



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023
COMMITTEE: Budget		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AMBER BOLEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: amber.boleym@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 1:10 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I have worked in the Linn County Circuit Clerk's office for twelve years, five of those as Circuit Clerk. I began employment with the state in a 20 hour position and worked my way up to full-time employment prior to running for Circuit Clerk in 2018. In my twelve years working in the Missouri Judiciary, many changes have taken place, including e-filing in 2013 and upcoming remote public access in July of 2023. As a Circuit Clerk, I am responsible for the maintenance and security of all court documents and records. My daily duties include wearing multiple hats in this role, all critical to maintaining a properly functioning judicial system. From financial processing, management, and reconciliation, to on the fly technology support during a busy law day when the webex/sound system is not working properly, I find it crucial to have a vast knowledge of the legal system, accounting, technology, management and mediation to be a successful Circuit Clerk. In my five years as Circuit Clerk, there is always something new which will arise daily. It is of great importance to keep knowledgeable and experienced clerks in the Missouri Judiciary system. Unfortunately, with the increased cost of living and competitive wages, these positions could be easily vacated for a less intricate employment opportunity. With your help, this wage increase will greatly secure those of us, with knowledge which comes from experience, to stay in our positions and continue serving our fellow constituents. I appreciate all the Missouri Legislature has accomplished in making our wages more competitive to be able to raise our families in this great state. Thank you for all that you do and your time today.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY GUM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Ashley.Gum@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 12:24 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in support of the Circuit Clerks salary being 65% of the Associate Judges Salary. In the recent years the Office of Circuit Clerk has had several changes that adds more work and stress to the position of Circuit Clerk. Consolidating associate and circuit courts, adding municipal courts to our already bogged down case load, learning new technology with little to no training, adding treatment and family courts, and the countless hours spending doing Amendment 3 marijuana expungements. I along with the Missouri Circuit Clerk's Association is asking for your support in passing HB 998



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY SCHUESSLER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ashley.schuessler@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 3:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

While I am deeply grateful for the recent 8.7% COLA increase for all State employees, I am requesting a salary that will more adequately compensate Missouri Circuit Clerks for the duties and responsibilities required of us. I am four months into this new position of Circuit Clerk and I absolutely see the need in a salary increase. Especially considering everything coming down the pipeline just this year alone for the courts with the Amendment 3 Expungements and July 1 Public Access and Redaction Procedures. Burn out is happening quickly across the state. In 2022, 28 of the 46 Circuit Clerks did not seek re-election. I know you can do the math, but that's over half of our state. Lack of commensurate compensation for the rapidly increasing workload and required duties of Circuit Clerks was cited as a primary reason for leaving office. Compensation for Circuit Clerks is detailed in Chapter 483.083 RSMo. This statute has not been revised since 1995. I am asking for a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks, and insure that the Missouri Judiciary will continue to attract qualified candidates who will maintain the high standards our citizens should expect from our court system.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY THRASHER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ashley.thrasher@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 1:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Missouri Circuit Clerk's Association is asking for your support in passing HB 998. This legislation would make long-overdue changes to Chapter 483.083 RSMo, which details the compensation for Circuit Clerks and has not been revised since 1995. Circuit Clerk salaries vary by county as they are currently based on county classification and other factors, with certain exceptions for some counties, according to the statute. We are requesting state-wide uniformity in Circuit Clerk salaries just as the salaries of Judges and Prosecuting Attorneys are the same regardless of the classification of the counties in which they serve. We are elected to our positions by the voters in our counties just as Judges and Prosecuting Attorneys are elected. After 28 years, we are requesting a change in Chapter 483.083 that would set the salary of all Missouri Circuit Clerks, regardless of county classification, at 65% of the salary of an Associate Circuit Judge, which would be \$97,522.75 for all Circuit Clerks. We are very thankful for the recent increase in pay for all state employees to a competitive wage that will attract and retain quality employees in our offices. We now ask for a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks, and ensure that the Missouri Judiciary will continue to attract qualified candidates who will maintain the high standards our citizens should expect from our court system.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BARBARA BARNETT-STILLINGS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: barb.stillings@courts.mo.gov		ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 2:58 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Missouri Circuit Clerks' Association is asking for your support in passing HB 998. This legislation would make long-overdue changes to Chapter 483.083 RSMo, which has not been revised since 1995. While we are deeply grateful for the recent 8.7% COLA increase for all State employees, we are requesting a salary that will more adequately compensate Missouri Circuit Clerks for the duties and responsibilities required of us. We are certainly proud employees of the State of Missouri; however, unlike the majority of State employees, we are, with a few exceptions, elected to our positions by the voters in our counties. We do not have 40 hour per week jobs—we are on call at all times. Other officials such as Judges, Prosecutors, and Sheriffs who work within or in connection with the judicial system have received significant pay increases during recent years through changes in legislation or constitutional requirements. Even Court Reporters, who are employees of Circuit Judges, have recently benefitted from changes in legislation pertaining to their salaries. After 28 years, we are requesting a change in Chapter 483.083 that would set the salary of all Missouri Circuit Clerks, regardless of county classification, at 65% of the salary of an Associate Circuit Judge. This increase would cost approximately \$2.9 million—an average salary increase of 13%. During the last 15 – 20 years, the average annual salary increase for Circuit Clerks has been approximately 2%, including the 8.7% COLA we will begin receiving in March. To say that our role is to “maintain the records of the court” does not begin to describe the duties and responsibilities of a Circuit Clerk: • We are court managers, jury managers, recorders of court proceedings, HR managers, project managers, treatment court coordinators and IT coordinators. • We are responsible for the accounting of all funds received and disbursed through the courts. During the past five years, Missouri Circuit Clerks' offices have received and disbursed, through payments of fines and court costs, an average of \$200.5 million per year, most of which is paid to the State and to our counties. • We processed more than 778,000 cases in 2021. In the past five years, our caseload in traffic, municipal, and ordinance cases has increased by 91% as we have taken over a significant number of municipal courts after changes in the Supreme Court's minimum operating standards for municipal courts became too burdensome for many. Again, we thank you for your role in raising the pay for all state employees to a competitive wage that will attract and retain quality employees. We now ask for a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks, and insure that the Missouri Judiciary will continue to attract qualified candidates who will maintain the high standards our citizens should expect from our court system. Thank you for taking time to read my message. We really appreciate your help with the HB 998. Sincerely, Barb Stillings Christian County Circuit Clerk



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BETH A. BILINGTON, OSAGE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: beth.bilington@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 8:54 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Committee Members: I am writing to respectfully ask for your support of HB 998. I am the Circuit Court Clerk of Osage County (a 3rd class county). I have worked in the court system since 1985 with the last 5 years being in the role of Circuit Court Clerk. My office consists of myself, two full time deputy clerks and one 25 hour per week deputy clerk. Though my office does not have the volume of cases that larger counties do, we are required to process all case types and perform all of the same functions as are required of larger offices. That means I wear many hats and do not have the luxury of deputy clerks specializing in just one area. To run a smaller office, it takes an experienced person who is very knowledgeable in court processes and procedures. I believe it is critical to the proper functioning of the Court that a qualified person ALWAYS fills the roll Circuit Clerk. To help ensure that this happens, I believe your support of HB 998 is critical. While I and the other Circuit Clerks of this State are deeply grateful for the recent 8.7% COLA increase for all State employees, we are requesting a salary that will more adequately compensate Missouri Circuit Clerks for the duties and responsibilities required of us. We are certainly proud employees of the State of Missouri; however, unlike the majority of State employees, we are, with a few exceptions, elected to our positions by the voters in our counties. We do not have 40 hour per week jobs—we are on call at all times. Other officials such as Judges, Prosecutors, and Sheriffs who work within or in connection with the judicial system have received significant pay increases during recent years through changes in legislation or constitutional requirements. Even Court Reporters, who are employees of Circuit Judges, have recently benefitted from changes in legislation pertaining to their salaries. The volume and complexity of the work that the Circuit Clerk’s Offices are required to perform has steadily increased. To say that our role is to “maintain the records of the court” does not begin to describe the duties and responsibilities of a Circuit Clerk: • We are court managers, jury managers, recorders of court proceedings, HR managers, project managers, treatment court coordinators and IT coordinators. • We are responsible for the accounting of all funds received and disbursed through the courts. During the past five years, Missouri Circuit Clerks’ offices have received and disbursed, through payments of fines and court costs, an average of \$200.5 million per year, most of which is paid to the State and to our counties. • We processed more than 778,000 cases in 2021. In the past five years, our caseload in traffic, municipal, and ordinance cases has increased by 91% as we have taken over a significant number of municipal courts after changes in the Supreme Court’s minimum operating standards for municipal courts became too burdensome for many. Again, I thank you for your role in raising the pay for all state employees to a competitive wage that will attract and retain quality employees. We now ask for a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks, and insure that the Missouri Judiciary will continue to attract qualified candidates who will maintain the high standards our citizens should expect from our court

system.Sincerely,Beth A. BillingtonOsage County Circuit Court ClerkLinn, MO 65051573-897-3114



