductions: Reduced hours of operation, frozen salaries, reduced salaries, imposed staff layoffs, furloughed clerical and administrative staff with reduction in pay, reduced use of retired judges, and delayed filling judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and in judicial support positions.
- increased fines and fees; identified a variety of new fees and surcharges
- Technology: implementing E-filing, E- Citations, E-Payment of fees and fines, electronic document management system, and expanded use of web based technology for meetings and trainings. Arizona uses videoconferencing for some hearings.
- Proposed Legislation:
  - o HB 2355 (2011): Redefines for budget and other purposes various assessments as surcharges. (*Last action: Approved by House Rules Committee 2/7/11.*)

### Arkansas

- Reductions: Froze salaries, eliminating cost of living, merit and retention pay raises. It has eliminated some grant programs.
- Technology: implementing E-filing, E- Citations, E-Payment of fees and fines, and electronic document management system.

### California

- Reductions: California has reduced hours of operations, frozen salaries, imposed staff layoffs, furloughed clerical and administrative staff with reductions in pay, delayed filling vacancies in the clerks' offices and in judicial support positions, reduced the use of overtime and temporary employees and increased fines and fees. The judicial branch closed the courts, statewide, one day per month in FY 2009-2010. These closures are being ended in FY 2010-2011.
- Enacted Legislation:
  - o California SB 857 (2010): Increases numerous court fees and fines. Add \$20-\$40 civil filing fees (depending on case type). Increases *pro hac vice* application fee from \$250 to \$500 per year renewal fee.
- Articles:
  - o "Gov. Jerry Brown, as part of his plan to slash state spending, has proposed cutting \$200 million from the California courts in the next budget, on top of the more than \$100 million court officials have been forced to cut in the past year."  
Howard Mintz. "[Proposed Budget Cuts for the California Courts Already Causing a Stir](#)." MercuryNews.com. January 31, 2011.

### Colorado

- Technology: According to the Colorado State Judicial Branch website, Colorado has been implementing e-filing for the last 10 years.

### Connecticut

- Reductions: Connecticut has frozen salaries, furloughed judicial officers and clerical and administrative staff with reduction in pay, and delayed the filling of judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and in judicial support positions.
- Technology: implementing E-filing, E- Citations, E-Payment of fees and fines and the videoconferencing of some hearing. Connecticut's mandatory e filing in civil matters for all attorneys has made efficiencies in the clerks' office possible and the work flow is being streamlined in all areas. Connecticut is moving forward with e-filing of all family matters which will further increase its ability to leverage our reduced work force.
- Articles:
  - o "Connecticut judges say they don't expect a raise this year given the budget crisis. But after fiscal conditions improve, it's time for a new system with annual raises that match those given to managers across state government....State judges, whose pay last increased in 2007, currently have no fixed schedule or system for raises, which are granted at the discretion of the General Assembly."  
K. M. Phaneuf. "[Judges Want New System for Pay Raises--After Budget Crisis Is Resolved](#)." Connecticut Mirror. January 13, 2011.

### Delaware

- Reductions: Delaware has reduced salaries, delayed filling judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and in judicial support positions and increased fees and fines.
- Technology: implementing E-filing, E-Payment of fees and fines, and an electronic document management system. Delaware uses videoconferencing for some hearings.

### District of Columbia

- Technology: implementing E-Filing, and Electronic Document Management System and a Case Management System (with an integrated document management system), jury management system, public access to trial court dockets on the Courts' website, web-based juror services, audio streaming of appellate oral arguments on the Courts' website, and an intranet to provide internal information. Planned technology enhancements include business intelligence software and revision to the Courts' website.

### Florida

- Reductions: Florida has delayed the filling of judicial support and other court staff positions. It has increased fees and fines and has reduced travel.
- Technology: implementing E-filing and an electronic document management system. Florida has virtually eliminated hard-copy reports, reduced face-to-face statewide meetings (meetings are now held by videoconferencing), and expanded digital/centralized court reporting. Florida has reduced hard copy court reporting transcript production (it is now limited primarily to appeals) and expanded use of remote (video/phone) court interpreting.
- Proposed Legislation:
  - o SB 170 – 2011 – Requires that each state attorney and public defender implement a system by which the state attorney and public defender can electronically file court documents with the clerk of the court. Requires that the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association and the Florida Public Defender Association report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by a specified date on the progress made in implementing the electronic filing system, etc. (*Last Action: Approved by Senate Judiciary Committee 2/8/11.*)
- Articles:
  - o "Although the court system makes up only 0.7 percent of the state budget, the bursting of the housing bubble and the subsequent rampant foreclosures are weighing the system down,' Canady said.... 'We've seen a drop in the filings. It relates to these (robo-signing) problems. That has affected our revenue and it's something that's very much a concern. This is a very dynamic situation and the models that are used to get these estimates are questionable because there are circumstances that no one could have foreseen,' Canady said."
    - Gray Rohrer. ["Chief Justice Charles Canady Argues Against Cuts to Courts."](#) Sunshine State News. January 26, 2011.
  - o Bill Kaczor. ["Chief Justice: Fla. Courts Can't Stand More Cuts."](#) The Miami Herald. January 25, 2011.
  - o "First off, I do not speak for the judicial branch -- these are my personal thoughts. When you choke off a court's resources, you choke off the people's access to justice," said Haworth, who joined the circuit court bench in 1989. The 12th Judicial Circuit covers Manatee, Sarasota and DeSoto counties. "The current proposal would bring an unprecedented level of inefficiency and would devastate the criminal and civil justice system," Haworth said this week.
    - James A. Jones, Jr. "State budget cuts could affect courts." Feb. 14, 2011. <http://www.bradenton.com/2011/02/14/2954158/state-budget-cuts-could-affect.html#>

### Georgia

- Reductions: Georgia's trial courts have reduced hours of operation, reduced and frozen salaries, laid off staff, furloughed judicial officers and clerical/administrative staff, with reductions in pay, delayed filling vacancies of judicial officers, in the clerks' offices, and in judicial support positions, reduced the use of retired judges, and increased fines and fees.

