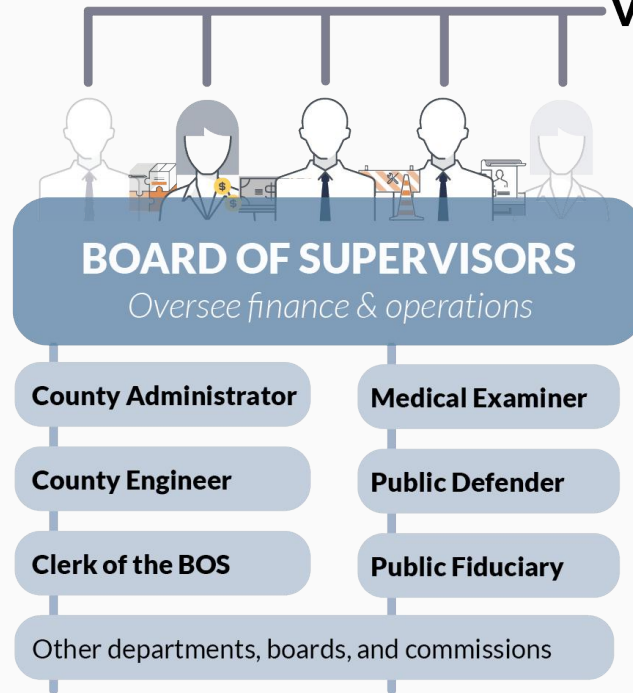




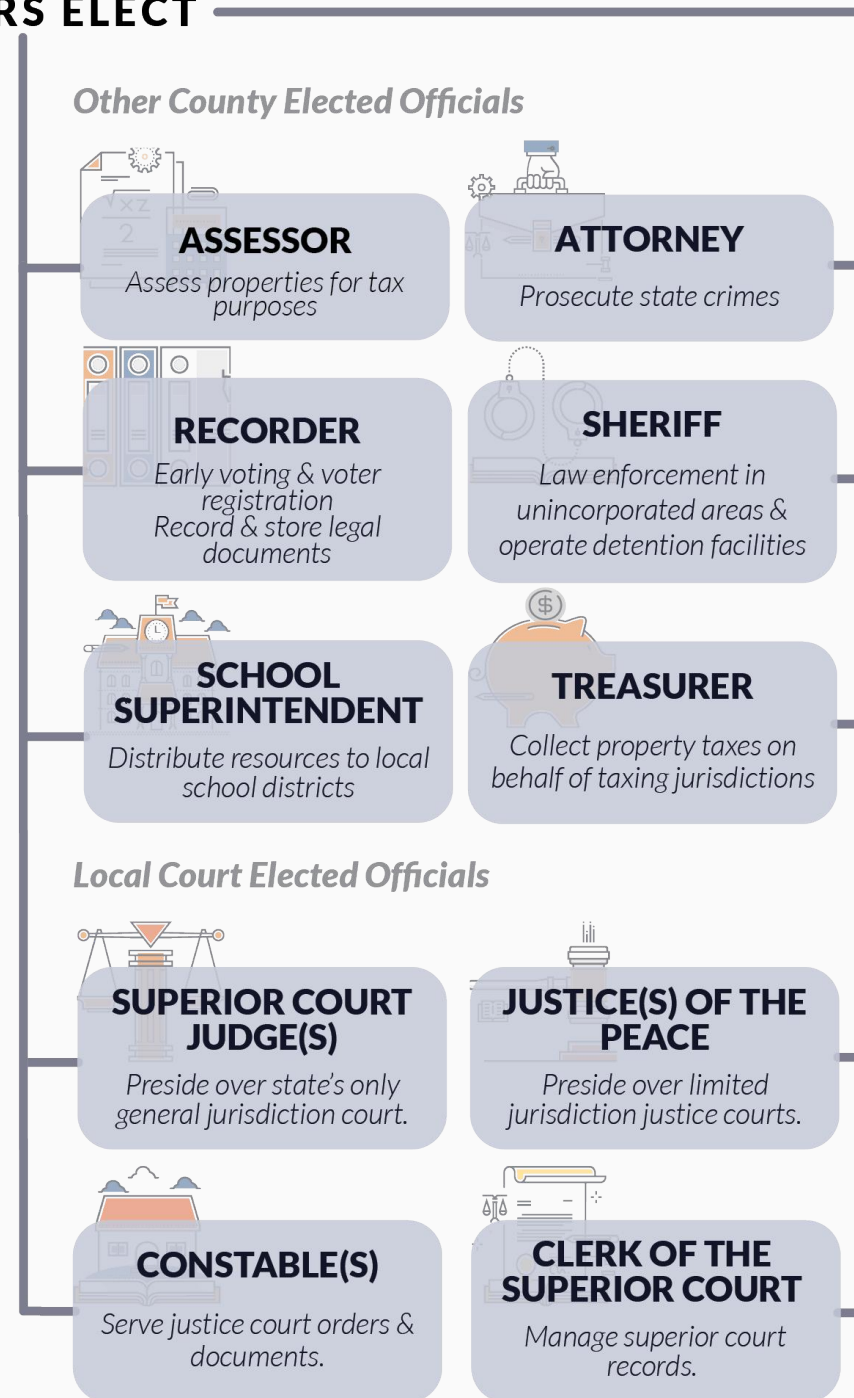
VOTERS ELECT



BOS responsible for budget & tax authority, along with daily management of county functions.

Some functions overseen by BOS:

- County budget & tax rate(s)
- County infrastructure, roads & bridges
- Public & environmental health
- Indigent defense
- Emergency management and response
- Conduct elections (jointly with Recorders)
- County fair and parks
- Planning & zoning
- Medical examiner and indigent burial
- Public fiduciary





County Supervisors ASSOCIATION of Arizona

1905 W. Washington St., Ste. 100, Phoenix, AZ 85009
(602) 252-5521 fax: (602) 253-3227

Resolution Number 2-24

A Resolution of the County Supervisors Association of Arizona Calling on the State and Administrative Office of the Courts to Work Collaboratively to Provide Sufficient State Funding for Probation and the Courts, Improve the Efficient Deployment of Taxpayer Resources, and to Identify a Long-term Funding Solution for the Court System.

WHEREAS, the Arizona Constitution vests the judicial power of the state in an integrated judicial department and provides for a single Superior Court, and

WHEREAS, the Administrative Office of the Courts is responsible for administering the centralized court system, and

WHEREAS, for administrative convenience the state has delegated partial responsibility for funding to the county government level with minimal authority to control cost drivers within the court system, and

WHEREAS, for decades the complex dual county-state funding relationship has created funding and administrative challenges for counties, the courts, and the state, as evidenced by the numerous studies and efforts to examine the funding structure for the courts, and