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CARRIE A. POE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: carriepoe5@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 1:31 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

It has been 28 years since Section 483.083 RSMo has been revised and I am asking for your support in passing HB 998.I, myself, have worked for the State of Missouri Judiciary for 24 years. With this year being my 9th year as a Circuit Clerk. With all my years of experience, I can honestly tell you the role and responsibilities of a Circuit Clerk has become more demanding and taxing. We as Circuit Clerks, not only have to maintain the records of the Court, we have to manage an office of deputies, train and educate our deputies, manage court and juries and adapt to changes and added workload without hesitation. I strongly feel it is time for the Circuit Clerk's wages to be equivalent to the other officials within the Judicial system who we work in connection with such as Judges, Prosecutors, Sheriffs and Court Reporters, all of which have recently benefitted from changes in legislation regarding their salaries. This change in statute will benefit the State of Missouri Judicial System by keeping experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks who will continue to serve the people in their Counties. Thank you for your service, time and consideration. Carrie PoeCircuit ClerkVernon County28th Judicial Circuit



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CEE CEE SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ceecee.smith@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 1:46 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

My name is Cee Cee Smith and I am the Circuit Clerk in Hickory County. I am asking for your support in passing HB998. This legislation would make changes to Chapter 483.083 RSMo, which has not been revised since 1995. While we are deeply grateful for the recent 8.7% COLA increase for all State employees, we are requesting a salary that will more adequately compensate Missouri Circuit Clerks for the duties and responsibilities required of us. We are certainly proud employees of the State of Missouri; however, unlike the majority of State employees, we are, with a few exceptions, elected to our positions by the voters in our counties. We do not have 40 hour per week jobs—we are on call at all times. After 28 years, we are requesting a change in Chapter 483.083 that would set the salary of all Missouri Circuit Clerks, regardless of county classification, at 65% of the salary of an Associate Circuit Judge. This increase would cost approximately \$2.9 million—an average salary increase of 13%. During the last 15 – 20 years, the average annual salary increase for Circuit Clerks has been approximately 2%, including the 8.7% COLA we began receiving in March. We are court managers, jury managers, recorders of court proceedings, HR managers, project managers, treatment court managers and IT coordinators. We are responsible for the accounting of all funds received and disbursed through the courts. We have processed more than 778,000 cases in 2021. The passage of Amendment 3 has created a burden on our offices due to the automatic expungement process that was included in the language of the amendment. We are asking for a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks, and ensure that the Missouri Judiciary will continue to attract qualified candidates who will maintain the high standards our citizens should expect from our court system. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHERYL CROWDER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Cheryl.Crowder@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 3:50 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am the current Circuit Clerk in the 11th Judicial Circuit Court in St. Charles County, Missouri. I am unable to attend the hearing in this matter but wanted to submit my testimony for the record. The Circuit Clerks in the State of Missouri have been working very hard over the last several years and during a pandemic to ensure the courts run smoothly. We have had to "fly by the seat of our pants" on many changes and implementations while also adapting to new legislation and changes to the court operating system. Several Circuit Clerks have come to the conclusion that the work we do is not appreciated or even acknowledged and have decided to retire early. Other Circuit Clerks have decided not to run for re-election for the same reason. One of the biggest ways to show the Circuit Clerks that they are an important part of the court system is to compensate them for the extremely hard jobs they do every day. It has been 28 years since Chapter 483.083 has been looked at and updated, we feel it is time to review what changes should be made. Please consider helping us to retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks by voting to set the salaries of all Circuit Clerks, regardless of county classification, at 65% of the salary of an Associate Circuit Judge. Thank you for your time and attention in this very important matter.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTY PORTER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: christy.porter@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 8:42 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

After working for the state for almost 10 years I know pay increases are few and far between. I am so grateful for the 8.7% COLA raise we just received. We work well over 40 hours per week and are on call at all times. After 28 years we are requesting a change in Chapter 483.083 that would that would set the salary of all circuit clerks in Missouri, regardless of county classification, at 65% of an Associate Circuit Judges. Circuit Clerks salaries over the last 20 years has only increased approximately 13% of which includes the 8.7% COLA increase we received in March. We manage Court workers in our office, jury managers, recorder of court proceeding, HR managers, project managers, treatment court managers and IT coordinators. We are also responsible for the accounting of all funds receipting and disbursed through the court. This is an average of \$200.5 million dollars per year. We processed more than 778,000 cases in 2021. Over the past 5 years caseloads have increased 91% after taking on the Municipal courts. We thank you for your role in raising the pay for all state employees to a competitive wage that will help us in getting quality employees and keep the great ones we have. We now ask for the legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks. This will insure the Missouri Judiciary will continue and keep qualified candidates who will maintain the high standards of citizens.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA BOWMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: cindi.bowman@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 1:01 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am a Circuit Clerk in Butler County (Poplar Bluff). I have been in this position since 2010, although I have been employed in the Circuit Clerk's office for 35 years. I am in support of this bill as I believe the duties of all of my fellow Circuit Clerks are not unique to each county. We are required to complete the exact same job duties whether we are in a 1st Class County or a 4th class. I don't believe our salaries should be dictated by the amount of our county's assessed value. It really doesn't even make any sense. The total sum of our duties requires us to work more than the regular 9 to 5 position and putting in 50 - 60 hours a week has become the norm. The Circuit Clerk's annual salary increase over the last 15-20 years has averaged approximately 2% a year including the recent 8.7% COLA raise. I believe our duties and responsibilities as Circuit Clerks warrant a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks now and in the future. Thank you for your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA LEE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: cynthia.lee@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 6:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Introduction: I am Cynthia Lee, Circuit Clerk of Howell County, Missouri. I am testifying in favor of HB 998, Salaries for Circuit Clerks. The workload and responsibilities of the Circuit Clerks have increased drastically since the last update in August of 1995 to Chapter 483.083 RSMo. To name a few, an increase in personnel management due to the consolidation of the Associate and Circuit Clerk's offices. Courtroom management, increase in caseload, including Municipal court processing for many across the state, jury management, IT coordinators and implementation of new systems, and project managers. Accounting management of court costs changes and record management, often due to legislation changes requiring clerk time to complete. **Closing:** Circuit Clerks are elected officials who are on-call 24/7, not only for court processes but as executive-level management. Our names appear on the majority of court documents, and it is our offices that the citizens of Missouri turn to first for questions concerning their court proceedings. I am beyond grateful for the recent salary increases, but the position of Circuit Clerk deserves compensation for the increased responsibilities put upon us. This is why I support HB 998. Respectfully, Cynthia Lee, Circuit Clerk Howell County, Missouri