- Technology: implementing E-filing, E-Citations, Epayment of fees and fines, and an electronic document management system. Georgia uses videoconferencing for some hearings.
- Enacted Legislation:
  - o HB 1055 (2010): Increases numerous court fees and fines. Creates \$125 judicial operations filing fee to be added to civil filings in state and superior court. Exempts state agencies from fee. Increases fee for preparation of record and transcript to the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals to \$10 per page (was \$1.50 per page).
- Proposed Legislation:
  - o HB 236 (2011): Provides judges and court employees hired or coming into office after a certain date are no longer permitted to become Retirement System of Georgia members. (*Last Action: In House Committee on Retirement*)
- Articles:
  - o When state lawmakers increased the cost of filing civil cases in state and superior courts last spring, no one expected it would send filers flocking to magistrate court. "We're busy," said Floyd County Magistrate Court Supervisor Courtney Shedd. "Yes, we are behind."...The cost of filing a civil case was \$87.50, but it increased by \$125 to \$212.50. The additional \$125 goes straight back to the state, Penson said. The cost to file a civil suit in magistrate court also increased, but only by \$40, from \$30 to \$70....Shedd said magistrate filings have increased by "hundreds," which has gotten her staff behind."
 

Lydia Senn ["Magistrate Court Swamped After Filing Costs Increase in State, Superior Courts."](#) Rome News-Tribune. January 9, 2011.

## Hawaii

- Reductions: Hawaii has reduced hours of operation, reduced salaries, laid off staff, furloughed clerical and administrative staff with reductions in pay, delayed filling vacancies in the clerks' offices and in judicial support positions, and increased fees and fines. It has also reduced the use of per-diem judges, reduced judicial officers pay without a furlough, and increased the use of video conferencing for administrative meetings/discussions.
- Technology: implement E-filing, E-payment, E-citations, E-bench warrants, an electronic document management system, videoconferencing of hearings and electronic court recording. The Judiciary Information Management System (JIMS) traffic and juror modules have been implemented, the JIMS Appellate module will be implemented in late summer 2010, and the JIMS Criminal, Civil, and Family modules will be implemented in the future.
- Proposed Legislation:
  - o HB 1381 (2011): Increases the surcharge on court filing fees used to fund indigent legal services. (*Last Action: In House Judiciary Committee*).
  - o HB 301 (2011): Directs into the judiciary computer system special fund fees collected for electronic document certification, electronic copies of documents, and for providing bulk access to electronic court records and compilations of data. (*Last Action: Approved by House Judiciary Committee 2/8/11*)
  - o HB 829 (2011): Establishes the offense of loitering on public property and adds trespassing on public property to the offense of criminal trespass in the first degree. Establishes the homeless case management program and the homeless case management special fund, to be administered by the judiciary for the benefit of homeless persons convicted of loitering or trespass on public property. (*Last Action: In House Housing Committee*)
  - o SB 1050 (2011): Clarifies the supreme court's authority with respect to costs and fees. (*Last Action: In Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee*).
  - o SB 1073 (2011): Increases the amount of surcharges for indigent legal fees. (*Last Action: Approved as amended by Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee 2/7/11.*)
  - o SB 999 (2011): Directs into the judiciary computer system special fund fees collected for electronic document certification, electronic copies of documents, and for

providing bulk access to electronic court records and compilations of data. (*Last Action: In Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee*)

- Articles:
  - o Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald is asking state lawmakers to approve a judiciary budget that includes \$16.2 million to end the two-days-a-month furloughs for about 1,800 court workers on July 1....He said the time to process uncontested divorces has doubled, 24 adult probation positions were eliminated on Oahu, and the median age of pending civil cases in Circuit Court has increased by more than 40 percent. Ken Kobayashi. "[Judiciary Asks for \\$16 Million to End Furloughs.](#)" Honolulu Star Advertiser. January 27, 2011.

## Idaho

- Reductions: Idaho has imposed a salary freeze and staff layoffs. It has furloughed both judicial officers and administrative staff, with reductions in pay. Idaho has delayed filling judicial vacancies and has delayed filling judicial support positions. Idaho has increased court fees and fines.
- Technology: Idaho has implemented E-Citations, E-Payment of fees and fines and implemented videoconferencing of hearings.
- Enacted Legislation:
  - o HB 687 (2010): Establishes emergency surcharge fee for court action. Requires surcharge fees collected go to Idaho Statewide Trial Court Automated Records System (ISTARS) Technology Fund and the Drug Court, Mental Health Court and Family Court Services Fund.
- Proposed Legislation:
  - o HB 68 (2011): Provides Judicial Council shall prepare its own annual budget request and that the Supreme Court shall include that request in its own budget request without any changes. (*Last Action: Approved by full House 2/8/11*)

## Illinois

- Proposed Legislation:
  - o HB 216 (2011): Permits counties to authorize a fee of up to \$10 for court interpreter services on criminal and traffic convictions, for deposit into a Court Interpreter Services Fund under the control of the local chief judge. (*Last Action: In House Rules Committee*)
  - o SB 29 (2011): Amends provisions concerning creditable service, conditions for eligibility, amount of annuities, automatic annual increases, survivors' annuities, and refunds to members of Judges Pension system joining after July 1, 2011. (*Last Action: In Senate Assignments Committee*)

## Indiana

- Technology: implementing E-filing, E-citation, E-payment of fines and fees, and an electronic document management system. Indiana is videoconferencing some court hearings.
- Proposed Legislation:
  - o SB 301 (2011): Provides that in all civil, criminal, infraction, and ordinance violation actions, the clerk of the court shall collect an automated record keeping fee (\$7 before July 1, 2011; \$10 for June 30, 2011 - July 1, 2015; \$7 after June 30, 2015.) (*Last Action: Approved by House Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy 2/10/11*)

## Iowa

- Reductions: Iowa has reduced hours of operation, frozen salaries, imposed staff layoffs, furloughed judicial officers and clerical and administrative staff with reduction in pay, and delayed the filling of judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and in judicial