WHEREAS, non-county funding sources, like state appropriations, have not kept up with costs in the court system, growing the county burden for funding from 54% of total court funding in FY 2000 to almost 70% in FY 2023, while the state's share of funding declined from 31% to 17% and

WHEREAS, although counties receive revenue from court fines and fees that defray a portion of the cost of the court system, revenues generated by fines and fees have not kept up with increased costs, declining by more than 10% in just five years, and

WHEREAS, court costs are driven largely by the state's policies and administrative decisions by the Administrative Office of the Courts and presiding judges, and

WHEREAS, over the past several years, state lawmakers have enacted changes that have reduced available resources and increased county court costs, and

WHEREAS, judicial discretion to reduce fees collected and state policy choices, like repealing certain court-ordered fees for juveniles, reduce resources available to fund the courts without modifying program mandates or providing state funds to offset the local financial impact, and

WHEREAS, although the state chose to fund double-digit salary increases in other public safety positions, since FY 2021 state lawmakers have failed to provide sufficient ongoing funding to meet the needs of the Superior Court's probation function,

WHEREAS, this lack of sufficient, reliable state resources for probation has resulted in ongoing uncertainty, administrative challenges and the potential for a funding gap exceeding \$10 million in FY 2026, and

ATTEST:

Craig A. Sullivan, Executive Director
County Supervisors Association of Arizona

CSA Court Funding Resolution

CSA calls on State Lawmakers and AOC to:

