

Office of Collin County District Attorney Greg Willis

FY2027 Budget Workshop

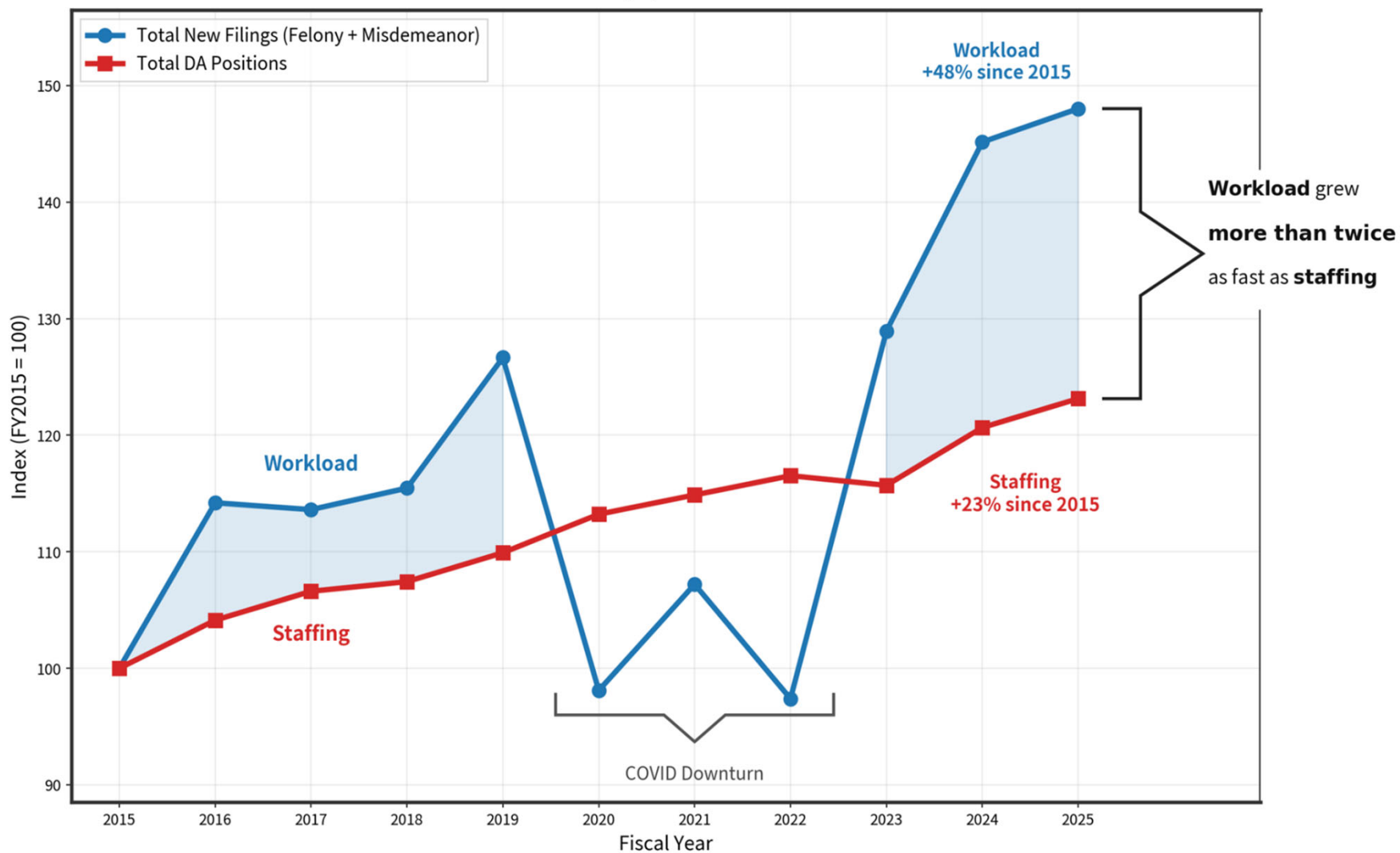
Prioritized Requests to Support Public Safety



Pursuing Justice, Protecting Our Community



DA Workload Growing More Than Twice as Fast as DA Staffing Collin County | FY2015–FY2025





