



# Department of Justice

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**STATEMENT OF**

**TODD BLANCHE  
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES  
UNITED STATES SENATE**

**AT A HEARING ENTITLED  
“A REVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT’S FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE”**

**PRESENTED  
May 19, 2026**

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Good morning, Chairman Moran, Ranking Member Van Hollen, and other distinguished Members of the Subcommittee. I am honored to appear before you today to present President Trump’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget for the Department of Justice (Department or DOJ). I look forward to working with you to ensure continued support for the Department of Justice and its many critical missions.

President Trump’s FY 2027 Budget for the Department of Justice totals \$41.2 billion, a 13 percent increase over FY 2026. This request reflects the President’s commitment to reduce crime and target drug traffickers, enforce our Nation’s immigration laws, counter fraud, and modernize the Department.

*FY 2027 Budget Highlights*

First, the Department of Justice is working hard every day to combat violent crime. Since January 20, 2025, the Department has federally indicted over 260 members of Tren de Aragua (TdA). TdA is a terrorist cartel that exploits our borders to bring murder, drugs, and chaos into American communities. We are crushing their leadership, dismantling their networks, and cutting off their money across the United States. To continue our successes, the President’s Budget includes \$22.2 billion for our law enforcement components and the U.S. Attorney’s Offices, a 16 percent increase over FY 2026. This significant investment reflects the President’s and my commitment to further the mission of the DOJ. These funds will enable the Department to dismantle the worst criminal organizations and continue to target the most violent offenders domestically and abroad.

Second, the Department of Justice is dedicated to enforcing the nation’s immigration laws. Over the past year, the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) has made significant progress in reducing the immigration case backlog. Since President Trump entered office, we have

driven down the case backlog by over 400,000 cases. To further these efforts, the President's Budget includes \$899 million for EOIR. These resources restore positions cut in FY 2026 and invest in critical information technology modernization efforts. Combined with the resources provided by Congress in the *Working Families Tax Cut Act (WFTCA)* to hire more immigration judges, the President's Budget will ensure an effective immigration court system that efficiently processes claims. Additionally, the Department will devote nearly \$4 billion across all of its components toward enforcing our immigration laws through criminal prosecutions and affirmative civil enforcement efforts.

Third, the Department created the National Fraud Enforcement Division (FRD). This new division will form the nexus of the Federal government's efforts to combat fraud. In April, I directed a review of the Department's resources devoted to combatting fraud with the goal of efficiently consolidating criminal fraud resources within the new Fraud Division. Once that review is finished, the Department will provide full details to this subcommittee. Also, the President's Budget for FY 2027 requests an additional \$30 million to hire 100 more attorneys for the FRD and to build out a data analytics infrastructure that will enable the FRD to more effectively combat fraud targeting government programs and the American public. I look forward to working with you in further developing the Department's capacity to lead the effort to combat fraud.

Fourth, the Department is consolidating its three grantmaking organizations into one component to reduce bureaucracy and provide more funding and support to grantees. By consolidating the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), and Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) into the new Bureau of Justice Grants, we will create administrative efficiencies that result in grantees having greater, and simpler, access to the full universe of DOJ grant funds. DOJ will centralize duplicative administrative functions and each office will maintain their unique brand and statutory responsibilities. Streamlining administrative operations will reduce bureaucracy and enable the three organizations to better serve their vital constituencies, increase the flow of resources to grantees, and reduce administrative delays in making awards. This consolidation plan is already showing results: COPS, OJP, and OVW are implementing a single Notice of Funding Opportunity template for FY 2026, and for the first time they are working towards a uniform grant review and administration framework.

Fifth, the Department is investing heavily in our Federal prison system to ensure it is a safe and humane environment, and supports our men and women in correctional positions. The President's Budget requests over \$10 billion for the Bureau of Prisons (BOP), providing historic support to increase and retain correctional staff and putting permanent solutions in place to ensure correctional officers are paid adequately and competitively. The Department is also investing in home confinement and residential reentry centers for qualifying inmates, eliminating barriers to inmates' returning to communities and leading productive lives. Finally, the President's Budget begins the redevelopment of Alcatraz as a world class prison facility to house our most dangerous

criminals. These and other investments will ensure BOP can make the necessary staffing and infrastructure investments to run safe and secure prison facilities.

### *Challenges*

The Department greatly appreciates the resources included in the President's Budget, but I would be remiss in not highlighting some of our current challenges. FY 2026 is a challenging year for DOJ. This is the second year in which we are operating with a flat budget overall, with some components operating with fairly significant cuts. The President's Budget request provides significant investments across the Department to ensure the safety and security of the American people.

### *Conclusion*

Chairman Moran, Ranking Member Van Hollen, it is my pleasure to highlight our efforts to be good stewards of the resources and authorities bestowed on us as we strengthen the Department's ability to ensure safety, security, and justice for all Americans. As Acting Attorney General, I am committed to making the Department of Justice run as efficiently and effectively as possible. Thank you for your continued support of the Department's financial needs, and for the opportunity to present our FY 2027 budget request. I look forward to working with you through the upcoming fiscal year to ensure that the Department of Justice remains on solid financial footing and can accomplish its mission of keeping Americans safe. Thank you.