- Provide sufficient ongoing state funding for probation officer salaries in FY 2026 without shifting additional burden to the county general fund, and
- Improve the efficient deployment of taxpayer resources, and
- Implement policies that effectuate greater state support for the court system, particularly in areas where state policy choices are driving additional costs, and
- Find a sustainable funding solution for the judiciary that works for the counties, the state, and the courts.

rs chose to increase superior court

onal \$7.7 million in annual county f the peace salaries when fully

art system, the burden for funding cing upward pressure on property

sociation of Arizona calls on State

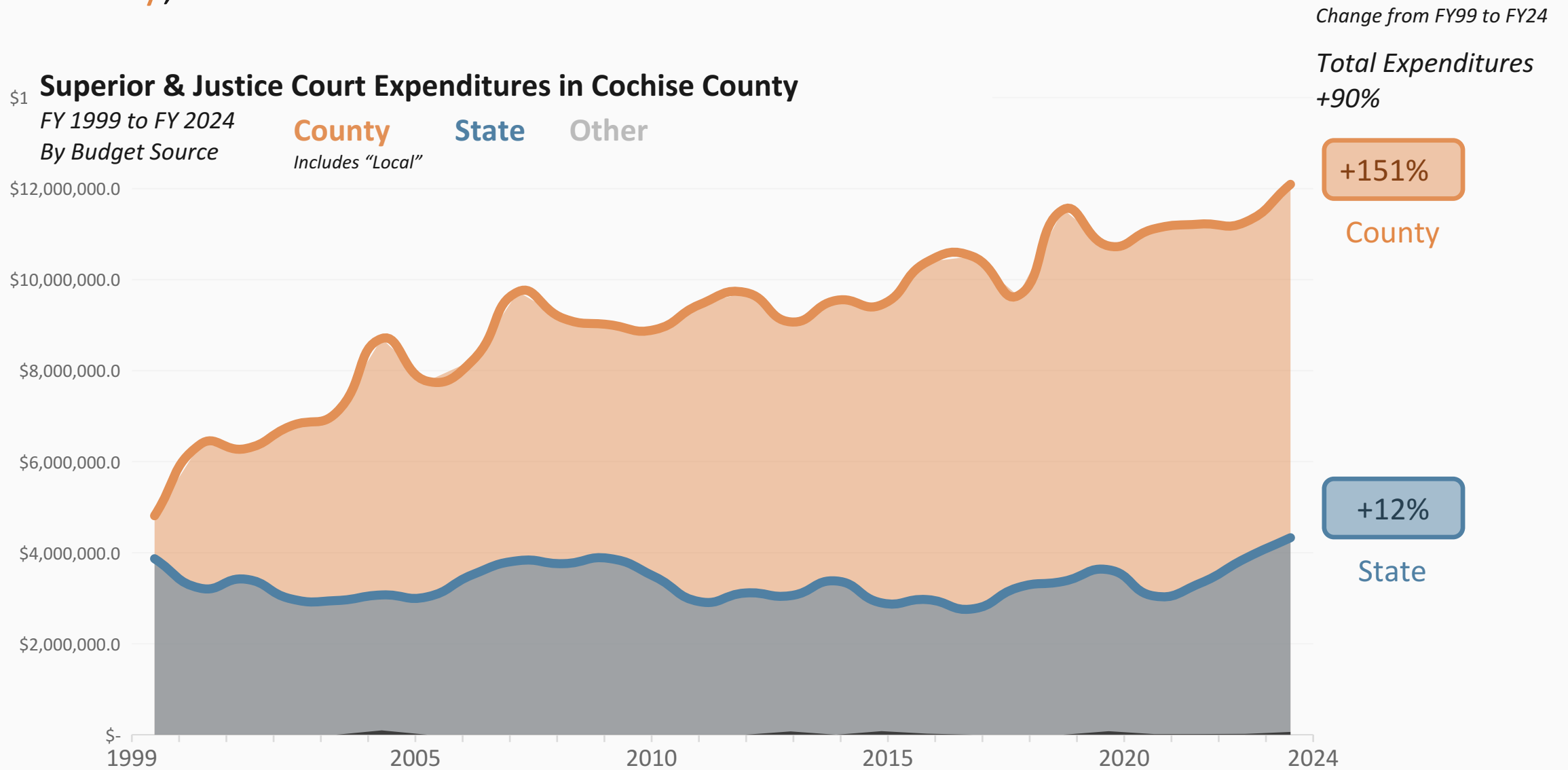
aries in FY 2026 without shifting

court system, particularly in areas

or the counties, the state, and the



Increases in court expenditures over last 30 years have largely been **funded by the county**, similar to statewide trends.



