



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

CHAMBERS OF
PATRICK L. CARROLL III
CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR

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HARTFORD, CT 06106

**Testimony of Judge Patrick L. Carroll III
Chief Court Administrator for the Judicial Branch
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
General Bonding Subcommittee Agency Presentation
March 29, 2021**

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Borer, Senator Martin, Representative Piscopo and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee General Bonding Subcommittee. My name is Patrick L. Carroll III and I am the Chief Court Administrator for the Judicial Branch. I am honored to come before you today as I have for the past eight years to provide an overview of the Judicial Branch's capital projects.

Judicial Branch Locations

The Judicial Branch has care, custody and control of 38 buildings of varying age and square footage. Of the 38, only four were constructed in this century; 12 were constructed prior to 1950, with New London having the oldest courthouse dating back to 1784. Between the end-of-life cycle of the various mechanical systems and building facades and the heavy use of the courthouses on a daily basis, the Judicial Branch is constantly working within its means to proactively replace mechanicals and building envelope systems, while also responding to emergency or unplanned repairs and new code compliance.

Judicial Branch Capital Funding Priorities

The Judicial Branch's biennium capital budget request is \$10,500,000 for FY 2022 and \$11,000,000 for FY 2023. The Judicial Branch followed the lead of the Governor's directive to examine what projects could be budgeted and completed within the next biennium utilizing previous and future authorizations. The biennium capital request is an accurate representation of planned projects. These funds are crucial to the Judicial Branch's ability to make critical improvements in the following areas:

1. Infrastructure repairs to courthouses statewide;
2. Implementation of the Technology Strategic Plan;
3. Alterations and Improvements in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; and
4. Security Improvements.

The availability of bond funds allows us to keep the court system up and running in a safe and accessible manner. Currently, there is construction underway to repair the facades of the Danielson and New Britain Courthouses to mitigate water infiltration. Elevator modernization will begin at the Middletown and New Britain Courthouses, as well as repairs to the slate roof at the New London GA Courthouse.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us numerous valuable lessons and reinforced how reliant we are on technology to conduct judicial business. For example, over the course of the past 12 months, the Judicial Branch improved remote processes through the Microsoft TEAMS video-conferencing platform for several types of hearings and court events for civil, family, criminal and juvenile matters. This functionality has allowed us to maintain operations throughout the public health crisis.

The bond funding that we have requested will support the Judicial Branch's Technology Strategic Plan, which includes the upgrade of aging network and service equipment, storage, intrusion protection systems, expansion of systems and services to various locations, and the replacement of obsolete telephone equipment.

The Judicial Branch relies on bond funds to provide and maintain safe and secure buildings to serve judges, staff, attorneys, litigants, and the public. We appreciate the support of the Legislature in meeting the Judicial Branch's capital funding needs.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have and have asked Executive Director of Administrative Services, Elizabeth Graham; Director of Information Systems, Donald Turnbull; and Deputy Director of Facilities, Laura Jovino to assist me in responding to your inquiries.