- support positions. It has increased fees and fines and has reduced travel, reduced mileage reimbursement rates, and reduced non-personnel related expenses.
- Technology: With the exception of full implementation of their electronic filing/EDMS project, Iowa has implemented E-filing, E- Citations, and E-Payment of fees and fines.
  - Proposed Legislation:
    - o SSB 1009 (2011) – Requires the department of administrative services and any other state agency that maintains a separate accounting system and elects to establish a debt collection setoff procedure, to remit to the state court administrator, 10 percent of the amounts set off from the collection of delinquent court debt for use by the judicial branch to defray the costs of collecting unpaid court debt. Specifies that the fees collected for examination and admission to practice law are appropriated to the judicial branch and shall be used to offset the costs of administering the examination and admission process to practice law (currently put in general fund). (**Last Action**: Draft requested)
  - Articles:
    - o Lynda Waddington. "[Judicial Budget Cuts Continue to Negatively Impact Ordinary Iowans.](#)" The Iowa Independent. January 12, 2011.

### Kansas

- Reductions: Kansas has reduced hours of operation, reduced the salary of judicial officers, furloughed clerical and administrative staff with reduction in pay, reduced use of retired judges, and delayed filling judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and in judicial support positions. Kansas has increased fines and fees.
- Technology: implementing E-Payment of fees and fines. Kansas is in the process of implementing E-filing. Meetings are being held on line.
- Kansas has closed some of the courts to the public for a portion of the day in to make it possible for clerical staff to keep up with filings and other clerk's office duties.

### Kentucky

- Reductions: Kentucky has frozen salaries, imposed staff layoffs, delayed the filling of judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and in judicial support positions. It has increased fees and fines and has reduced travel and other operating expenses, including copiers and conference expenses.
- Technology: implementing E-Payment of fines and fees.
- Proposed Legislation:
  - o HB 203 (2011): Requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide online public access to judicial branch financial information by January 1, 2012. (*Last Action: In House State Government Committee*)
  - o HB 99 (2011): Requires supplemental court fees imposed by counties to support courthouse operation and construction be subject to an annual public accounting of the disposition of the funds collected and to restrict expenditure of those funds to Court of Justice purposes only. Requires Department for Local Government to publish the collected information. (*Last Action: In House (no committee)*)
  - o SB 2 (2011): Closes Judicial Retirement Plan to new members effective July 1, 2012. Allows those in Judicial Retirement Plan with less than 5 years of service to transfer their membership and account balance to the Public Employees Retirement System. (*Last Action: Approved as amended by full Senate 2/11/11*)

### Louisiana

- Reductions: Louisiana has delayed filling vacancies in the clerks' offices and in judicial support positions.

- Technology: Louisiana is expanding E-Filing and Video Conferencing for Justice's conferences and implementing an Enterprise Resource Plan.
- Enacted Legislation:
  - o HB 1060 (2010): Repeals 38 separate fees the clerks of court charge in criminal matters. Replaces with \$7.50 as court costs from criminal prosecutions, \$50 fee for conviction of misdemeanors, \$100 for conviction of felony, \$1 for copies per page, \$3 for conformed copies, \$5 for certification of copies, \$20 for criminal history search, \$10 for an extract of court minutes, and actual costs for mailing.
- Articles:
  - o The state's public-defense board says Louisiana law requires judges to impose a mandatory, nonwaivable \$35 minimum fee on each convicted defendant. But judges often ignore the law and the fee, while at the same time levying generous assessments for the courts, said Frank Neuner, head of the Louisiana Public Defenders Board...."We need crime to fund criminal justice in New Orleans. That's asinine. But it's the crux of the matter," said Judge Arthur Hunter, who like his now-retired colleague Judge Calvin Johnson, stopped assessing the fees in his court in 2006 because he saw an inherent conflict in a system that essentially rewards the public defender's office with funding when its clients are found guilty.  
K. Reckdahl. "[Judges, Public Defenders Fighting Over Who Pays for Indigent Defense](#)." Times-Picayune (New Orleans). December 5, 2010.

## Maine

- Reductions: Maine delayed the filling of judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and in judicial support positions. It has increased fees and fines. The Maine Judiciary is holding approximately 30 – 40 vacancies open.
- Technology: Maine is now videoconferencing some hearings.
- Articles:
  - o "Leaders of Maine's judicial branch say they will not schedule jury trials during the last two weeks of December, in an effort to stay within the court system's \$49 million budget."  
Trevor Maxwell. "[Court System Putting Jury Trials on Two-Week Hold](#)." The Portland Press Herald. August 10, 2010.

## Maryland

- Reductions: Maryland has frozen salaries, reduced salaries, furloughed clerical and administrative staff with reduction in pay, and delayed the filling of judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and in judicial support positions. It has increased fees and fines.
- Technology: The Judiciary is actively implementing/developing a number of major information technology projects to enhance operating efficiencies within the courts and administrative offices. These include a new case management system, a revenue collection project, a Management Information System, a Jury Management System, a Board of Law system and E-Payment.
- Proposed Legislation:
  - o HB 523 (2011): Requires the State Court Administrator to assess a \$100 fee for the special admission of an out-of-state attorney and to pay \$75 of the fee into the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program. (*Last Action: In House Judiciary Committee*)
  - o SB 6 (2011) & SB 735: Provides that, on or after July 1, 2011, an individual not already a member of the Judges' Retirement System may not join. (*Last Action: In Senate Budget and Taxation Committee*)

## Massachusetts

- Reductions: Massachusetts has frozen salaries and has furloughed judicial officers and management positions, with a corresponding reduction in pay. An absolute hiring freeze has been in place since October, 2009 on all non-judicial positions. Mileage reimbursement has been reduced, and reimbursement for out-of state travel and all fiscal support for conferences and meetings has been eliminated.
- Technology: Massachusetts has been implementing a web-based case management system (MassCourts) in their seven trial court departments and at. Short term, this combination has adversely impacted the timeliness of data entry. Some court divisions are below 60% staffing based on the court's staffing model, and this low staffing level has had a significant impact on the ability of these courts to stay current with their work. Many of these clerks' offices have received reinforcements from the Administrative Office of the Trial Court.
- Articles:
  - o "Three consecutive years of budget cuts is creating a backlog of cases in Massachusetts courts and has a national group labeling 51 of the state's 115 courts "critically understaffed."  
Nancy Stewart. "[State's Courts Falling Behind in Case Clearance Rate.](#)" Patriot Ledger. February 7, 2011.