Source: AOC superior and justice court expenditures. Prior to 2020 from PDF reports; 2020 forward from court interactive dashboards



As a result, **Cochise County now provides a larger share of funding** for the Superior and Justice Courts, similar to other counties.

Share of Superior and Justice Court Expenditures

FY 1999 to FY 2024

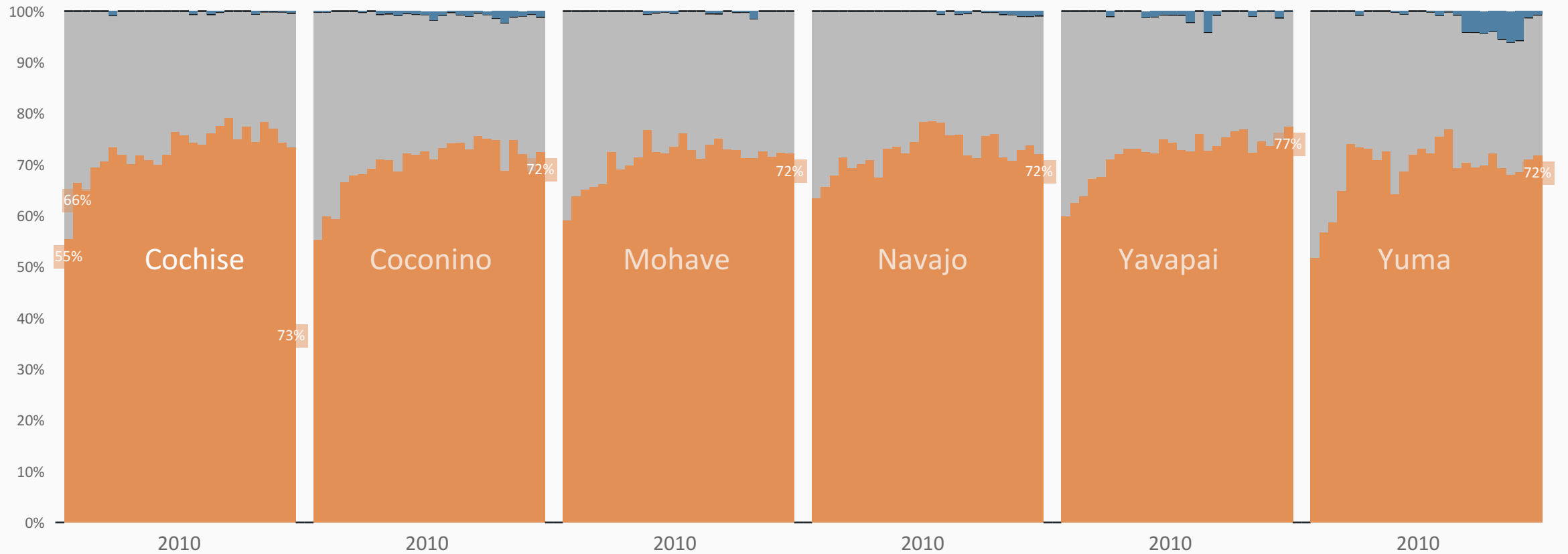
By Budget Source

