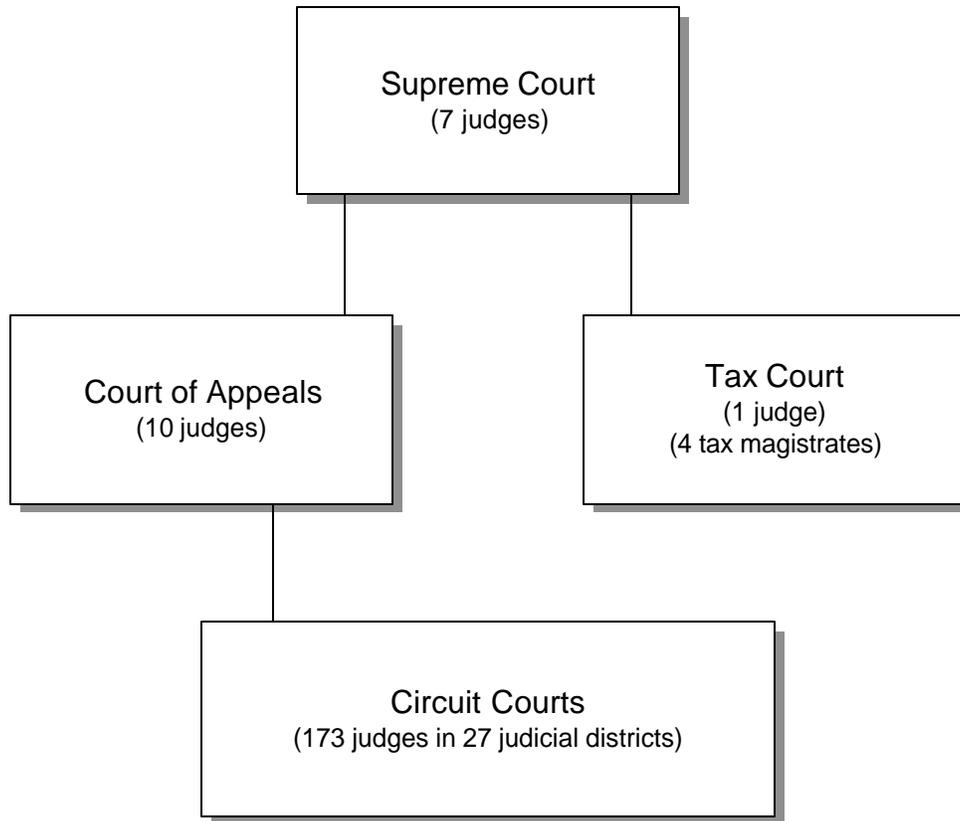


OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

Court Jurisdiction Structure



HISTORY AND MILESTONES

- ♦ The 1981 Legislative Assembly consolidated Oregon's district courts, circuit courts, tax court, and the appellate courts into a unified state-funded court system, effective January 1, 1983, known as the Oregon Judicial Department. Municipal, county, and justice courts continue as limited jurisdiction tribunals outside of the state-funded court system and are not subject to its administrative control and oversight.
- ♦ Effective September 1, 1997, the legislature created a Tax Magistrate Division in the Oregon Tax Court to replace the administrative tax appeals structure formerly in the Department of Revenue. The tax magistrates are appointed by the Tax Court Judge.
- ♦ Effective January 15, 1998, the legislature abolished the district courts and merged their judges and jurisdiction with that of the circuit courts to form a single, unified trial-court level.
- ♦ Effective July 1, 2003, the indigent defense program transferred from the OJD to a separate and autonomous Public Defense Services Commission that resides within the judicial branch of government.

GENERAL

The judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Tax Court are elected by voters in nonpartisan statewide elections for six-year terms. The judges of the circuit court are elected by voters in nonpartisan judicial district elections for six-year terms. There are 27 judicial districts, composed of one or more counties.