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DANA MAYFIELD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: dana.mayfield2124@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 12:37 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I was a deputy circuit clerk for 26 years prior to running for office of Circuit Clerk. I received one pay step the first year I started and then was given the status of a court clerk III due to the illnesses of the Circuit Clerk. For over ten years, there were very few COLA given and one was from the President for \$600.00. No pay steps were given, the \$25.00 deferred comp was taken away. If a cost of living raise was given, the increase in insurance premiums took it. I ran for Circuit Clerk to boost my retirement as I would have been approximately \$100.00 above receiving aid from the food pantry based on my retirement alone. As of this date, the neighboring county's court manager makes almost as much as I do. My clerks are now making more than I did as a clerk with 26 years of experience and they are just coming out of a 6 month probation. (I am very thankful for their raises as it allowed me to hire a better qualified clerk). I say all of this, to point out your Circuit Clerks are a lot of previous deputy clerks with of years of experience and yet their pay is not at a level that reflects the States appreciation of that commitment to the State, the Court, and the Public.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELAINE WILSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: elaine.wilson@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 4:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Thank you for this opportunity to give support to HB 998. It is imperative that a salary increase for the Circuit Clerks is given consideration. When I started in the Judiciary in January of 2011 I was told that I am considered as a clerk and would have my own caseload of which I am responsible. I had no idea that, in addition to my own caseload, I would also become the person in charge of ordering all of the office supplies, fixing a copier, learning to trouble-shoot a computer issue, human resource manager, responsible for not just bank reconciliations but taking care of stale dated checks, unclaimed property, collecting and distributing garnishment funds, collecting and distributing court costs/fines and restitution at one time, locating recipients of returned mail, answering numerous phone/mail-in/email requests, making sure computers are up-to-date, assisting with and coordinating workplace computer replacement, clerking a law day, working closely with 5 Judges, assisting with jury duty and taking care of the jurors, coordinating consolidation of our local municipal and learning how to process an additional caseload, assisting the office with the new expungement process, just to name a few. Circuit clerks are on call 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, and rarely work a 40 hour week. It's usually 50-60 hours a week with a weekend thrown in. I personally live this as a Circuit Clerk everyday. While it is my sincerest pleasure to serve my community, the Circuit Clerk salary needs to be commensurate with the amount of hard work that goes into staffing a fully trained office, and performing many functions to assist the Judiciary. We are the face of the Judiciary and the first contact with the community. Thank you for your time and consideration!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIC STALLO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 4/19/2023 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: GINA JAMESON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-985-5633	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI CIRCUIT CLERKS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: RALLS COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK & EX-OFFICIO RECORDER O	
ADDRESS: 311 S. MAIN, P.O. BOX 466			
CITY: NEW LONDON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63459
EMAIL: Gina.Jameson@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 2:10 PM	
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On behalf of the Circuit Clerks in the State of Missouri, I am respectfully asking for your support of HB 998 which would make long overdue changes to Chapter 483.083 RSMo. This statute has not been revised since 1995. As a Circuit Clerk, I am one of the many fully devoted clerks who do not have 40-hour per week jobs - we are on call at all times, many of which include work on nights or weekends. In addition, our roles as circuit clerks go beyond "maintaining the records of the court". We are court managers, HR managers, project managers, IT coordinators, jury managers and more. Also, in recent years, there have been many additional duties placed on the Circuit Clerks office for which we have responsibility such as municipalities and the Amendment 3 expungements. In the past term of office, ten clerks left office mid-term. And in 2022, 28 Circuit Clerks did not seek re-election. Many cite the primary reason as a rapidly increasing workload without commensurate compensation. Thank you again for your consideration of HB 998.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER WHEELER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: heather.wheeler@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 11:22 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the Legislation. I want to first take this time to thank you for debating and taking in consideration our requests. I want to thank you and tell you how much the 8.7% COLA increase for all State employees was appreciated. As a Circuit Clerk I don't want our request of change to our salaries to be taken in as a negative request. I have worked for the State of Missouri for 20 years. In the 20 years this job has changed dramatically with more responsibilities upon our shoulders. Although the job responsibilities have changed our statute salary hasn't since 1995. After 28 years, we are requesting a change in Chapter 483.083 that would set the salary of all Missouri Circuit Clerks, regardless of county classification, at 65% of the salary of an Associate Circuit Judge. This increase would cost approximately \$2.9 million—an average salary increase of 13%. During the last 15 – 20 years, the average annual salary increase for Circuit Clerks has been approximately 2%, including the 8.7% COLA we will begin receiving in March. To say that our role is to “maintain the records of the court” does not begin to describe the duties and responsibilities of a Circuit Clerk: •

We are court managers, jury managers, recorders of court proceedings, HR managers, project managers, treatment court coordinators and IT coordinators. • We are responsible for the accounting of all funds receipted and disbursed through the courts. During the past five years, Missouri Circuit Clerks' offices have received and disbursed, through payments of fines and court costs, an average of \$200.5 million per year, most of which is paid to the State and to our counties. •

We processed more than 778,000 cases in 2021. In the past five years, our caseload in traffic, municipal, and ordinance cases has increased by 91% as we have taken over a significant number of municipal courts after changes in the Supreme Court's minimum operating standards for municipal courts became too burdensome for many. Here in our county, we have taken upon all municipalities. The most recent municipality has increased our workload dramatically. In addition to our Circuit and Associate court, it takes two weeks to finish the work from one municipal court. Then two weeks later we start the process over again. I mention the municipal court caseload because we don't receive any additional funds, nor do we receive additional manpower. This is just one example of how things have changed.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JANA FINDLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rockingsj@hotmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 9:12 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The Missouri Circuit Clerks' Association and myself personally am asking for your support in passing HB 998. This legislation has not been revised since 1995. I am from the smallest county in the state. This is a good thing in my estimation, however, when it comes to the courts, everybody knows where I live, what church I go to, where I set at a sporting event, and I am fine with that but I am on call 24/7/365. It is not uncommon for me to get called out at night or in the morning for an order of protection or a warrant. There is never any shut down time. I certainly do not have the case load that the major metropolitan areas have and I am not even suggesting that, but with that, there is usually more staff and work division. When you look at the data, it doesn't tell the whole story. I would not change it but, at times, it has been a challenge in my 24 years of service as Circuit Clerk. As Circuit Clerks, we are very grateful for the 8.7% COLA increase for ourselves and our staff. We are requesting a salary to reflect our duties and responsibilities that are required of us. After 28 years, we are requesting a change in Chapter 483.083 that would set the salary of all Missouri Circuit Clerks, regardless of county classification, at 65% of the salary of an Associate Circuit Judge. This increase would cost approximately \$2.9 million—an average salary increase of 13%. During the last 15 – 20 years, the average annual salary increase for Circuit Clerks has been approximately 2%, including the 8.7% COLA we began receiving in March. Thank you for your role in raising the pay for all state employees. As we continue to evolve as a society and security becomes a greater interest, people have more access to information through the internet. We now ask you to help us retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks to insure that the Missouri Judiciary will continue to attract qualified candidates who are the guardians of the court files.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER A. HOTOP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jennifer.hotop@courts.mo.gov		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 5:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As Circuit Clerk of Perry County, I am asking for your approval of this Bill. Our salary is established by Section 483.083 which has not been revised since 1995. While we have enjoyed COLA increases over the years, the duties we carry out have substantially increased while the pay has not. We work 40+ hours every week and are on call at all times as elected officials. We carry many responsibilities including court managers, jury managers, records keeper, HR manager, IT coordinators, accountants, and many times the building manager for the Courthouse. We are responsible for the accounting of all funds receipted and disbursed through the courts. During the past five years, Missouri Circuit Clerks' offices have received and disbursed, through payments of fines and court costs, an average of \$200.5 million per year, most of which is paid to the State and to our counties. When legislative updates, elections, or supreme court decisions change a court process, we are the ones to figure out how to proceed and often with unrealistic deadlines. We have taken on municipalities without choice and with no additional staffing. We have completely changed processing Board Bills due to Supreme Court decision. We are currently tasked with Amendment 3 Expungements without ample time to process them. It takes a multi-tasked, calm, leader to be a Circuit Clerk. In order to keep our courts running smoothly for the people we serve, we need ample compensation to have a high-level individual in that role. It is time to compensate this position as it deserves to retain and gain competent people to fill the position.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023
COMMITTEE: Budget		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER LYNN SCHNEIDER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jenny.schneider@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 1:46 PM
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To Whom it May Concern - As a Circuit Clerk we gave a lot of responsibilities, we work a lot of hours/Weekends/Holidays/After Hours etc. We are on call 24/7. If you break it down by the hours we work we make less then our Deputy Clerks. Speaking for my office I am also the Recorder of Deeds with no extra pay. So I am a dual office holder and make the same as the rest of those that are just Circuit Clerks. I have double the responsibilities. There is so much we do for our Counties. WE DESERVE A MAJOR RAISE!!!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023
COMMITTEE: Budget		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KAREN HUBBARD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: karen.hubbard@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 1:25 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As I am unable to attend this hearing due to a heavy court docket, I would like to say a few words in support of this bill. I have been employed in the Circuit Clerk's Office for 37 years and am currently serving a 4th term as St. Clair Co. Circuit Court. The responsibilities as Circuit Clerk have increased substantially the last several years. We serve as court managers, recorders of court proceedings, HR managers, Project Managers, Treatment Court Coordinators, as well as performing daily tasks, including filing and disposing of all types of cases handled in our Court. We are requesting a change in Chapter 483.083, RSMo that would set the salary of all MO Circuit Clerks, regardless of county classification, at 65% of the salary of an Associate Circuit Judge. While we all sincerely appreciate the 8.7% COLA increase for all State employees, we feel we are deserving of a salary that will more adequately compensate MO Circuit Clerks for the duties and responsibilities required of us. Again, we are requesting a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks and ensure that the Missouri Judiciary will continue to attract qualified candidates who will maintain the high standards our citizens should expect from our court system. Thank you for your time. Karen Hubbard St. Clair Co. Circuit Clerk