County

State

Other

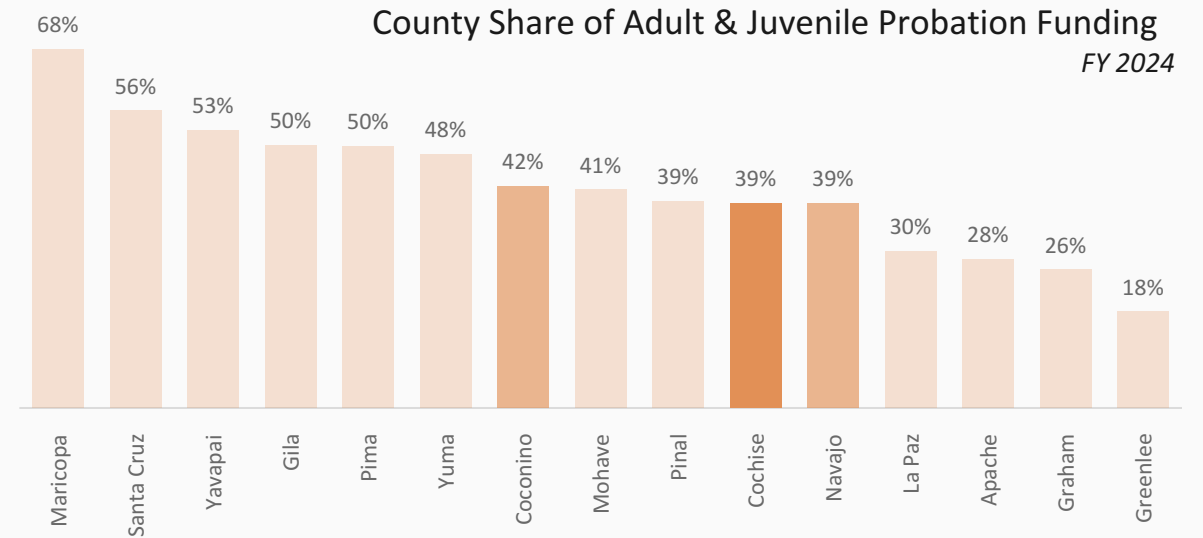
Includes "Local"



Source: AOC superior and justice court expenditures. Prior to 2020 from PDF reports; 2020 forward from court interactive dashboards

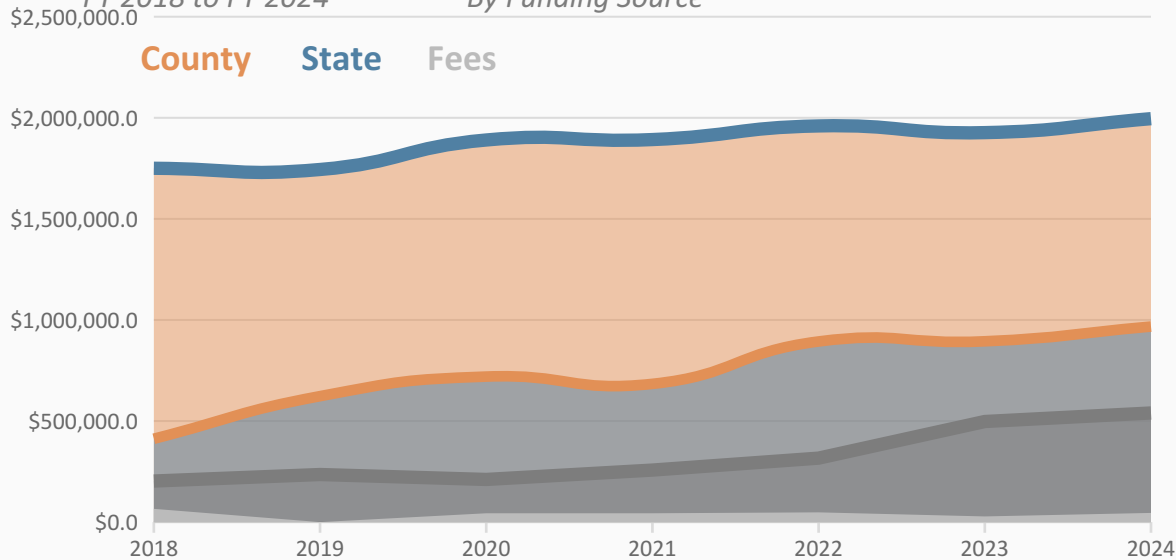


Cochise County funding for probation on par with similar counties, seeing growth in Adult costs and declines in Juvenile.