## Michigan

- Reductions: Michigan has reduced hours of operation, frozen salaries, reduced salaries, imposed staff layoffs, furloughed clerical and administrative staff with reduction in pay, and delayed filling vacancies in the clerks' offices and in judicial support positions.
- Technology: implementing E-filing, E- Citations, E-Payment of fees and fines and electronic document management system, a web-based case management system, a statewide judicial data warehouse and videoconferencing of hearings.
- Proposed Legislation:
  - o SJR 2 (Constitutional Amendment) (2011): Provides that the salaries of all judges and other government employees are to be reduced 5% for three years starting in 2012. (*Last Action: In Senate Reforms, Restructuring and Reinventing Committee*)

## Minnesota

- Reductions: reduced hours of operation, frozen salaries, imposed staff layoffs, furloughed administrative staff, with reductions in pay, delayed filling judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and judicial support positions, reduced use of retired judges, and increased fees and fines. Minnesota has implemented a voluntary separation program, reduced educational opportunities and make cuts to operating budgets and to specialty drug courts.
- Technology: implemented E-Charging for criminal cases and E-Citations for minor criminal violations. In an effort to process existing work with fewer staff, Minnesota has centralized the processing of payable citations, permitting persons to pay their fines on the web or through an interactive voice response telephone call. Minnesota has automated fine splits, the referral of past due fines to a collection agency and the receipting of collections payments. Minnesota holds hearings by videoconference. It has implemented the centralized monitoring of digital recording equipment. It has moved toward statewide implementation of software to manage conservator account reviews. Minnesota has implemented technology enhanced training. It has consolidated the jury database to one state-wide data base, centralizing the automated summoning and payment of jurors and offers jurors the option of completing the jury questionnaire on-line. Minnesota continues to expand its automated and telephonic offerings available at its statewide Self-Help Center.
- Proposed Litigation:

- HB 76 (2011): Requires judiciary and other branches use zero-based budgets. (*Last Action: In Senate State Government Innovation and Veterans Committee.*)

### Mississippi

- Reductions: Mississippi has imposed a salary freeze, has delayed filling judicial vacancies and has reduced the use of retired judges
- Technology: begun implementation of an electronic case management system.
- Proposed Legislation:
  - SB 2157 (2011): Increases clerk's fee for traffic convictions to \$25 from \$5. (*Last Action: In Senate Fees, Salaries, and Administration Committee*)
  - SB 2253 (2011): AS AMENDED: Increases judicial salaries. Pay for salaries via a) increase to filings of appeals from \$100 to \$200 b) a special \$40 fee on a civil case filings and c) special \$70 fee on criminal convictions. Specifically includes in responsibilities of chief justice supporting and implementing electronic filing systems for the courts and drug courts. Specifically includes in responsibilities of judges of the court of appeals service as special trial judges because of a statewide increase in litigation and insufficient resources to fully fund trial judge positions, and performing additional judicial services after usual state business hours to reduce delays, backlogs and inefficiencies to comply with time standards adopted by and for the appellate and trial courts, and promoting public awareness of our judicial processes and openness and accessibility of our courts by being available to conduct programs and give speeches to civic, educational, governmental and religious organizations and entities. Specifically includes in responsibilities of circuit judges all necessary action to develop drug courts within their districts and to regularly report to the Administrative Office of Courts on the success of their drug court programs. The chancery and circuit court judges will take such action as is necessary to implement electronic filing and case management systems within their districts as developed by the Administrative Office of Courts as such systems become available and will take all necessary action to prepare their courts for electronic filing and case management. (*Last Action: Approved by full Senate 2/9/11*)

### Missouri

- Reductions: Missouri has frozen salaries, delayed filling judicial vacancies, reduced the use of retired judges, and instituted a general hiring freeze for all clerks' offices, judicial support positions, and the AOC. It has reduced travel, reduced equipment purchases, reduced spending on automation and education, and consolidated office buildings at the AOC. The use of web cameras for meetings in lieu of in-person meetings is being piloted for further travel reduction savings and will be expanded if successful. Further expansion of videoconferencing is ongoing.
- Technology: An e-Filing pilot is being developed, but is not yet implemented. Plans are in place to implement E-citations in 2011. An electronic document management system is in place in a few counties. Videoconferencing has been expanded to include the Department of Corrections and further expansion is ongoing.
- Proposed Legislation:
  - HB 218 (2011): Allows a senior judge or senior commissioner to elect to forgo his or her regular salary and receive only the minimum wage during times of budget stress. (*Last Action: In House Judiciary Committee*)

## Montana

- Reductions: Montana has frozen salaries and delayed filling vacancies in judicial support positions. Montana has implemented a menu of measures aimed at reducing operating expenses (e.g., reducing judicial education and prohibiting out-of-state travel).
- Technology: implementing E-citations, E-payment of fees and fines an electronic document management system and is videoconferencing some hearings.
- Proposed Legislation:
  - o D. 737 (2011): Provides for "partial" zero-based budgets in judicial branch and other branches/agencies. (*Last Action: Draft requested*).
  - o SB 67 (2011): Directs office of court administrator temporarily suspend juvenile delinquency intervention program annual evaluation for one year and transfer funds to the general fund in lieu of conducting the evaluation. (*Last Action: Approved by full Senate 1/19/11*).
  - o HB 245 (2011): Reduces size of supreme court from 7 to 5 justices. Removes seats number 5 and 6, which were created in 1979 and whose terms are currently set to expire in 2013 (Justices James Nelson and Brian Morris). (*Last Action: Tabled in House Appropriations Committee 2/7/11*).