This Year's Requests

- 1. Public Safety Prosecutor**
- 2. Deputy Chief – Misdemeanor Division**
- 3. Position Changes: (DVU, CAC, SPU) + Lead Secretary**
- 4. Misdemeanor Chief – Justice of the Peace Courts**
- 5. Public Information Officer / PIA Support Position**



Public Safety Prosecutor

- **New 2025 statutes** (CCP Art. 17.19(a-1), Gov't Code §72.038, and CCP Art. 17.027) **created unfunded mandates.**
- We now receive notices when **habitual dangerous offenders on bond commit new offenses**, requiring prompt review of criminal history, risk assessment, bond sufficiency, and conditions—often with little initial information because many of these cases have not yet been filed in our office or the other county.
- No dedicated position currently exists to **act on those notices quickly** by **reviewing, gathering, vetting, and acting** on the new info
- This position provides dedicated capacity to fulfill the new statutory responsibilities and **enhance public safety by tracking habitual dangerous offenders.**

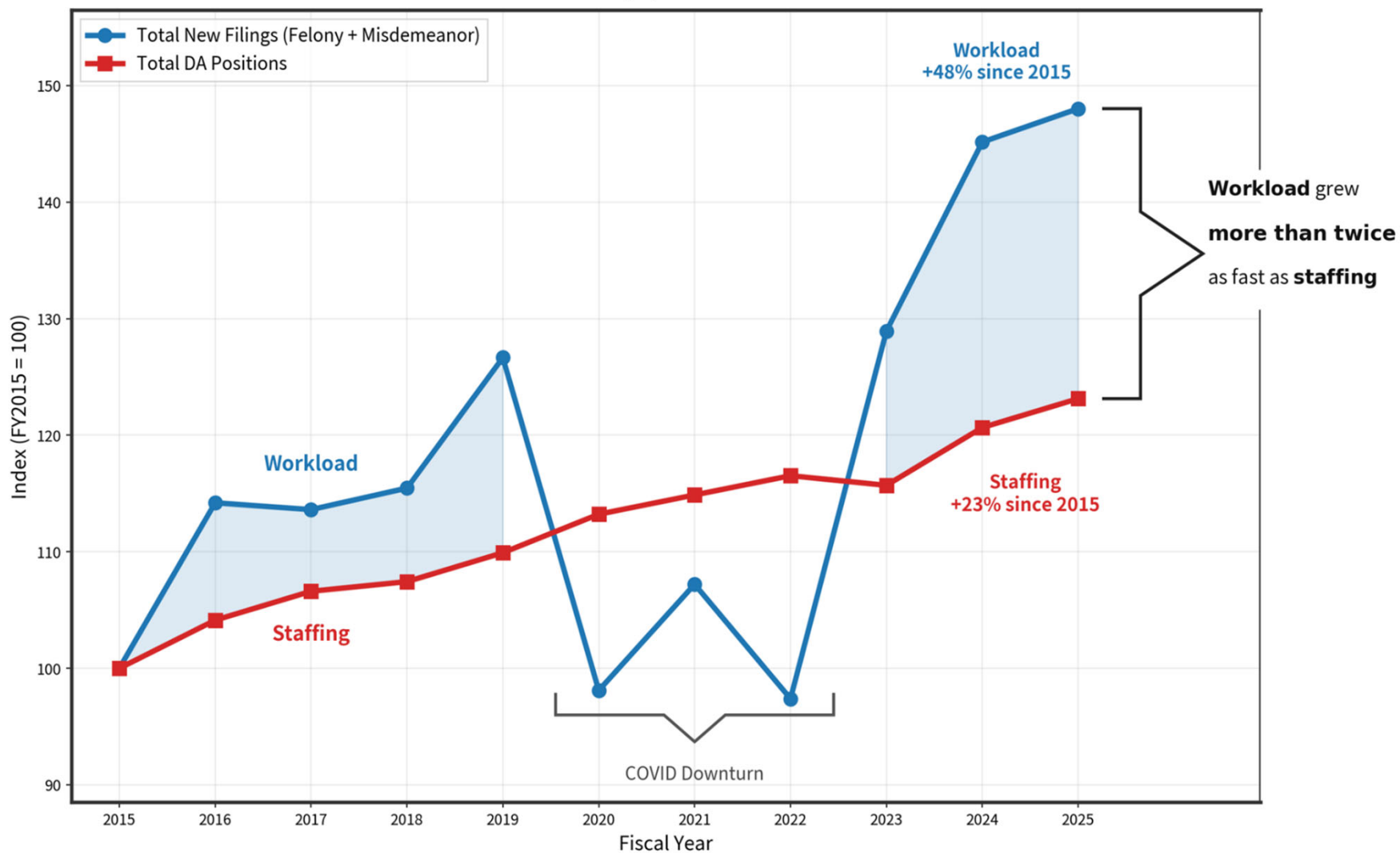


Deputy Chief - Misdemeanor

- Current Chief **supervises 27 positions** across 12 courts
- **Heavy training load** — new prosecutors arrive with almost no courtroom experience
- **Required supervision** of 3rd-year law students with bar cards, as well as post-bar interns
- **Record-high** misdemeanor filings in FY2025
- A Deputy Chief provides **dedicated supervision and stability** through vacancies and new-hire cycles



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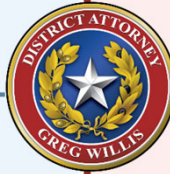


Two Pressure Gaps

Pressure 1: Structural Capacity Gap

Workload has grown more
than twice as fast as
authorized staffing
since 2015

We simply do not have
enough positions relative
to the volume of cases
we must handle



Pressure 2: Senior Experience Gap

In the past year we lost
6 Chief Felony Prosecutors

3 to U.S. Attorney's Office
1 to FBI Headquarters
2 after having their
first children

This has left us
dangerously thin at the
senior trial level

Pursuing Justice, Protecting our Community



Division Chief Position Change

(DVU • CAC • SPU) — Modest 5% adjustment

<u>Role</u>	<u>Courts</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Key Extra Responsibilities</u>
Court Chief	1	3.5	Single court docket
CAC Div. Chief	8 (7 DC + 1 Aux)	10.0	Child death on-call + CAC staffing
SPU Div. Chief	14 (7 DC + 7 CCL)	6.5	All homicides + 24/7 warrants