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023
COMMITTEE: Budget		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KELLY MANERS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kmaners1@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 11:06 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Please accept this as my written testimony before this Honorable Committee. My name is Kelly Maners. I have been the Circuit Clerk of Pemiscot County since 2003. In my 20 years of service, there have been many changes to my office, more work, but few raises in compensation. I am extremely grateful for the 8.7% COLA increase we recently received, and I believe that this is a step in the right direction to compensate the Circuit Clerks for our duties and responsibilities. These positions have changed immensely in the last 20 years while I have been in office, including consolidation, court technology, case management, ever changing legislation and new laws we must adapt to in order to fully comply, just to name a few. This proposed increase will more adequately compensate the Circuit Clerks, and will bring uniformity to our pay guidelines as well. I am honored to serve the people of Pemiscot County, the State of Missouri, and our Judicial System. Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023
COMMITTEE: Budget		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY HATHCOCK		PHONE NUMBER: 417-683-4713
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DOUGLAS COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 203 E. LINCOLN AVE		
CITY: AVA		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65608
EMAIL: kim.hathcock@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 4:19 PM

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Thank you for taking the time to read/listen to your Circuit Clerks in Missouri. I greatly support HB 998 and would ask that you also vote in favor of giving the Circuit Clerk's in our state a much needed pay raise and one that would be across the board regardless of the classification of your county. I am from a small county but am required to be on call 24/7, be a full time clerk to assist the Judge's in our court rooms, assist the public, Prosecuting Attorney, all of our law enforcement while yet trying to keep up with day to day responsibilities that keep mounting daily with so many new changes, additions to how we even function on a daily basis. I feel that HB 998 is very fair to the Circuit Clerk's as we have so many more responsibilities than most of our elected officials. We are not just an elected official but most of the time were are referees, assistants to our staff, Judge's and about everyone that walks thru our doors or calls about something and sometimes they just need a listening ear, that is what we do because we care about our people. It would just be nice to be compensated for the extra that we do on a daily basis. Thank you for listening and considering our request.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023
COMMITTEE: Budget		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kimberly.johnson@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 7:07 AM
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I support HB 998. Thank you



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTI MARIE CRAIG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kristi.craig@courts.mo.gov		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 3:24 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Kristi Craig. I am the Circuit Clerk in Dent County, having just taken office in 2023. I was a deputy clerk for 18 years prior to that. In support of this bill, I would like to first state that this Statute has not been changed in 28 years. While we are deeply grateful for the recent 8.7% COLA increase, we are asking for our compensation to be raised due to the increase in duties and responsibilities required of us. We are elected officials and do not have 40 hour work weeks. We are always on call. Our role is to "maintain the records of the court" and that entails many things. We are court managers, jury managers, recorders of court proceedings, HR managers, project managers, treatment court coordinators, and IT coordinators. We are responsible for large amounts of money that go through the court system averaging \$200.5 million per year, most of which is paid to the State and to our counties. Overall, we processed more than 778,000 cases in 2021. With these new projects put on our shoulders, like Marijuana Expungement and Remote Public Access, we are spread thin. During the 2019-2022 term of office, ten Circuit Clerks left office prior to the end of their term. In 2022, 28 Circuit Clerks did not seek re-election. Lack of commensurate compensation for the rapidly increasing workload and required duties of Circuit Clerks was cited as a primary reason for leaving office. Thank you for your role in raising the pay for all state employees to a competitive wage that will attract and retain quality employees. We now ask for a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks, and insure that the Missouri Judiciary will continue to attract qualified candidates who will maintain the high standards our citizens should expect from our court system. Sincerely, Kristi Craig
Circuit Clerk of Dent County, Missouri



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LORI JONES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lori.jones@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 4:14 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The current salary for the Circuit Clerk has not been revised since 1995, although the position itself has evolved into a much more detailed position with greater responsibility due to many factors. In 2010 when the Supreme Court mandated consolidation, this added more Human Resources duties to the Circuit Clerk as the Appointing Authority, in addition to adding to the day-to-day responsibilities to oversee. I am in my 24th year with the Judiciary, and in my second term as the elected Circuit Clerk. Being a Deputy Clerk prior, I have watched the changes evolve. There were around 38 new Circuit Clerks when I was elected, last year a large number of Circuit Clerks retired as well. We are seeing a growing trend of Circuit Clerks retiring even mid-term. 2019-2022, 10 left office prior to the end of their term. We have to manage staff and caseloads, in addition to being responsible for all things Court and technology related, which has grown since 2020. We are expected to be the IT people for our offices and the Courtrooms, keep up to date on any training associated with the ever-changing databases for case-management, jury, and accounting all while maintaining compliance with any Supreme Court or Local Court Rules. Many of us also acquired Municipal Court case-loads in the last few years. Now we are faced with added work associated to the Marijuana expungements. It would be impossible to list all the duties associated with our position, this is just simply a summation of a few. What many do not realize is a Circuit Clerk's job is 24/7. We are on-call evenings and weekends for certain case types that require action from the Clerk such as Petitions for Orders of Protection, Mental Health cases, and issuance of warrants in Criminal matters. The procedure may vary from each county, but the fact remains, these types of cases have also drastically increased. I would respectfully ask that you take the time to review and consider supporting this bill for the salary increase.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MANDY BURGER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mandy.burger@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 3:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing in my support for HB998. As a current Circuit Clerk, my role is briefly described as to "maintain the records of the court". This does not describe all of the other duties that I fulfill within a day as a court manager, a jury manager, an IT coordinator, HR manager, etc. I am also responsible for the office accounting of all funds received and the distribution of such. Another large project that came to our office was the Amendment 3 expungements. This project, came with no additional help and is expected to be completed within tight deadlines. Outside of my working my regular 8-4:30 office hours, I am also on-call 24/7 for after hour emergency ex partes and 96-hour commitment filings. I would like to thank you for raising the pay for all state employees. Now, we ask for a legislative change that will help retain experienced Circuit Clerks and maintain the high standards that our community expects from the court system.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023
COMMITTEE: Budget		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARK EICHHOLZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: meichho@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 2:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Good afternoon, My name is Mark Eichholz. I am the Circuit Clerk for Cole County. I have only been in this capacity for four and a half months but have realized the amount of work and time that is needed to perform this work is very a extensive amount. Not only did my staff get over 12,000 civil cases handed to them to initiate but also the large amount of work that came along with Amendment 3. This entails us to work nights and weekends to meet deadlines that have been set. I hope you would consider raising the Circuit Clerks pay to better compensate us for what we do to keep the courts running on a daily basis. I'm asking for your support in HB998 .Thank you for your consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARLAINA WALLACE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: marlaina.wallace@courts.mo.gov		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 1:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am the current elected Circuit Clerk of Phelps County, Missouri and have been an employee of the State of Missouri for 11 years, 8 months and counting. As a Phelps County Clerk, I have had the privilege of working under 2 previous Circuit Clerks, Mrs. Sue Brown and Mrs. Sonja Childers. I share their love and compassion for being a Circuit Court Clerk and look forward to serving the State of Missouri for many years to come. With that being said, I am advocating to have a state-wide uniformity for Circuit Clerks salaries and compensation for Circuit Clerks as detailed in Chapter 483.083 RSMo which has not been revised since 1995. After 28 years, we are seeking a change in Chapter 483.083 that would set the salary of all Missouri Circuit Clerks, regardless of county classification, at 65% of the salary of an Associate Circuit Judge. This increase would cost approximately \$2.9 million—an average salary increase of 13%. During the last 15 – 20 years, the average annual salary increase for Circuit Clerks has been approximately 2%, including the 8.7% COLA which we began receiving in March. We, as Circuit Clerks, are sincerely grateful for the recent 8.7% COLA increase for all State of Missouri employees. We are requesting a salary that will more adequately compensate Missouri Circuit Clerks for the duties and responsibilities required of us. We do not have 40 hour work weeks, we are on call at all times. Other officials such as Judges, Prosecutors, and Sheriffs who work within or in connection with the judicial system have received significant pay increases during recent years through changes in legislation or constitutional requirements. Even Court Reporters, who are employees of Circuit Judges, have recently benefitted from changes in legislation pertaining to their salaries. To say that our role is to “maintain the records of the court” does not begin to describe the duties and responsibilities of a Circuit Clerk:

- We are court managers, jury managers, recorders of court proceedings, HR managers, project managers, treatment court coordinators and IT coordinators.
- We are responsible for the accounting of all funds receipted and disbursed through the courts. During the past five years, Missouri Circuit Clerks’ offices have received and disbursed, through payments of fines and court costs, an average of \$200.5 million per year, most of which is paid to the State and to our counties.
- We processed more than 778,000 cases in 2021. In the past five years, our caseload in traffic, municipal, and ordinance cases has increased by 91% as we have taken over a significant number of municipal courts after changes in the Supreme Court’s minimum operating standards for municipal courts became too burdensome for many. Again, thank you for your role in raising the pay for all state employees to a competitive wage that will help maintain quality personnel. We are now asking for a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks to help insure that the Missouri Judiciary will continue to attract qualified candidates who will strive to maintain the high standards that our citizens should expect from our court system. Thank you for taking the time to read our testimonies and your consideration in our request.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MARTHA COLE		PHONE NUMBER: 660-665-2552	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI CIRCUIT CLERK'S ASSOCIATION		TITLE: ADAIR COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK	
ADDRESS: 2815 N BALTIMORE			
CITY: KIRKSVILLE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63501
EMAIL: martha.cole@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 4:39 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I would like to submit a statement in support of HB 988. I have been in the Circuit Clerk's office for almost 28 years. I began as a Deputy Clerk in 1995 and am now in my first term as Circuit Clerk. While I am extremely grateful for the pay increases we have had, I believe we need to bring the Circuit Clerk pay in line with other officials in the judicial system. Our office doesn't look anything like it did in 1995, but Chapter 483.083 RSMo has not been revised since then. We have had many additional responsibilities added over the years and the caseload has increased tremendously. I receive numerous emails daily regarding new technology, new processes for court information and training we need for those processes. We took over Municipal Court in 2019 which has also added to our caseload. We handle juries, accounting, recording of cases, deal with HR issues along with wearing many other hats. We have had many Circuit Clerks leave office or not seek re-election due to the rapidly increasing workload and duties. We are now asking for a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks to keep the courts running efficiently and effectively. Thank you for your time and for any support you can give us on this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023
COMMITTEE: Budget		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARY M. GODSY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mary.godsy@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 4:09 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

