

RESOLUTION HOLDING HEARING ON THE 2026 JUVENILE COURT, PROBATE COURT, AND RESOURCE CENTER BUDGET REQUEST

WHEREAS, This being the date set for the public hearing on the proposed 2026 appropriations to the Ashtabula County Juvenile Court, Probate Court and Resource Center in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 2101.11(B)(2); and

WHEREAS, Juvenile Court, Probate Court and Resource Center has submitted their proposed budget for 2026 for consideration and discussion; and

WHEREAS, persons in attendance included: Judge Albert Camplese and Karen Capstick; and

WHEREAS, Comments and/or questions were offered, as follows:

The Board of Commissioners reviewed the 2026 budget submission for Juvenile Court, Probate Court. The Resource Center is a non-general fund budget and will not be discussed today. Judge Camplese explained that Juvenile Court continues to face staffing shortages and a lack of available attorneys to handle cases. If funding isn't approved, he will direct his staff to focus on clerical and scheduling functions, and attorneys will have to file motions for continuances when unavailable. The Court has moved from a centralized Court Administrator to a more decentralized structure, with 5 administrative staff members each responsible for distinct operational areas. The previous Court Administrator's salary was dispersed among those 5 positions. A new full-time position is being requested to manage scheduling demands. When asked, the Judge noted they are using the public defender's office as much as they can, attorneys are not always available. The Board expressed willingness to help facilitate discussions with the Public Defender's Office to determine how they may better support the process.

Juvenile Court has to schedule emergency motions daily, many of which include pro-se, requiring significant clerical effort to interpret filings. Judge Camplese also discussed the limited pool of attorneys willing to take juvenile cases, suggesting that increasing the reimbursement rate could help attract more. He expressed openness to using interns but emphasized the need for permanent staff.

Probate Court- Judge Camplese reported that the court currently has one Chief Deputy opening and four Deputy Clerks. With the recent resignation of the Chief Deputy, staffing levels are now equivalent to those in 2010. Discussion included the possibility of having the Bailiff assist with certain administrative duties. Magistrates are currently conducting hearings virtually. Judge Camplese noted that he approaches this as a joint problem to solve, and scheduling remains the responsibility of the parties involved. The Commissioners inquired about a potential timeline for shifting back to in-person hearings.

WHEREAS, There being no further comments or questions; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, that the hearing on the proposed 2026 budget for the Juvenile Court, Probate Court and Resource Center is hereby adjourned.

**ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CERTIFICATION PAGE**

Resolution No. 2025-455

October 20, 2025

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Upon the motion of Casey R. Kozlowski, seconded by Kathryn L. Whittington.

VOTE:

J.P. Ducro IV

Aye

Casey R. Kozlowski

Aye

Kathryn L. Whittington

Aye

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution acted upon and duly passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, on the date noted above.



Lisa Hawkins, Clerk of the Board
Board of County Commissioners
Ashtabula County, Ohio