## Nebraska

- Reductions: Nebraska has delayed the filling of judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and in judicial support positions. It has reduced the use of retired judges. It has reduced travel and reduced mileage reimbursement rates. >
- Technology: Nebraska is implementing E-filing, E- citations, and E-payment of fees and fines and electronic document management system and is videoconferencing hearings.
- Proposed Legislation:
  - o LB 450 (2011): Extends Supreme Court authority over various cash funds until 2013. (*Last Action: In Senate Appropriations Committee*)
  - o LB 452 (2011): Provides for lottery winnings and tax refund intercept for debts owed to courts. (*Last Action: In Senate Judiciary Committee*).
  - o LB 679 (2011): Prohibits new judges from joining Nebraska Retirement Fund for Judges. Requires new judges join State Employees Retirement System. (*Last Action: In Senate Retirement Systems Committee*)
- Articles:
  - o "Possible cuts discussed during an interim hearing before the Judiciary Committee included closing county court clerks' offices in the state's 30 least populated counties and reducing county court staff in another 32."
    - K. O'Hanlon. "[Increased Fees Offered as Way to Solve Judicial Budget Crisis](#)." Lincoln Journal-Star. January 11, 2011.
  - "In Platte County, more than 70 percent of new civil cases were filed electronically in November, the latest month for which figures are available. Statewide, more than 50 percent of new civil cases are e-filed. More than 26 percent of tickets were paid online in November across the state, up 11 percent from January 2009."
    - Jim Osborn."[30 County Court Offices May Close](#)." Columbus Telegram.com. December 19, 2010.

## Nevada

- Reductions: frozen salaries, reduced the use of retired judges and delayed filling vacancies in the clerks' offices and in judicial support positions.
- Technology: implementing E-filing and an electronic document management system. Courts are videoconferencing some hearings.
- Proposed Legislation:

- AB 9 (2011): Requires each justice of the peace to charge and collect additional fees for various civil actions, proceedings and filings in the justice court. Provides 50% of the additional fees collected must be deposited in a special account administered by the county for the sole benefit of the justice courts in the county, subject to judicial oversight, and must not be used to supplant existing appropriations made to the justice courts within the county. (*Last Action: In Assembly Committee on Judiciary*)
- Articles:
  - Assemblyman Marcus Conklin, D-Las Vegas, pointed out that the court didn't participate in the furloughs ordered for all other state workers. He said this budget cycle, the governor has asked workers to take a 5 percent pay cut, and the court hasn't included that in its budget either... "In truth, yes, we did not furlough," Douglas told the joint Senate-Assembly budget review committee. "Yet we gave money back equivalent to the furloughs. We were led to believe that was acceptable at the time."
 

Geoff Dornan. "[Court Questioned About Salaries, Cuts](#)." Lahontan Valley News. January 3, 2011.
  - Clark County District Court officials on Monday will begin unprecedented courtroom sharing for civil cases at the overcrowded Regional Justice Center to accommodate the addition of seven newly elected judges. The new judicial positions, which increase the number of district judges to 32, were created by the 2009 Legislature to help courthouse officials deal with an overwhelming civil case load.
 

J. German. "[Additional Judges Put Courtrooms in Bind](#)." Las Vegas Review-Journal. January 1, 2011.

#### New Hampshire

- Reductions: New Hampshire Judiciary has reduced hours of operation, furloughed judicial officers and clerical/administrative staff, with reductions in pay, reduced the use of retired judges and per diem judges, delayed the filling of judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and judicial support positions, increased fees and fines and reduced mileage reimbursement rates.
- Technology: New Hampshire is videoconferencing some court hearing.

#### New Jersey

- Reductions: New Jersey has furloughed clerical and administrative staff, with reductions in pay, delayed filling vacancies in the clerks' offices and reduced staffing through attrition. It has reduced overtime and compensatory time. New Jersey imposed a salary freeze on managers. A majority of Judges participated in the furlough days. New Jersey has reduced operating expenses including travel and training. It has deferred technology projects.
- Technology: implementing E-filing, E-payment of fines and fees, and an electronic document management system. New Jersey is videoconferencing hearings. New Jersey is making the record of court hearings with digital recording equipment. It has implemented E-foreclosure filings.

#### New Mexico

- Reductions: New Mexico has reduced hours of operation, frozen salaries, reduced salaries, laid off staff, furloughed clerical/administrative staff with reductions in pay, and delayed filling judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and in judicial support positions. New Mexico has increased fees and fines.
- Technology: implementing E-filing, E-citations, and E-payment of fees and fines and creating an electronic document management system. It is developing a new integrated case management system. New Mexico is videoconferencing some court hearings.
- Proposed Legislation:

- SB 166 (2011): Increases appellate docket fees from \$125 to \$225. Creates the Appellate Transcription Fund to indigent appeals. Provides appellate docket fees to go to Fund (currently, docket fees are allocated to the Supreme Court Automation Fund and the Metro and Magistrate Court Facilities Fund.) (*Last Action: Approved by Senate Judiciary Committee 1/26/11*).
- SB 277 (2011): Increases magistrate courts operations fee applied to certain convictions from \$4.00 to \$7.00. (*Last Action: In Senate Judiciary Committee*).
- SB 328 (2011): Repeals judiciary's "electronic services fund" and transfers balance to general fund, effectively ending e-filing in state. (*Last Action: In Senate Judiciary Committee*)
- SB 88 (2011): Provides that certain amounts of the civil docket and jury fees be deposited into the General Fund. Provides contributions to judicial and magistrate retirement be provided from the General Fund. Increases contributions to judicial and magistrate retirement funds. (*Last Action: Approved by Senate Judiciary Committee 1/31/11.*)