The Circuit Clerk position is one that must maintain a huge amount of responsibility while not receiving an increase in pay to compensation the additional duties and responsibilities. Please consider having the salary for this position to coincide with a 65% portion of the Associate Judge's salary. My duties do not allow me to appear in person for the hearing but I wanted to express to you my desire for you to review the need that Circuit Clerks are facing. If additional information is needed from me, please do not hesitate to contact me.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MECHELEE LEBOW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mechelee.lebow@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 2:08 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am the Circuit Clerk in Stone County. I was a Court Clerk under 2 predecessors. I have been in this office type of work since 2005. I saw the stress that this job brings to an individual, and I still ran for the position. We as Circuit Clerks have such a time consuming job, we fill in for our court clerks when they are absent, we have court duties of our own as well, and we have many responsibilities as a Administrator of the office with clerks under your direction. That alone is a full time job with the financials, scheduling multiple Judges and court rooms, Jury Trials, bringing in jurors, and making sure the cases are worked properly, not to mention the job of making sure that personnel show up to work and know how to do the work. We are considered working clerks, so we must work in cases and go to court with Presiding Judges. This is a tough job, one that comes with lots of stressors. In Stone County, the County paid elected officials make more money than the Circuit Clerk position does. That tends to make people in our position feel under appreciated. We are not asking for a pat on the back, just for better compensation for working in the position that we do. Please help us as we ask for better pay. Some will be aware of what we do as Circuit Clerks, others will not. The last 2 elections have created very large numbers of vacancies in the Circuit Court, for the elected positions. To me this is a huge indicator as to the type of job we do as Circuit Clerks. The amount of work has increased the last 4 years and it continues to become more stressful as new laws are passed to change what we do as Judiciary employees. For those of us that love the type of work we do in the court system, it is a tough pill to swallow when someone that does less in their position, makes more money than you. You are in the position to help us, please help. The Court Clerks have received some really nice pay increases. I hope that this will help with recruiting and hiring for positions that are open in this field. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We appreciate your positions with the State of Missouri. Thank you again for your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELINDA MABERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Melinda.Maberry@courts.mo.gov		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 8:20 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Missouri Circuit Clerks' Association is asking for your support in passing HB 998. This legislation would make long-overdue changes to Chapter 483.083 RSMo, which has not been revised since 1995. While we are deeply grateful for the recent 8.7% COLA increase for all State employees, we are requesting a salary that will more adequately compensate Missouri Circuit Clerks for the duties and responsibilities required of us. We are certainly proud employees of the State of Missouri; however, unlike the majority of State employees, we are, with a few exceptions, elected to our positions by the voters in our counties. We do not have 40 hour per week jobs—we are on call at all times. Other officials such as Judges, Prosecutors, and Sheriffs who work within or in connection with the judicial system have received significant pay increases during recent years through changes in legislation or constitutional requirements. Even Court Reporters, who are employees of Circuit Judges, have recently benefitted from changes in legislation pertaining to their salaries. After 28 years, we are requesting a change in Chapter 483.083 that would set the salary of all Missouri Circuit Clerks, regardless of county classification, at 65% of the salary of an Associate Circuit Judge. This increase would cost approximately \$2.9 million—an average salary increase of 13%. During the last 15 – 20 years, the average annual salary increase for Circuit Clerks has been approximately 2%, including the 8.7% COLA we will begin receiving in March. To say that our role is to “maintain the records of the court” does not begin to describe the duties and responsibilities of a Circuit Clerk: • We are court managers, jury managers, recorders of court proceedings, HR managers, project managers, treatment court coordinators and IT coordinators. • We are responsible for the accounting of all funds received and disbursed through the courts. During the past five years, Missouri Circuit Clerks' offices have received and disbursed, through payments of fines and court costs, an average of \$200.5 million per year, most of which is paid to the State and to our counties. • We processed more than 778,000 cases in 2021. In the past five years, our caseload in traffic, municipal, and ordinance cases has increased by 91% as we have taken over a significant number of municipal courts after changes in the Supreme Court's minimum operating standards for municipal courts became too burdensome for many. Again, we thank you for your role in raising the pay for all state employees to a competitive wage that will attract and retain quality employees. We now ask for a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks, and insure that the Missouri Judiciary will continue to attract qualified candidates who will maintain the high standards our citizens should expect from our court system.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA HOLCOMB		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: melissa.holcomb@courts.mo.gov		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 3:26 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Missouri Circuit Clerks’ Association is asking for your support in passing HB 998. This legislation would make long-overdue changes to Chapter 483.083 RSMo, which has not been revised since 1995. While we are deeply grateful for the recent 8.7% COLA increase for all State employees, we are requesting a salary that will more adequately compensate Missouri Circuit Clerks for the duties and responsibilities required of us. We are certainly proud employees of the State of Missouri; however, unlike the majority of State employees, we are, with a few exceptions, elected to our positions by the voters in our counties. We do not have 40 hour per week jobs—we are on call at all times. Other officials such as Judges, Prosecutors, and Sheriffs who work within or in connection with the judicial system have received significant pay increases during recent years through changes in legislation or constitutional requirements. Even Court Reporters, who are employees of Circuit Judges, have recently benefitted from changes in legislation pertaining to their salaries. After 28 years, we are requesting a change in Chapter 483.083 that would set the salary of all Missouri Circuit Clerks, regardless of county classification, at 65% of the salary of an Associate Circuit Judge. This increase would cost approximately \$2.9 million—an average salary increase of 13%. During the last 15 – 20 years, the average annual salary increase for Circuit Clerks has been approximately 2%, including the 8.7% COLA we will begin receiving in March. To say that our role is to “maintain the records of the court” does not begin to describe the duties and responsibilities of a Circuit Clerk: • We are court managers, jury managers, recorders of court proceedings, HR managers, project managers, treatment court coordinators and IT coordinators. • We are responsible for the accounting of all funds receipted and disbursed through the courts. During the past five years, Missouri Circuit Clerks’ offices have received and disbursed, through payments of fines and court costs, an average of \$200.5 million per year, most of which is paid to the State and to our counties. • We processed more than 778,000 cases in 2021. In the past five years, our caseload in traffic, municipal, and ordinance cases has increased by 91% as we have taken over a significant number of municipal courts after changes in the Supreme Court’s minimum operating standards for municipal courts became too burdensome for many. Again, we thank you for your role in raising the pay for all state employees to a competitive wage that will attract and retain quality employees. We now ask for a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks, and insure that the Missouri Judiciary will continue to attract qualified candidates who will maintain the high standards our citizens should expect from our court system.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023
COMMITTEE: Budget		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PAMELA I. FOBAIR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: pamela.fobair@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 11:49 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I want to express my consideration to you for hearing our proposed House Bill 998 as it pertains to salaries for Circuit Clerks across for state. As you will hear in testimony from clerks within our association the importance of revising the statue as it relates to salaries for the Circuit Clerks.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023
COMMITTEE: Budget		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PAULA S. GARGUS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: paulagargus280@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 4:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am asking that you approve the salary increase that the MO Circuit Clerk's Association is lobbying for in HB 998. To say that the duties of the Circuit Clerk "is to maintain the records of the court" does not begin to describe the duties and responsibilities of the Circuit Clerk. We are now responsible for ALL DIVISIONS of the court, plus we have taken over a significant number of municipal courts and we all know that number will only increase. The Fine and Collection Center was eliminated and those duties were handed to the Circuit Clerk's office. Just in the past 5 years our caseload has increased by 91%. Although we are grateful for the salary increases, we have not received all the pay raises that other state employees received, but our responsibilities continued to increase. We are responsible for all monies received and disbursed through the courts. In the last 5 years we have disbursed over \$200 million in fine and court costs alone which are disbursed to the State and County. If something needs done by the Prosecutor, Judge or Sheriff after office hours we are the ones they call to come to the office. Once again, I am grateful for my job and the recent pay increase received by all state employees, but please approve and pass HB 998.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAULA YANCEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: paula.yancey@courts.mo.gov		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 4:19 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The Office of Circuit Clerk's role of maintaining the records of the court does not begin to describe the duties of the Circuit Clerk. We are managers of the court, manager of jurors and employees. We are project managers and recorders of court proceedings. We are accountants of all funds in and out of the court system. We have taken over municipal operations when it became too burdensome for them - without additional staff. Hiring and keeping good employees are challenges and the recent increase in our deputy clerk's salaries are much appreciated. Circuit Clerks deserve the same treatment shown to the PAs, Sheriffs and Court Reporters pertaining to pay increases in connection with the judicial system. They have all benefited from changes in legislation pertaining to their salaries. Now is the time to revise Chapter 483.083 RSMo.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHELLE BEASLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rachelle.beasley@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 12:01 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I have served as the Circuit Clerk for the past 23 years. While serving the duties and responsibilities of the Circuit Clerk has increased significantly. In many counties, the Circuit Clerk has been given the additional duties for Municipal Courts, Drug Courts, Veterans Courts. We serve 24 hours/7 days a week, we are on call every night and weekend. We are requesting a salary that will more adequately compensate Missouri Circuit Clerks for the duties and responsibilities required of us. We are certainly proud employees of the State of Missouri; however, unlike the majority of State employees, we are, with a few exceptions, elected to our positions by the voters in our counties. Other officials such as Judges, Prosecutors, and Sheriffs who work within or in connection with the judicial system have received significant pay increases during recent years through changes in legislation or constitutional requirements. Even Court Reporters, who are employees of Circuit Judges, have recently benefitted from changes in legislation pertaining to their salaries. After 28 years, we are requesting a change in Chapter 483.083 that would set the salary of all Missouri Circuit Clerks, regardless of county classification, at 65% of the salary of an Associate Circuit Judge. This increase would cost approximately \$2.9 million—an average salary increase of 13%. During the last 15 – 20 years, the average annual salary increase for Circuit Clerks has been approximately 2%, including the 8.7% COLA we will begin receiving in March. Again, we thank you for your role in raising the pay for all state employees to a competitive wage that will attract and retain quality employees. We now ask for a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks, and insure that the Missouri Judiciary will continue to attract qualified candidates who will maintain the high standards our citizens should expect from our court system.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023
COMMITTEE: Budget		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RUTH AUSTIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ruth.austin@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 5:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Thank you for taking the time to review these testimonies and for allowing the Circuit Clerks in Missouri the chance to present our case as to the current compensation rates. Compensation for Circuit Clerks is detailed in Chapter 483.083 RSMo. This statute has not be revised since 1995. Because of this, during the last 15-20 years, the average annual salary increase for Circuit Clerks has been approximately 2%-----including the 8.7% COLA state employees recently received. This rate of increase certainly does not reflect the current workload Circuit Clerks carry. We manage IT issues with little to no assistance, jury trials, accounting, and expungements due to the passage of Amendment 3, just to name a few. We are also on-call---just as judges and prosecuting attorneys are (who have recently received large increases in salaries). With all of the added work, we are seeing an increase in experienced Circuit Clerks who are leaving their positions. During the 2019-2022 term of office, ten Circuit Clerks left office prior to their term ending. In 2022, twenty-eight Circuit Clerks did not seek re-election, citing lack of commensurate compensation for the rapidly increasing workload and required duties as a primary reason for leaving. I can attest to this information as being true, as I took office in January of this year after working with my predecessor for 10 years. As I now carry forward, I truly hope we will be recognized with a salary that reflects the required knowledge, skills, and abilities this position demands. I ask for your support on HB998. Thank you for your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023
COMMITTEE: Budget		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SAMMYE G. WHITE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: sammye.white@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 2:42 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am requesting that this be given the utmost consideration. I have worked in the Circuit Court over 23 years and have been the Circuit Clerk for almost 12 of those years. The responsibility of this office has increased dramatically in this time and continues to increase quite frequently. I, myself, work over 40 hrs per week almost every week and take work home some nights and on weekends. I am sure that most other Circuit Clerks do as well. My court took on 5 municipalities in our county because these cities could not meet the requirement burden placed on them. We took it on without any additional funding or FTE. I am now not only responsible for the accounting, processing and customer service of State filed cases, but 5 municipalities as well. In addition to this, the day to day management of the office has increased considerably. We are expected to oversee multiple Judges in a day. The advent of Webex has only added to the expectations of "instant" court. I maintain multiple computer stations, FTR equipment, Webex equipment, and more. I have only touched the surface of the daily expectations of a Circuit Clerk. I am tremendously grateful for the recent COLA raises for myself and my deputy clerks and the thought that went into making that a reality. I now ask that you review Chapter 483.083 RSMo and make long-overdue updates. I am close to retirement, but in order to enlist future qualified candidates this will be necessary. Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023
COMMITTEE: Budget		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH TURNER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: sarah.turner@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 4:09 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I have been the Circuit Clerk for Cedar county since May of 2022 when our longtime Circuit Clerk, Melinda Gumm retired. Through the 14 years that I worked under her as deputy clerk, she fought hard to get her employees as many raises as possible. She mentioned to me on several occasions that it had been a very long time since the Circuit Clerks had any changes to their pay, and now I see what she was talking about. I love this job, and I am so grateful that we were included in the 8.7% raise that the Governor gave this year. I am also very grateful that the citizens of Cedar County felt I would be a good fit for this position, but it takes true dedication to the Judicial system and the State of Missouri to be successful. We, the Circuit Clerks are the face of the Judicial system. We are in the thick of peoples lives every single day. We are the right hand of our Judges, always there ready to do the tasks of the day. We are the assistants of the Attorney's in our Courtrooms. We process all sorts of cases from simple Small Claims to Murder cases. We are the trainers of employees, and the Human Resources contact of our offices. We are the Accountants of the County Court fees. We manage Jurors and Jury trials. We have taken on this massive workload of processing Expungements. We are on the job 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We, Circuit Clerks, wear many hats and do it all with a smile on our faces. So, we ask that you take into consideration this bill to help compensate the job we do. Thank you!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SHANNON HARRIS LANDERS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-748-2228	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI CIRCUIT CLERK's ASSOCIATION		TITLE: NEW MADRID COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK	
ADDRESS: 450 MAIN STREET			
CITY: NEW MADRID		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63869
EMAIL: shannon.landiers@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 10:45 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Sir/Madam:I am writing to ask for your support in passing HB 998. This legislation would make long-overdue changes to Chapter 483.083 RSMo, which has not been revised since 1995, 28 YEARS. I have been a proud State of Missouri court clerk for 36 years, with 1 ½ years as a Circuit Clerk. Therefore, I have certainly witnessed the ever-increasing work load for the circuit clerk. Additional responsibilities within past few years have been the requirements of circuit courts taking over municipal courts and the most recent workload increase caused by amendment 3. As a circuit clerk our duties now include court manager, HR manager, project manager and IT coordinator. With the ever-mounting workload within the judicial system, other officials such as judges, prosecutors and even court reporters have received significant pay increases. There have been many Circuit Clerk's who have resigned or retired within the past few years due to the increased workload and required duties. In order to retain experienced clerks, I am asking for a legislative change to compensate for our knowledge and increasing responsibilities. Respectfully, Shannon Harris Landers New Madrid County Circuit Clerk



