

Revenue Estimating Conference
Article V Fees & Transfers
Executive Summary
February 11, 2025

During the six-month period since the July 2024 conference, revenue collections for Article V Fees and Transfers essentially met expectations, with both the percentage gain (0.1%) and the dollar amount (\$0.4 million) falling on the positive side of the ledger. Excluding foreclosure-related fees, collections from county courts were a combined \$10.7 million above estimate; collections from circuit courts were \$3.2 million above estimate; and collections from traffic courts were \$0.1 above estimate. The miscellaneous collections under the Other umbrella were essentially on estimate. Conversely, the revenues available to the Clerks fell below expectations by -\$9.3 million, and the separately treated Foreclosure Filings underperformed by -\$4.2 million.

After the current year, the overall forecast for Article V Fees and Transfers was revised upward relative to the prior forecast, with actual performance through January forming the basis for discrete adjustments. As a result, the forecast did not change for four revenue categories: Family Court Base Fees; Family Court Marriage Dissolution; Appeals; and Counterclaims. Seven categories were increased each year of the forecast period: County Court Claims above \$2500 and below \$15,000; County Court Claims above \$15,000; County Court Foreclosure; Traffic Court Violations/Red Light Ticket/Unlawful Speed; Circuit Court Base Fees; Circuit Court Additional Fees; and 10% of Fines to the Clerks of Court. In contrast, the County Court Removal of Tenant Action; County Court Additional Fees; Traffic Court Allocated Civil Penalties; Circuit Court Probate; Circuit Court Foreclosure Base Fee; Circuit Court Foreclosure Variable Fee, Other Revenue to the Clerks; and Chapter 2008-111 Fees for the Clerks were decreased throughout their forecasts. For the remaining Mediation/Marriage License/Other category, there was no change to the estimate for the first fiscal year and then slight decreases thereafter.

At its July 2024 meeting, the Conference reshaped the foreclosure forecast to consider new information on the large percentage of seriously delinquent mortgaged homes that are still protected from foreclosure, whether through forbearance, loss mitigation or bankruptcy. These protections have been suppressing the initiation of foreclosure actions since the early months of the decade, although they are now beginning to lift. Since then, two hurricanes (Helene and Milton) have hit Florida—meaning that the actuals through January have been impacted by both court office closings and the various private and public mortgage assistance programs available to homeowners who were in those hurricane paths. As a result, the Conference reduced the estimate for foreclosure filings in FY 2024-25 by -8,083 filings. Decreasing reductions continue for the next two fiscal years before a return to the prior estimate occurs in FY 2027-28 and each year thereafter. The annual changes to filings are shown below:

Foreclosure Filings	July 2024 REC	February 2025 REC	Forecast Diff
2024-25	38,926	30,843	-8,083
2025-26	40,570	39,119	-1,452
2026-27	41,276	39,548	-1,728
2027-28	41,657	41,657	--
2028-29	41,840	41,840	--
2029-30	42,023	42,023	--

The Conference also discussed several issues involving the clerks of court. Most importantly, state law (s. 28.37(4)(b), F.S.) requires that not less than 50% of the cumulative excess of all fines, fees and charges be transferred to General Revenue no later than February 1st of each year. Based on the new forecast, the forecasted amount of these funds is \$10.2 million for February 1, 2025, and \$1.6 million for February 1, 2026.

Cumulatively, the new forecast for Article V is lower than the prior forecast in FY 2024-25 and then higher in all subsequent years. The impact on specific funds, however, varies in magnitude and direction. For the major funds, the new forecast results in the following near-term changes:

- Direct receipts into the General Revenue Fund were decreased by -\$8.6 million in FY 2024-25 and by -\$6.0 million in FY 2025-26. In addition to the direct receipts, the prior forecast projected a transfer of \$17.8 in FY 2024-25 and no transfer in FY 2025-26, while the new forecast includes a lower transfer of \$10.2 million in FY 2024-25 and a transfer of \$1.6 million in FY 2025-26. Combining the two sources of revenue, the net changes relative to the prior forecast were decreases of -\$16.2 million for FY 2024-25 and -\$4.4 million in FY 2025-26.
- The State Courts Revenue Trust Fund was increased by \$4.1 million in FY 2024-25 and by \$5.5 million in FY 2025-26.
- The Clerks' Fine and Forfeiture Funds was increased by \$2.3 million in FY 2024-25 and by \$6.2 million in FY 2025-26.