

# 2012 Proposed Budget



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# Mission Statement

*We promote justice and public safety through vigorously prosecuting crime, protecting those in need and providing quality legal representation for Washington County.*

# Vision Statement

*Our vision is to make Washington County a safe and just place to live and work.*



# Prosecution landscape is changing

- Prosecutor's role has changed.
- Caseloads contain mortgage fraud, felony DWIs, fleeing, domestic strangulation and failure to register as a predatory offender. Those crimes did not exist a few years ago.
- Increase in computer based crimes - identify theft and cyber harassment.
- Significant increase in voter fraud allegations.



# Civil Division

- 700 pending real estate tax appeals
- Continued heavy caseload in child support
  - Estimate over 7,000 open cases and in excess of \$25,000,000 will be collected in child support payments.
  - We rank highest in cost effectiveness collecting \$7.30 for every \$1.00 spent. The State average is \$4.32
  - Compared with the other metro counties, we rank highest in obtaining court orders for support at 92%. The State average is 84%.
- Provide quality legal representation to county departments and the Board of Commissioners



# Tight budget requires efficiencies

- Surveyed every law enforcement agency and all of the departments with whom we work to determine how we could better and more efficiently serve our customers.
- Created office policy manual to assure teamwork and uniformity in our delivery of legal services.
- Instituted a vertical prosecution strategy.
- Identified specialties for each attorney.
- Tripled the number of jury trials.
- Reduced turnaround time.



# Case turnaround time

- Last year's budget presentation set goal of 45 days for case review.
- Currently the turnaround time for all case decisions is three days in adult criminal and seven days in juvenile.
- Case declinations have continued to plummet meaning more victim's cases are being prosecuted.



# Tight budget requires efficiencies

Challenge:

**Cut \$97,500 from our 2011 budget**

How we did it:

- Eliminated the 1.0 FTE Victim Witness Supervisor position
- Victim witness coordinators were moved into the Criminal division



# Tight budget requires efficiencies

- Identified core attorney competencies, providing training to those skills and specialties including:
  - Computer and white collar crime
  - Vulnerable adult abuse
  - Environmental crimes
  - Mortgage fraud
  - Child exploitation
  - DNA and forensics
  - Truancy



# 2011 Adult and Juvenile Case Highlights

- Will review more than 1,300 adult felony cases.
- Will review more than 1,500 juvenile cases including child protection and termination of parental rights cases.
- On track to try 24 jury trials and 22 delinquency and child protection trials.



# Proactive strategies

- Quarterly training of law enforcement in order to foster closer teamwork in building solid prosecutions.
- Monthly in-house training for criminal and juvenile prosecutors to hone skills in the courtroom.
- Community outreach including crime prevention classes, participation in community events and articles for local newspapers.



# More efficiencies identified

- Working with public defenders, court administrators, city prosecutors, Community Corrections and judges to reduce the amount of attorney time in court.
- Implemented plea negotiation guidelines in order to reduce the number of cases that settle on the day of trial.



# 2012 Initiatives

- **Truancy** - committed to partnering with Community Services to reduce truancy.
- **Domestic abuse** - develop and implement a comprehensive domestic abuse initiative by partnering with city attorneys, Community Corrections, law enforcement agencies and domestic abuse advocates.
- Initiate a **veterans diversion program** in partnership with Community Corrections, Community Services, district court and law enforcement.



