

# Justice Court



## Mission Statement

Provide the people with an open, fair, efficient and independent forum for the advancement of justice under the law.

Prior Year Inputs/Outputs	Core Functions & Services
<p><b>FTE (2024):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o In 2024 the Davis County Justice Court processed <b>13,514 cases</b>. That is <b>thirty-nine percent (39%)</b> of the justice court work done in the county.</li><li>o DCJC processed <b>847 criminal cases</b>. That is <b>thirty-two percent (32%)</b> of the criminal justice court work done in the county.</li><li>o DCJC processed <b>655 small claims cases</b>. That is <b>fifty-five percent (55%)</b> of the civil work done in the county.</li><li>o DCJC processed <b>12,012 traffic cases</b>. That is <b>thirty-nine percent (39%)</b> of the traffic cases in the county.</li><li>o DCJC had <b>8 jury trials</b> that were handled with Judge Facilitated Mediation. We conducted <b>1 jury trial</b>. Currently, there are <b>8 jury trials scheduled</b>.</li><li>o DCJC handled <b>112 bench trials</b>. Currently there are <b>12 bench trials</b> scheduled.</li></ul>	<p>The three core functions of the Davis County Justice Court (DCJC) are: 1) interpreting/reviewing the law; 2) resolving disputes; and 3) upholding the law.</p> <p>The DCJC determines the meaning and application of constitutional provisions, statutes and ordinances and higher court decisions. This function is critical for a legal system because “laws” can be broad, complex and unclear. Through judicial review, the DCJC ensures that government and citizens’ actions comply with the “law.”</p> <p>The DCJC acts as an impartial forum for settling civil and criminal disagreements between parties, including individuals, corporations and the government.</p> <p>Finally, by performing its other functions, the DCJC, along with other law enforcement entities, ultimately serves to maintain order in the county and ensure that no one is above the law. This function also includes protecting the rights of individuals and minorities from potential abuses of power by the majority or government.</p>

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## Current Year Projected Outcomes

The Davis County Justice Court (DCJC) does not generate income by producing “widgets.” The income is generated from the payment of fines and fees imposed from charges/convictions in cases that are filed by law enforcement, e.g. municipal police, county sheriffs, highway patrol troopers and prosecuting attorneys. Fees are also generated by the filings of private citizens using the small claims process. A reduction in the number of cases filed *or* the inability of defendants to pay fines and fees affects the DCJC’s “bottom line.” This year the total number of cases filed with the DCJC is down from last year by about twenty (20) cases, i.e. 2024 was 13,534, 2025 is 13,514.

Law enforcements’ efforts continue to affect the number of cases filed *and* the economy affects defendants’ ability to pay. The DCJC has been imposing fines and setting payments at rates that defendants can afford and pay given input about their income and budgets. The court continues to grant extensions to pay fines and fees. Consistent with the past, the court closely monitors the status of fines and fees and only lets cases become ninety (90) days delinquency before initiating a “collection action,” i.e. Review Hearing or Order to Show Cause. (This type of “collection action” is not commonly used by many district or justice courts. Instead, those courts use the Utah Office of State Debt Collection (OSDC) to collect their outstanding fines and fees. The OSDC places collection of justice court fines and fees very low on its priority list and is reported to collect approximately twenty percent (20%) of any outstanding fine or fee). As always, the DCJC has a statutory obligation to substitute community service hours in lieu of fines and fees and, when necessary, is making those substitutions.

Review of the “revenue” generated by the DCJC in 2025 shows that we are on pace to collect approximately 2.3 million dollars. The total amount that should be retained by the county will be approximately 1.4 million dollars. The remaining \$900,000.00 is divided and distributed to the entities that use the DCJC through interlocal agreement, i.e., Farmington City, Kaysville City, and West Point City. The “revenue” figures are almost exactly what they were reported to be last year.

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## Next Year Budget Initiatives

This year the Davis County Justice Court is not making any budget requests that are different from previous years. We are grateful for the assistance of the Commission and other County Departments for the help in bringing our budget into closer alignment with other justice courts in the county. Should there be some change in our projections we will advise the Budget Committee and work through the appropriate process to effect any changes.