



GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES Office of the Pardon Attorney (PARDON)

FY 2027 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2026 Enacted Budget:	\$11.6 million (32 positions; 19 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$132,000
Program Changes:	+\$4.8 million
FY 2027 Budget Request:	\$16.5 million (50 positions; 23 attorneys)
Change From FY 2026 Enacted Budget:	+\$4.9 million (+42.5%) (+18 positions; +4 attorneys)

Mission:

The Office of the Pardon Attorney (PARDON) has two primary missions. The first is to advise and assist the President in the exercise of the executive clemency power conferred on him by Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution. The second is developing and administering the Department of Justice's firearm rights restoration initiative under 18 U.S.C. § 925(c) in support of the President's Executive Order 14206, protecting Second Amendment rights. PARDON, in consultation with the Attorney General and/ or the Deputy Attorney General, assists the President in exercising his executive power to provide clemency for federal offenses against the United States. Executive clemency includes pardon, commutation of sentence, remission of fine or restitution, and reprieve of the death penalty. The Pardon Attorney prepares the Department's recommendation to the President for final disposition of each petition. PARDON's mission expanded in FY 2025 to include the Administration's priority program of investigating applications for restoration of firearms rights. PARDON is overseeing the application process, will conduct appropriate investigations into applicants seeking relief, and will identify candidates who are not likely to pose a danger to public safety if allowed to possess a firearm and whose restoration would be aligned with the public interest.

Resources:

The FY 2027 budget request for PARDON totals \$16.5 million, which is an increase of \$4.9 million from the FY 2026 Enacted level.

Organization:

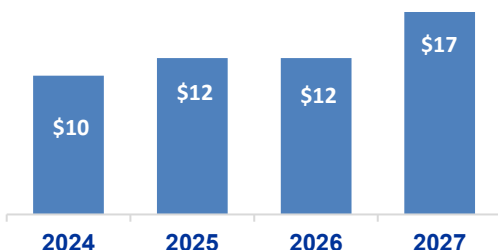
PARDON is headed by the Pardon Attorney, a politically appointed senior executive service employee designated by the Attorney General as the authority to carry out the office's mission. All FTE in the Office report to this position. The sole physical location of the Office is in Washington, DC.

Personnel:

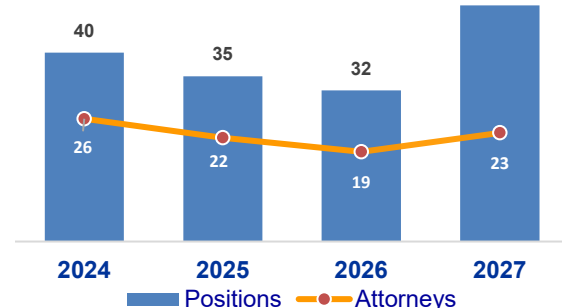
PARDON's direct authorized positions for FY 2027 total 50 positions, which is 18 more than they were in the FY 2026 Enacted budget.

Funding (FY 2024 - 2027)

\$ in millions



Personnel (FY 2024 - 2027)



FY 2027 Strategy:

PARDON expects to continue receiving historic numbers of clemency applications and potentially hundreds of thousands of applications from citizens seeking restoration of their firearm rights.

After completing more than 14,000 cases, down from a then-historic high of 18,000 in FY 2022, PARDON started 2025 with a caseload of approximately 4,000. PARDON's clemency caseload increased significantly in 2025 during the same time as major staff attrition, resulting in a current caseload of over 19,000 pending applications as of March 2026. PARDON will continue to accept for processing all forms of clemency and evaluate the merits of each petition based on the totality of the circumstances in the case. PARDON will respond to inquiries concerning clemency petitions or proactively make certain information available on its website concerning the clemency process for applicants, their representatives, members of the public, members of Congress, and various Federal, State, and local officials and agencies; prepare all necessary documents to effect the President's decision to grant or deny clemency; and notify each clemency applicant of the President's decision concerning his/her clemency request. PARDON will also provide general advice to the White House concerning clemency procedures and the historical background of clemency matters.

PARDON is overseeing the development of an application process that allows individuals with prior felony convictions and other disqualifiers to petition the Department for restoration of federal firearm rights. Such a process was previously administered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), and has been defunct since 1992. The population of potentially eligible applicants is estimated to be over 25 million, and given the length of time since a working process was in place, it is anticipated that there will be significant public interest in pursuing this remedy. Launching a new application process for the restoration of firearm rights that could attract millions of applicants will be a great challenge. To address the needs of this large population of citizens, PARDON will continue to develop and refine the implementation of the application process; develop and enhance its case management system to track the intake and processing of applications; establish a customer service infrastructure to respond to applicant inquiries about the application process; and identify efficiencies and improvements to maximize resources.

PARDON's FY 2027 budget request level will allow the office to accomplish its clemency mission and firearm rights restoration efforts for the Department.

FY 2027 Program Changes:

Firearm Rights Restoration Initiative:

\$4.8 million and 18 positions (4 attorneys)

The \$4.8 million program increase in the FY 2027 budget will provide additional human capital/personnel and contract support resources necessary to efficiently effectuate the Department's priority firearm rights restoration initiative, which is expected to garner millions of applicants seeking relief. The program increase will provide an additional 18 positions (4 attorneys) to oversee and implement this initiative; funding to support the development and maintenance of a new case management system to receive, review, process, and manage applications; and funding for contract personnel support resources. The federal firearms rights restoration initiative is a key part of the Department's commitment to protecting the Second Amendment rights of our citizens. The Department is committed to establishing a process to review and evaluate these claims at minimal cost and the \$4.8 million increase in PARDON's budget in FY 2027 will support this critical effort.

Office of The Pardon Attorney
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office of Pardon Attorney		
	Pos	FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted*	35	34	11,600
2026 Enacted	32	32	11,600
2027 Request	50	41	16,530
Change 2027 from 2026 Enacted	18	9	4,930
Technical Adjustments			
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	0
Base Adjustments			
Pay & Benefits	0	0	3
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	129
Other Adjustments	0	0	0
Total Base Adjustments	0	0	132
2027 Current Services	32	32	11,732
Program Changes			
Increases:			
Firearm Rights Restoration Initiative	18	9	4,798
Subtotal, Program Increases	18	9	4,798
Decreases:			
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	0
Total Program Changes	18	9	4,798
2027 Request	50	41	16,530

*FTE is actual.

Office of The Pardon Attorney
(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2026 Enacted			2027 Current Services		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of The Pardon Attorney	32	32	11,600	32	32	11,732
FTE Grand Total	32	32	11,600	32	32	11,732

Comparison by activity and program	2027 Total Program Changes			2027 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of The Pardon Attorney	18	9	4,798	50	41	16,530
FTE Grand Total	18	9	4,798	50	41	16,530