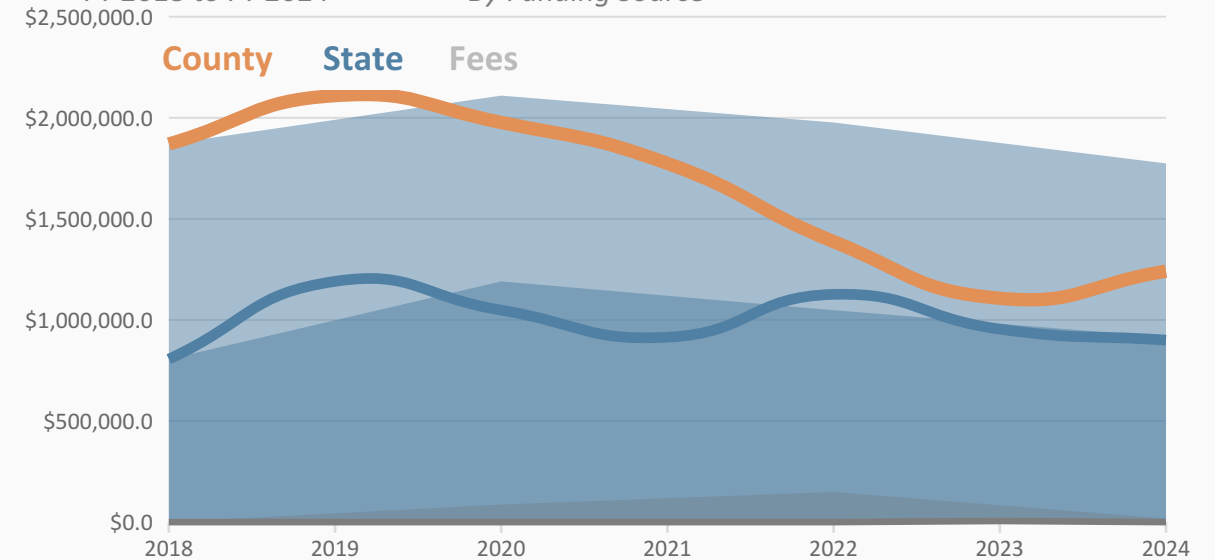
County funding for adult probation increasing, growing in total funding share since FY18

Adult Probation Expenditures
FY 2018 to FY 2024 By Funding Source



Juvenile probation expenditures decreasing, county funds declining most since FY18

Juvenile Probation Expenditures [includes Detention]
FY 2018 to FY 2024 By Funding Source



Source: AOC Probation Footnote Reports to JLBC, FY 2018 to FY 2024



High caseloads in Adult programs, low caseloads in Juvenile, relative to statutory maximums and similarly sized counties.

Over past year in Cochise:

- Adult Standard filled caseload ratios have been at or exceed statutory maximums
- Juvenile Intensive & Standard caseloads consistently well below maximums