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHEILA CURTMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sheila.curtman@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 1:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello my name is Sheila Curtman, I am the Miller County Circuit Clerk. I am writing this testimony to support the passing of HB 998. Chapter 483.083 has not been revised since 1995. I am requesting a salary that will more adequately compensate all Missouri Circuit Clerks for the duties and responsibilities that is required of us. We are elected to our position by the voters of our counties. This position as a Circuit Clerk is not an 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. job. We are on call 24/7 just like our Judges. Judges, Prosecutors, Sheriffs and Court Reporters have received pay increases in the recent years. I feel that the raise for the Circuit Clerks is long over due.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHERECE EIVINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sherece.eivins@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 3:43 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a Circuit Clerk for 24 years and a member of the Missouri Circuit Clerks' Association, I am asking for your support in passing HB 998, updating Statutes for the first time in 28 years. I want to begin by saying thank you for the 8.7% COLA increase recently received by all State employees. I know that every fellow State employee feels the same as I and we do appreciate it. As a Circuit Clerk I am asking that you support the change in Chapter 483.083 that would set the salary of all Missouri Circuit Clerks, regardless of County size or classification. This proposal would set the Circuit Clerks salary at 65% of the salary of an Associate Circuit Judge, being an average increase in salary of 13%. While a 13% increase sounds very substantial, let me assure you that our job is not an 8 hour a day job. Also, please note that in the last few years there have been updates on salaries for our Judges, Sheriffs and Prosecuting Attorneys. all of which were very much deserved and appreciated as well. Coming from a small rural community I am a point of contact for several community individuals. I cannot go to a school function, grocery store or restaurant that I am not approached by someone with a question or concern regarding the Judiciary. Please know that I do enjoy my job and I always take the time to visit with my fellow constituents as that is what I am elected to do. It is not uncommon for my phone to ring at 3:30 am. This might be a call from my Associate Judge, County Sheriff's Department, City Police Department or our 911 dispatchers requesting assistance. Coming from a small Court, I am the Clerk that responds to all call outs, 24/7/365 whether they be for Warrant Issuance, 96 Hour Petitions or Abuse Petitions. Again, I am not complaining but just emphasizing that our job is very complex and detail oriented. In closing, again I am very grateful for what you have provided recently for all State employees but I am asking for your support to continue to reward myself and my fellow Circuit Clerks who hold a very important role within our counties and for the Missouri Judiciary. Your consideration is greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, due to a very large docket in my Court, I will not be able to attend in person.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023
COMMITTEE: Budget		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: STACEY NAILE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: stacey.naile@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 8:25 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Hello! I have been a Circuit Clerk since 2019. Prior, I was a court clerk for 14 years. The Circuit Clerks are requesting HB 998 be passed, which would "update" Chapter 483.083 RSMo, which has not been revised since 1995 (nearly 30 years). While we are grateful for the recent 8.7% COLA increase for all state employees, we are requesting a salary that will more adequately compensate the Missouri Circuit Clerks for the responsibilities that we oversee. We are on call at all times. Other officials - Judges, Prosecutors, Sheriff's, and Court Reporters who work within the judicial system have received significant pay increases during recent years through legislation. We are requesting 65% of the salary that an Associate Circuit Judge. This increase would cost approximately \$2.9 million—an average salary increase of 13%. During the last 15-20 years the average annual salary increase for Circuit Clerks has been approximately 2%, including the 8.7% COLA we received in March. Our role isn't simply to "maintain the official records of the court" but includes so much more. We are court managers, jury managers, recorders of court proceedings, HR managers, project managers, treatment court coordinators and IT coordinators. We are responsible for the accounting of all funds received and disbursed through the courts. During the past five years, Missouri Circuit Clerks' offices have collected and disbursed an average of \$200.5 million per year - most of which is paid to the State and our counties. We processed more than 778,000 cases in 2021. In the past five years, our caseload in traffic, municipal, and ordinance cases has increased by 91% as we have taken over significant number of municipal courts after changes in the Supreme Court's minimum operating standards for municipal courts became too burdensome for many. In addition, we are also working a significant amount of overtime in order to meet the required deadlines from the passing of Amendment 3. Sometimes 50+ hours a week as well as working holidays and Saturdays (that we are not compensated for as we are salary, and therefore do not qualify for overtime pay). From 2019-2022, 38 Circuit Clerks left (out of 46 Judicial Circuits). Lack of compensation for the rapidly increasing workload was cited as the primary reason for leaving office. Again, we thank you for your role in raising the pay for all state employees. We now ask for a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks so that the Judiciary will continue to meet the highest standards for our citizens. Thank you for your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: STEPHANIE ELKINS		PHONE NUMBER: 660-422-7413	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI CIRCUIT CLERKS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: CIRCUIT CLERK	
ADDRESS: 101 W MARKET			
CITY: WARRENSBURG		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64093
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/19/2023 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023	
COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEPHANIE VESTAL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: stephanie.vestal@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 11:10 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Missouri Circuit Clerks’ Association is asking for your support in passing HB 998. This legislation would make long-overdue changes to Chapter 483.083 RSMo, which has not been revised since 1995. While we are deeply grateful for the recent 8.7% COLA increase for all State employees, we are requesting a salary that will more adequately compensate Missouri Circuit Clerks for the duties and responsibilities required of us. We are certainly proud employees of the State of Missouri; however, unlike the majority of State employees, we are, with a few exceptions, elected to our positions by the voters in our counties. We do not have 40 hour per week jobs—we are on call at all times. Other officials such as Judges, Prosecutors, and Sheriffs who work within or in connection with the judicial system have received significant pay increases during recent years through changes in legislation or constitutional requirements. Even Court Reporters, who are employees of Circuit Judges, have recently benefitted from changes in legislation pertaining to their salaries. After 28 years, we are requesting a change in Chapter 483.083 that would set the salary of all Missouri Circuit Clerks, regardless of county classification, at 65% of the salary of an Associate Circuit Judge. This increase would cost approximately \$2.9 million—an average salary increase of 13%. During the last 15 – 20 years, the average annual salary increase for Circuit Clerks has been approximately 2%, including the 8.7% COLA we will begin receiving in March. To say that our role is to “maintain the records of the court” does not begin to describe the duties and responsibilities of a Circuit Clerk: • We are court managers, jury managers, recorders of court proceedings, HR managers, project managers, treatment court coordinators and IT coordinators. • We are responsible for the accounting of all funds received and disbursed through the courts. During the past five years, Missouri Circuit Clerks’ offices have received and disbursed, through payments of fines and court costs, an average of \$200.5 million per year, most of which is paid to the State and to our counties. • We processed more than 778,000 cases in 2021. In the past five years, our caseload in traffic, municipal, and ordinance cases has increased by 91% as we have taken over a significant number of municipal courts after changes in the Supreme Court’s minimum operating standards for municipal courts became too burdensome for many. Again, we thank you for your role in raising the pay for all state employees to a competitive wage that will attract and retain quality employees. We now ask for a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks, and insure that the Missouri Judiciary will continue to attract qualified candidates who will maintain the high standards our citizens should expect from our court system. Stephanie Vestal, Webster County Circuit Clerk