### New York

- Reductions: delayed filling vacancies in the clerk's offices. It has increased fees and fines. The New York State Courts will be participating in an Early Retirement Incentive Program this fiscal year. A significant number of non-judicial employees are expected to participate. The Judiciary's budget request was reduced by \$10 million in anticipation of savings due to the program.
- Technology: implementing E-filing, E-payment of fines and fees and an electronic document management system. New York is videoconferencing some hearings.
- Proposed Legislation:
  - AB 3385 (2011): Provides a five dollar fee to cover security costs in justice courts. (*Last Action: In Assembly Judiciary Committee*)
- Articles:
  - New York's chief judge suggested on Tuesday that courts around the state might have to close if Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and the Legislature insist on cuts to the judicial system that match the broad budget limits the governor is imposing on executive agencies.  
 "Defending Courts' Budget, Top Judge Resists Cuomo." NYTimes. February 15, 2011.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/16/nyregion/16dna.html?scp=3&sq=state%20courts&st=cse>

### North Carolina

- Articles:
  - Lawmakers facing a \$3.7 billion state budget deficit gave court employees in Charlotte and across the state only a few days to consider whether to take a buyout that might spare workers from possible layoffs, Eyewitness News learned on Thursday.  
["Court Employees Face Short Deadline To Avoid Possible Layoffs."](#) WSOCTV.com. February 3, 2011.
  - C. Duncan Pardo. ["Buyouts at the Courthouse, Layoffs Could Be Ahead."](#) Raleigh Public Record. February 1, 2011.

### North Dakota

- Technology: North Dakota has implemented E-filing, E-citations (since 1999), E-payment of fines and fees and an electronic document management system. North Dakota has been videoconferencing hearings since 2002. These technology initiatives have been implemented as part of normal system upgrades and not in response to budget reductions.

- Proposed Legislation:
  - o HB 1064 (2011): Strikes provision that certain court fees must be used \*to contract\* for indigent defense. (*Last Action: Approved by full House 1/11/10*)

## Ohio

- Reductions: Ohio has frozen salaries and has reduced the use of retired judges.

## Oklahoma

- Reductions: frozen salaries, imposed staff layoffs, delayed the filling of judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and judicial support positions, reduced use of retired judges, and increased fees and fines. Oklahoma has shifted some expenses to the district court clerks' revolving fund.
- Technology: Oklahoma is videoconferencing court hearings. The Supreme Court will consider new case management systems for the district courts and appellate courts later this year. The court has been proceeding through the discovery phase of this project for two (2) years with the assistance of the NCSC and others. It anticipates that E-filing and other technology initiatives will be incorporated into the new case management.
- Proposed Legislation:
  - o HB 1469 (2011): Requires state reimbursement when counties provide facilities and services for courts. (*Last Action: Prefiled (no committee)*)
  - o SB 53 (2011): Eliminates payment related to certain military service credit in Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges. (*Last Action: Prefiled (no committee)*)
  - o SB 626 (2011): Repeals requirement that counties provide the courts attendants, fuel, lights and stationery, electricity, water, other utilities, toilet facilities and janitorial service, suitable and sufficient for the transaction of court business in such facilities. Provides county shall not be responsible for providing security, telephone, and utility service for the county courthouse or any annex thereto without an agreement with the Administrative Director of the Courts providing that the county will be reimbursed from the court fund for such services. (*Last Action: Prefiled (no committee)*)
- Articles:
  - o Oklahoma courts are facing a FY 2012 budget shortfall that could sharply impair the district courts' ability to provide timely and adequate services. "We have a projected shortfall of somewhere between \$7 (million) and \$9 million next year in the judicial system," said Michael Evans, director of the administrative office of the courts. "If those budget needs are not met, we'll have very substantial layoffs statewide at either the local or state level or both."  
Joy Hampton. ["Courts on the Ropes are Losing Budget Battle."](#) Edmund Sun.com. January 21, 2011.

## Oregon

- Reductions: Oregon courts have frozen salaries, imposed staff layoffs, furloughed both judicial officers (not including judges) and clerical/administrative staff, with a corresponding reduction in pay, reduced the use of retired judges, and delayed filling judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and judicial support positions. Oregon has raised court fees and fines to temporarily backfill general fund reductions in the current period.
- Technology: Oregon is in the development stages for a complete system overhaul to provide e-filing, e-citations, electronic content management, and a state-wide person-based electronic case management system. Implementation for these items should begin in one to two years, with completion of implementation yet to be determined.
- Proposed Legislation:

- HB 2653 (2011): Expands collection mechanisms that Collections Unit of Department of Revenue may use to collect judgments in criminal actions assigned to unit by justice courts. (*Last Action: In House Judiciary Committee*)
- HB 2710 (2011): Amends, creates, or redefines numerous laws related to court fees. Creates Court Fees Account in General Fund and directs disbursement to state bar, to counties of law libraries, etc. Repeals Judicial System Surcharge Account. (*Last Action: In House Judiciary*)
- SB 488 (2011): Increases from \$100 to \$200 amount judge may charge for solemnization of marriage. (*Last Action: In Senate General Government, Consumer and Small Business Protection Committee.*)
- SB 499 (2011): Suspends for judiciary and other branches/agencies cost-of-living increases, salary step increases, upward reclassifications, filling of vacant positions, creation of new positions and out-of-state travel for employees of specified state agencies. Suspends purchases of additional goods or supplies. (*Last Action: In Senate Rules Committee.*)
- Articles:
  - Collins said he could foresee cuts hindering the courts' ability to effectively screen people in pretrial release decisions or serve people without attorneys. "That's particularly a big issue in family law, where probably 80 percent of the people don't have an attorney," Collins said. "Those are some of the areas where we'll have to cut back, but I'm sure there will be more." Collins says his court has reacted to the budget crisis by placing an emphasis on efficiency, like with the paperless eCourt system, which has been implemented for small claims and landlord-tenant disputes.  
Seth Gordon. "[Budget Cuts Could Hit Already Hurting Courts.](#)"  
NewbergGraphic.com. January 26, 2011.