DVU Div. Chief	22 (15 DC + 7 CCL)	10.0	PO's in all 15 District Courts

These roles carry **significantly broader responsibility** than a single-court chief.

The Real Cost of Losing Senior Trial Leadership



When we lose a Court Chief — and especially a Division Chief — the most serious cases move more slowly.

- Murders, child sex cases, and high-risk domestic violence defendants are usually sitting in the county jail the entire time.
- Every extra week or month those cases take means higher jail costs.
- That is in addition to lost institutional knowledge and the heavier load placed on the remaining experienced prosecutors.

These operational costs are part of why retention is the more cost-effective path.



Cost of Position Changes vs. Turnover Cost

<u>Position</u>	<u>Cost of Change</u>	<u>Est. Replacement Cost</u>	<u>Avg. Replacement Cost</u>
DVU Division Chief	\$13,452	\$93k – \$375k	\$234,000
CAC Division Chief	\$9,934	\$84k – \$336k	\$210,000
SPU Division Chief	\$10,029	\$84k – \$339k	\$211,500
Lead Secretary	\$3,323	\$30k – \$118k	\$74,000
TOTAL	\$36,738		\$729,500

- **Proposed Changes: \$36,738**
- **Est. Cost of Turnover: \$729,500**
- **Potential Cost Avoidance: \$692,762**

Retention protects County's investment in experienced personnel & institutional knowledge.



Misd. Chief – Justice of the Peace Courts

- ~20,000 new criminal filings per year across 4 JP Courts (more than District + County Courts at Law combined)
- Current coverage pulls prosecutors from already understaffed County Courts at Law (4 full prosecutor-days every week)
- A dedicated JP Chief also enables real case management instead of ad-hoc, day-of-docket coverage
- Better outcomes, & no longer robbing one spot to fill another



Public Information Officer / PIA Support

- Unsustainable: PIA requests are **up 513%** since FY2015
 - FY2025: **333** requests — **highest year on record**
 - **441** requests projected for FY2026
- Currently handled by the Civil Division Chief on top of other major duties
- A dedicated position creates **one point of contact and protects prosecutor time** for cases and public safety



This Year's Request — Clear Ask

- 1. Public Safety Prosecutor**
- 2. Deputy Chief – Misdemeanor Division**
- 3. Division Chief Position Change (DVU, CAC, SPU) + Lead Secretary**
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Strengthen public safety through these five prioritized items