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023
COMMITTEE: Budget		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN M SADLER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: susan.sadler@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 5:10 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Honorable Members of the Budget Committee: On Wednesday morning, you will be hearing testimony from some Missouri Circuit Clerks in support of HB 998, which would increase our salaries to the equivalent of 65% of the salary of an Associate Circuit Judge. I have proudly served as the Circuit Clerk of Pettis County since 2007, and I can testify that the level of skill, knowledge, and responsibility required to successfully execute our role in the Judiciary at that time cannot compare to our role today. The complexities of our jobs in the areas of technology management, accounting, case processing, and HR management increase each year. During the past couple of years, the Legislature has recognized the need for higher pay for hard-working State employees and has generously approved COLA raises to try to bring State employees to a level of pay that recognizes their value and that will compete with wages in the private sector. Both as members of the State workforce and as managers who recruit and hire employees, we are very grateful for these increases and are seeing the results in our offices. These increases are huge strides in the right direction, but we are asking you to consider this additional step: increase the salary of Missouri Circuit Clerks to create uniformity in pay for all Circuit Clerks, to compensate Circuit Clerks for the constantly increasing workload we manage as well as the level of skill required to fulfill our duties in the 21st Century, and to ensure that highly qualified candidates are elected as Circuit Clerks in the future. Every citizen in Missouri is entitled to a fair and professional experience in our Missouri Judiciary, and Circuit Clerks are an integral part of the system. We are asking for your support for HB 998. Thank you. Susan Sadler Pettis County Circuit Clerk



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 998		DATE: 4/19/2023
COMMITTEE: Budget		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TANYA LEWIS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: tanya.lewis@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 11:38 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am asking for support in regards to HB 998. I am the current Circuit Clerk for McDonald County. I have worked for the court system for nearly 30 years. First off, I would like to thank you for the recent COLA increases for clerks. This has made the retention of good employees possible. I have seen many changes in my time here. The role of the clerk is to "maintain the records of the court" and does not begin to describe the duties and responsibilities of a Circuit Clerk. We manage the Court by keeping documents, litigants and attorneys current on all court proceedings. We are also required to record court proceedings. We maintain juror records and manage those jurors when called upon. We are also HR managers. This is a job all in itself. I am a small court and I have 8 full time employees and 1 part time employee. Supervising and maintaining employees is a tedious job with many different complications. We are required to train these people and keep them current on the many changes that affect the court system. One of the biggest changes I've seen in my time here is the changing in computer systems. I have seen numerous computerized systems that we must become proficient in in order to do our jobs. In the past 3 years, learning the different platforms in order to accommodate video court has been a new challenge as well. We also manage accounting duties. Even in my small county of population just over 20,000, we receipted and disbursed over a million dollars in fees in 2022. We filed nearly 4000 cases in 2022. Our caseload continues to increase each year. I love my job and I do it because I love it and I love the County and State that I serve; however, unlike most State employees, I have to be elected to my position. I also do not work a 40 hour a week job, I am on call at all times. If a trial goes late, I am here. If a person needs an emergency order of protection on the weekend, I am here. Again, I love the job and the people I serve but I do ask that you support this bill that will more adequately compensate Missouri Circuit Clerks for the duties and responsibilities required of us. Thank you. Tanya Lewis



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TENIA HERMANN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Tenia.hermann@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 11:59 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

After having took office in 2019 I have found that the responsibilities of the Circuit Clerk have tripled at least. My workday typically starts before 7 am and continues on past 6 pm. In addition, I continue my work from home on most days. As office holders we have the responsibility to make sure all of the rules and regulations are meet and in a timely manner. Including the recent changes and changes to come. Our days often consist of being trainers/teachers, accounting specialist, human resources, office managers, deputy clerks, IT support, building maintenance and finally circuit clerks. The circuit clerk's office is most times short staffed. We as office holders are to pick up any and all of the responsibilities left unattended at the end of the day. As well as being on call 24/7/365 days. The circuit clerks are an essential part of a working court system in regard to the public, sheriff's department, highway patrol, city police, prosecuting attorney and Judges. As we keep involving to the fast pace and ever-changing duties of the court our time is stretched. With the changing of technology, we have to keep ourselves and the staff up to date with mandatory changes. As circuit clerks, we not only have to manage our staff but also maintain the courtroom proceedings making court hearings, trials, daily dockets and jury trials to name a few run in a proper manner. The circuit clerks are often to blame for any problems that arise and do our best to correct the action whether it is our issue or not. We as circuit clerks often do not take vacations, when able, we are also working to answer any questions and keep operations running smoothly for our staff. Circuit Clerks of the State of Missouri have taken an oath of office and intend to uphold all of the duties and responsibilities and will continue to do so. We as circuit clerks would appreciate your vote to help compensate us for our responsibilities and to keep the integrity of the Office of State Courts represented efficiently. Thank you for your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Budget			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TIFFANY PHILLIPS		PHONE NUMBER: 417-327-7959	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI CIRCUIT CLERKS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 102 E BROADWAY ROOM 14			
CITY: BOLIVAR		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65613
EMAIL: tiffany.phillips@courts.mo.gov		ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 12:14 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

My name is Tiffany Phillips and I am the Circuit Clerk in Polk County (Bolivar) and the current Missouri Circuit Clerks’ Association president. I am asking for your support in passing HB 998. This legislation would make long-overdue changes to Chapter 483.083 RSMo, which has not been revised since 1995. While we as Circuit Clerks are deeply grateful for the recent 8.7% COLA increase for all State employees, we are requesting a salary that will more adequately compensate Missouri Circuit Clerks for the duties and responsibilities required of us. We are certainly proud employees of the State of Missouri; however, unlike the majority of State employees, we are, with a few exceptions, elected to our positions by the voters in our counties. We do not have 40 hour per week jobs—we are on call at all times. Other officials such as Judges, Prosecutors, and Sheriffs who work within or in connection with the judicial system have received significant pay increases during recent years through changes in legislation or constitutional requirements. Even Court Reporters, who are employees of Circuit Judges, have recently benefitted from changes in legislation pertaining to their salaries. After 28 years, we are requesting a change in Chapter 483.083 that would set the salary of all Missouri Circuit Clerks, regardless of county classification, at 65% of the salary of an Associate Circuit Judge. This increase would cost approximately \$2.9 million—an average salary increase of 13%. During the last 15 – 20 years, the average annual salary increase for Circuit Clerks has been approximately 2%, including the 8.7% COLA we will begin receiving in March. To say that our role is to “maintain the records of the court” does not begin to describe the duties and responsibilities of a Circuit Clerk: • We are court managers, jury managers, recorders of court proceedings, HR managers, project managers, treatment court coordinators and IT coordinators. • We are responsible for the accounting of all funds received and disbursed through the courts. During the past five years, Missouri Circuit Clerks’ offices have received and disbursed, through payments of fines and court costs, an average of \$200.5 million per year, most of which is paid to the State and to our counties. • We processed more than 778,000 cases in 2021. In the past five years, our caseload in traffic, municipal, and ordinance cases has increased by 91% as we have taken over a significant number of municipal courts after changes in the Supreme Court’s minimum operating standards for municipal courts became too burdensome for many. Again, we thank you for your role in raising the pay for all state employees to a competitive wage that will attract and retain quality employees. We now ask for a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks, and ensure that the Missouri Judiciary will continue to attract qualified candidates who will maintain the high standards our citizens should expect from our court system.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/19/2023 11:43 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am Opposed to this Bill. There NEEDS to be a better method of Paying our Chief Circuit Clerk's!