## Pennsylvania

- Technology: Introducing video conferencing technology to courts statewide
- Proposed Legislation:
  - HB 266 (2011): Eliminates cost-of-living increases in judicial and other salaries. (*Last Action: In House Appropriations Committee*)
  - HB 38 (2011): Provides for high filing fee for commencement of a civil action above \$12,000 (high fee currently applies for claims at \$8,000 or \$10,000, depending on court). (*Last Action: Approved by House Judiciary Committee 2/8/11*)
- Articles:
  - Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald Castille says the judges aren't needed and wants to leave the positions vacant... "I don't understand why they want to put more judges in when they are asking us to cut our budgets. I just don't understand. It's pure politics, some local legislators trying to do a favor for somebody that would like to be on the bench," Castille said.  
Jan Murphy. "[Legislature, Court at Odds Over Judge Vacancies.](#)"  
PennLive.com. October 10, 2010.

## Rhode Island

Reductions: frozen salaries, reduced salaries, delayed the filling of judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and judicial support positions, increased fees and fines and suspended civil calendars.

Technology: implemented an E-Citation program, E-Payments, an Electronic Document Management System and expanded videoconferencing. The plan is to expand all of these programs and to implement an E-Filing system, an Indigent Defense Attorney Time Tracking system and web-payments with a real-time updates to the case management system.

### South Carolina

- Reductions: frozen salaries, delayed the filling of judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and judicial support positions, and reduced the use of retired judges. South Carolina has reduced travel and the operating expense allowance to judicial officers
- Technology: implemented E-payment of fees and fines in 41 of the 46 counties and is planning the implementation of E-filing. It is videoconferencing some court hearings. South Carolina has a statewide case management system for the clerks of court and has implemented a solicitor case management system statewide to increase efficiency
- Proposed Legislation:
  - o HB 3258 (2011): Requires zero based budgeting for judiciary and other branches/agencies. (*Last Action: In House Committee on Ways and Means*)

### South Dakota

- Reductions: reduced counseling services, capital assets and other line items for travel, contractual services and supplies.
- Technology: The Judiciary is videoconferencing hearing and is in the process of purchasing a new integrated case management system
- Proposed Legislation:
  - o HB 1038 (2011): Requires clerk of supreme court collect certain fees for the electronic transmission of court records (Last Action: Approved by full Senate 2/9/11. To Governor for approval)
- Articles:
  - o "South Dakota's court system will cut its general fund budget by 10 percent, giving into Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard's request that previously raised concerns about potential damage they might cause, officials said Wednesday....The courts hope to reduce about \$225,000 in salaries by not filling open jobs. The proposed budget also cuts \$600,000 from counseling services, \$340,000 in operating expenses, and \$200,000 in microfilm expenses."  
Nomaan Merchant. ["SD Court System Gives Into 10 Percent Budget Cuts."](#) Bloomberg. February 2

### Tennessee

- Reductions: Tennessee has frozen salaries, laid off staff, delayed filling judicial vacancies and vacancies in judicial support positions and reduced its technology budget and other programs
- Technology: Tennessee is videoconferencing hearings. Other technology projects are underway but are not completed. E-services have been commenced with the filing of fee claims in indigent defense cases online. E-filing is being studied for the court system. In addition, case flow management conferences have been held for the trial judges. Staff court reporter positions have been outsourced. Research materials for the judges are now provided online

### Texas

- Reductions: Texas has frozen salaries, delayed the filling of judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and judicial support positions. Texas has delayed and reduced attorney salary adjustments previously approved by Legislature
- Technology: implementing E-filing in the appellate courts
- Proposed Legislation:
  - o HB 1261 (2011): Increases court costs imposed on conviction and deposited to the municipal court technology fund. (*Last Action: In House (no committee)*)

- HB 395 (2011) & HB 777 (2011): Increases several court security fees for conviction: felony - \$10, misdemeanor \$8 or \$9. (*Last Action: In House (no committee)*)
- HB 904 (2011): Increases municipal court building security fund fee conviction from \$3 to \$4. (*Last Action: In House (no committee)*)
- Articles:
  - Judges irritated over missing court documents after the Dallas County courts' switch to a paperless system are demanding that they be allowed to switch back to paper. "We're entitled to the paper documents and that's what I want," said State District Judge Don Adams, presiding judge of the felony criminal courts.  
Jennifer Emily. "[After Delays, Dallas County Judges Want to Abandon Switch to Digital Court Files.](#)" The Dallas Morning News. November 14, 2010

## Utah

- Reductions: has frozen salaries, imposed staff layoffs, delayed filling judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and judicial support positions, reduced use of retired judges, reduced operating costs and cancelled leases and contracts. Utah is using videoconferencing for trainings and meetings. The legislature passed a significant increase in filing fees to prevent deeper reductions in the court budget.
- Technology: implementing E-filing, E-citations, E-payment of fines and fees, electronic warrants and an electronic document management system. Utah is videoconferencing hearings. It has implemented the electronic management of transcript production.
- Articles:
  - Dwindling budgets have prompted state court officials to outline a plan for shutting down the new Spanish Fork courthouse, as well as nine others around the state.  
Jim Dalrymple. "[Courts Consider Closures to Cut Budget.](#)" Daily Herald. February 1, 2011.

## Vermont

- Reductions: The Vermont Judiciary has furloughed judicial officers and clerical/administrative staff with reductions in pay, delayed filling judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices and in judicial support positions and has increased fees and fines
- Technology: implemented E-payment of fines. Vermont is videoconferencing some court hearings. Vermont plans to implement a new E-filing and electronic document management system in the Fall of 2010 and E-payment of filing fees and a new integrated web-based case management system in the Spring of 2012.
- Proposed Legislation:
  - HB 138 (2011): Repeals sunset on court diversion fees. (Approved by full House 2/9/11)

## Virginia

- Reductions: reduction, Virginia has frozen salaries, imposed staff layoffs and delayed filling judicial vacancies and vacancies in the clerks' offices. Specifically, Virginia has implemented a one-year hiring freeze on court clerk's positions (exceptions can be requested by courts). In addition, the General Assembly has authorized the use of substitute/retired judges instead of filling vacant judgeships until June 30, 2012. These actions have made the disposing of cases in a timely manner more difficult.
- Technology: implementing e-citations, e-payment of fees and fines, an electronic document management system and is videoconferencing some hearings.
- Proposed Legislation:

- HB 1570 (2011): Increases from \$10 to \$14 court fees paid on commencement of a civil action. Changes from \$9 to \$13 the amount that, from such additional fee, is to be credited to the Virginia State Bar's Legal Aid Services Fund. (*Last Action: In House Courts of Justice Committee*)
- SB 1369 (2011): Provides that clerks may charge a fee of \$25 for civil or criminal proceedings filed electronically and an additional \$10 fee for subsequent filings in such proceedings. Requires fee go to clerk's local fund to cover operational expenses of the electronic filing system. Clarifies that clerks may provide official certificates and certified copies of records that contain personal identifying information electronically upon request of a party or attorney. Makes various changes to clerks' duties regarding electronic filing. (*Last Action: Approved by full Senate 2/7/11*)
- Articles:
  - The Virginia State Bar says Gov. Bob McDonnell's proposed \$5 million raid on its cash reserves is an unprecedented, and perhaps illegal, tax on the state's lawyers Larry O'Dell. "[Va. State Bar Opposes Transfer of Dues to Budget.](#)" Bloomberg Businessweek. January 31, 2011

### Washington

- Reductions: Local trial court budget reductions have included staff furloughs, delaying appointments for mid-term judicial vacancies, and no longer responding to telephone and e-mail inquiries to the courts. Significant numbers of Municipal Courts, which do not have constitutional or statutory protections requiring them to remain open except on non-judicial days, have been ordered to close one or more days per month. For FY 2010, each AOC (Administrative Office of the Courts) staff person is required to take 10 furlough days without pay. Staff furloughs have also been implemented in varying degrees by the Supreme Court and three divisions of the Court of Appeals.
- Proposed Legislation:
  - SJR 8202 (Constitutional Amendment) (2011): Permits salary reduction for state employees, judicial officers, and public officials to reflect compensation reductions implemented for other public employees in the jurisdiction in which such officers and judges serve. (*Last Action: In Senate Committee on Ways & Means*) (SJR 8203 (Constitutional Amendment) is extremely similar and also in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means).

### West Virginia

- Reductions: West Virginia has reduced expenditures in the development of technologies
- Proposed Legislation:
  - HB 3067 (2011): Increases various filing fees to provide for civil legal services for the poor. (*Last Action: In House Judiciary Committee*)

### Wisconsin

- Reductions: the Wisconsin Judiciary has reduced hours of operation, furloughed clerical/administrative staff, and reduced the use of reserve judges.
- Technology: Wisconsin is taking steps to enhance technology by implementing E-filing, E-citation, E-payment of fines and fees, and an electronic document management system. Wisconsin is videoconferencing and digitally recording some court hearings.

## Wyoming

- Technology: Wyoming is developing E-filing. Some court hearings are conducted with the use of videoconferencing
- Proposed Legislation:
  - o HB 190 (2011): Provides for the electronic submittal of fees, fines, bonds and penalties to circuit courts. Allowing for the creation of an internet based electronic transaction system for such fees, fines, etc. Provides that the supreme court may reduce fines, bonds and penalties if submitted electronically. (*Last Action: Approved by full House 2/7/11*)

For additional information on each state: State Budget Survey Summaries – December 7, 2010  
<http://www.ncsc.org/information-and-resources/budget-resource-center/~media/Files/PDF/Information%20and%20Resources/Budget%20Resource%20Center/budget%20narratives%2012%207%2010.ashx>

## Other NCSC Resources:

Map that shows percentage change by state for judiciary budgets in 2010 and 2011:  
<http://www.ncsc.org/information-and-resources/~media/Files/PDF/Information%20and%20Resources/Budget%20Resource%20Center/Budget%20Percent%20Change%20Maps%20and%20Tables%2012-7-10.ashx>

Court Technology Bulletin: Cutting Edge Information about Technology and the Court Community  
<http://courtechbulletin.blogspot.com/>

Gavel to Gavel: A review of state legislation affecting the courts  
 January 7, 2011 edition: [http://www.ncsconline.org/D\\_Research/gaveltogavel/G%20to%20G%205-2.pdf](http://www.ncsconline.org/D_Research/gaveltogavel/G%20to%20G%205-2.pdf)



## JUSTICE AT STAKE

### **State Court Issues:**

- Special interest money flooding state court elections
- Pressure on judicial candidates to promise specific rulings
- Key reforms: public financing, appointment/retention, recusal rules and new disclosure laws

[http://www.justiceatstake.org/issues/state\\_court\\_issues/](http://www.justiceatstake.org/issues/state_court_issues/)

### **Facts and Stats:**

- 39 states elect at least some appellate or major trial court judges. See Contested Elections vs. Appointments.
- 76% of Americans believe campaign contributions have at least some impact on a judge's courtroom decisions. See Money & Elections or Polls.
- Spending on state Supreme Court elections more than doubled in the past decade, from \$83.3 million in 1990-1999 to \$206.9 million in 2000-2009. See Money & Elections.
- 84% of Americans believe judges should not hear cases involving major campaign supporters. 81% believe a neutral judge, not the judge whose fairness is being challenged, should decide whether a judge should avoid a case involving campaign benefactors. See Recusal or Polls.
- The USA PATRIOT Act and other post-September 11 policies dramatically weakened the historic power of the courts to protect our rights and check possible government abuses. See Civil Liberties & National Security.
- Congress periodically engages in waves of "court-stripping," often to punish the courts for particular rulings on hot-button social issues. See Court-Stripping.
- There are only two Hispanic women among the 161 active judges on the U.S. Courts of Appeals, following Justice Sonia Sotomayor's elevation to the U.S. Supreme Court, Sixty-one percent of active federal appellate judges are white males. See Diversity.

[http://www.justiceatstake.org/resources/facts\\_stats\\_and\\_quotes/facts\\_stats.cfm](http://www.justiceatstake.org/resources/facts_stats_and_quotes/facts_stats.cfm)