

GENESEE COUNTY ATTORNEY OFFICE 2026 BUDGET SUBMISSION

BACKGROUND & DESCRIPTION

Pursuant to Article 11 of County Law, the County Attorney is the legal advisor to the Legislature and provides legal representation for County Officers in official actions. The County Attorney is appointed to a two-year term by the Legislature, commencing January 1, 2024.

The County Attorney provides legal opinions, advice and counsel to County elected officials, officers, boards, agencies and all County Departments, including daily contact with the County Manager's Office. The County Attorney reviews, drafts and negotiates contracts, licenses, permits, leases, violations and various other agreements and documents on behalf of the County with Federal, State and local governments, contractors and consultants, covering a wide range of matters. The Office employs an appointed confidential secretary to the County Attorney, an exempt class of civil service.

The County Attorney prosecutes and defends all civil actions brought for and against the County, including negligence, civil rights, discrimination, harassment, property recovery, Civil Practice Laws and Rules Article 78 proceedings, in rem real property proceedings, applications for poor person status, administrative hearings, representation of the Genesee County Board of Elections in all matters involving the interpretation and application of Election Law, and any other civil matters involving the County and its various departments and functions.

The County Attorney is the Freedom of Information Law Appellate Officer, administers the County Self-Insurance Fund and is responsible for procuring insurance coverage in those areas in which the County is not self-insured or requires excess insurance coverage above its self-insured retention.

The County Attorney directs five appointed Assistant County Attorneys and two legal assistants assigned to the Department of Social Services in compliance with Social Services Law. Attorneys assist Local Law Enforcement Agencies and Department caseworkers to prosecute Resource Recovery Funds, Child Support Collection/Hearings, Family Offenses, Child Abuse and Neglect Proceedings including Termination of Parental Rights Proceedings, Juvenile Delinquent and Persons in Need of Supervision Proceedings, Fair Hearings with Child Protective Services and matters involving the Mental Health Department. Prosecution of these matters involves preparing and conducting pre-trial, trial and post-trial hearings venued in Family Court and Appeals to the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, if necessary. The Attorneys' offices are located adjacent to the Department within County Building 3, located at 5130 E. Main St., Batavia and, separately, utilizes office space at the County Court Facility during Court business hours in preparation of Court appearances.

Assistant County Attorneys complete other matters as assigned by the County Attorney.

The Office represents the County in Administrative Pistol Permit Hearings, beginning in 2012. Commencing this year, the Office is tasked with a new additional responsibility in representing the Sheriff's Office in Emergency Restraining Protection Order Petitions that have recently increased substantially. The Sheriff's Office initiates the Petitions requesting an Order from the Court restraining an individual's right to possess arms on a temporary basis.

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BUDGET SUMMARY

<u>Appropriation by Object</u>	<u>Adopted 2024</u>	<u>Adopted 2025</u>	<u>Adopted 2026</u>
Salary/Fringe	298,334	321,371	374,442
Equipment	0	0	0
Contractual	<u>57,055</u>	<u>61,460</u>	<u>71,240</u>
Total Appropriation	355,889	382,831	445,682
Revenue	<u>62,725</u>	<u>63,000</u>	<u>73,500</u>
Net County Support	\$293,164	\$319,831	\$372,182

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The County Attorney Office remains within the 2025-budgeted amount and it is not anticipated there will be a need for over expenditure.

2026 KEY BUDGET FACTORS

The proposed 2026 Budget includes increases pursuant to the County Manager's Office for adjustments in potential expenses and claims that are confidential in nature. A further analysis can be provided upon request.