Background

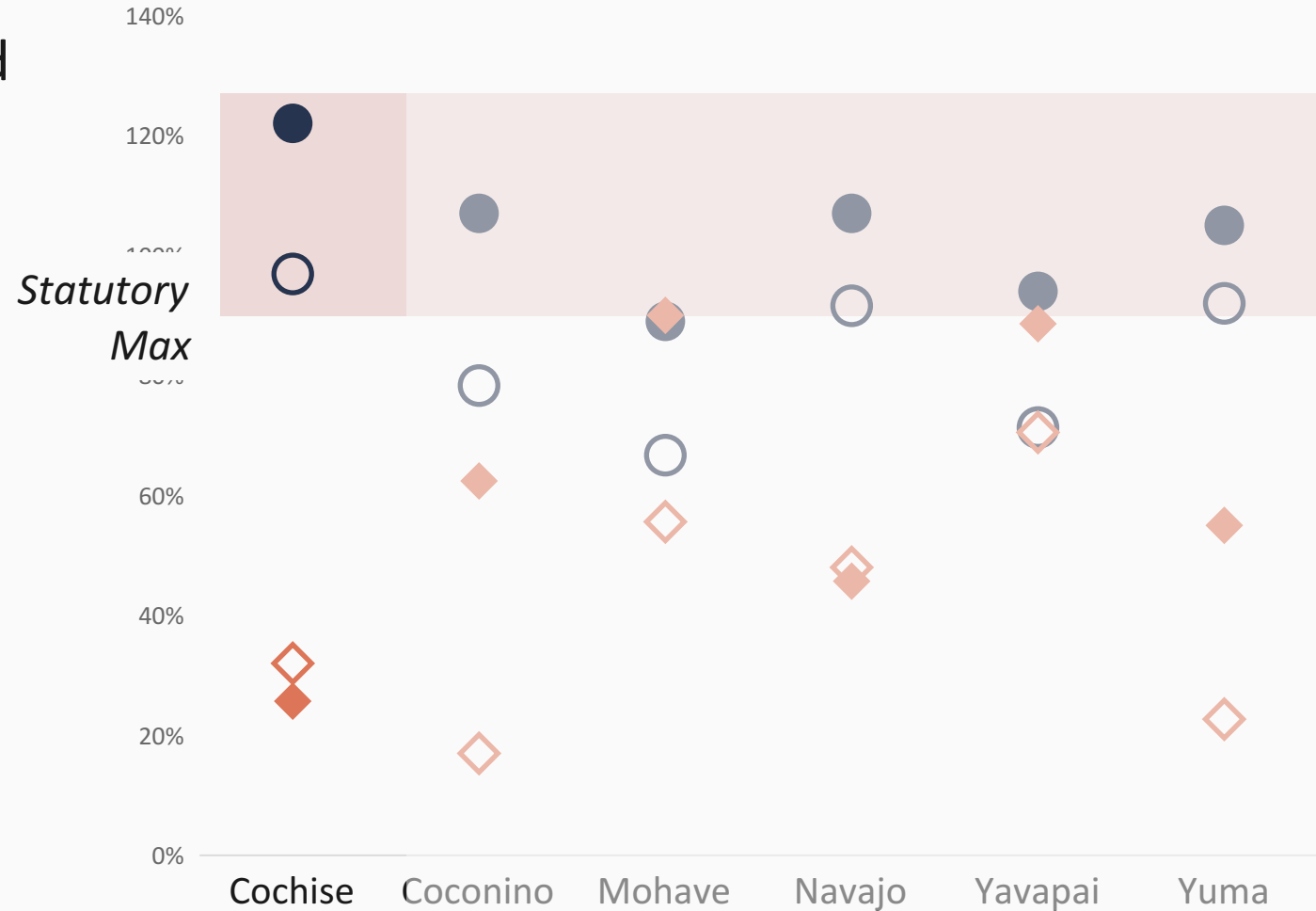
- Statutory caseloads are established and dictate the number of probation and/or surveillance officers per probationer
- Challenges in staffing Adult Standard probation in recent years has caused *filled caseload ratios* to exceed statutory thresholds

Filled Caseload Ratio as % of Statutory Maximum

December 2024

By Department

- Adult Standard
- Adult Intensive
- ◆ Juvenile Standard
- ◇ Juvenile Intensive





Due to relatively weak tax base and substantial GF investment in criminal justice, Cochise County has a high property tax burden to cover criminal justice spending.

County	GF Criminal Justice Expenditures FY2024	Property Tax 1 Cent Yield FY2024	Property Tax Equivalence FY2024	Primary Property Tax Rate FY2024
Maricopa	\$821,102,074	\$5,832,869	\$1.41	\$1.20
Greenlee	\$7,979,856	\$47,352	\$1.69	\$0.81
Mohave	\$44,053,774	\$256,918	\$1.71	\$1.75
Coconino	\$40,824,521	\$229,882	\$1.78	\$0.50
Yavapai	\$78,104,213	\$380,663	\$2.05	\$1.71
Apache	\$11,689,462	\$48,433	\$2.41	\$0.68
Navajo	\$26,647,238	\$103,579	\$2.57	\$0.81
Graham	\$9,372,743	\$33,424	\$2.80	\$2.22
Pima	\$316,309,075	\$1,125,451	\$2.81	\$4.01
Yuma	\$46,128,162	\$159,048	\$2.90	\$2.42
Santa Cruz	\$14,604,943	\$44,157	\$3.31	\$4.03
Pinal	\$130,488,697	\$377,292	\$3.46	\$3.56
Cochise	\$40,663,729	\$111,408	\$3.65	\$2.67
Gila	\$25,120,775	\$66,542	\$3.78	\$4.19
La Paz	\$9,760,037	\$25,545	\$3.82	\$2.60

Criminal justice expenditures include courts, criminal justice, public safety (patrol/detention).

Excludes Jail District expenditures.