Small Claims Court Limits by State (2026)

All 50 states and the District of Columbia: dollar limit, special limits, filing fee where confirmed, and the law or court page behind each row

Last updated: November 2, 2026. Each limit was checked between September and November 2026 against the state's statute, enacted bill or court page. Where a filing fee could not be confirmed from an official source, the table says to ask the clerk. Full guide and source links: clearlegaltips.com/small-claims-court-filing-limits-and-fees/

How to read it. Limit is the most you can ask for, usually not counting interest and court costs. Other limits covers special caps. Filing fee is shown only where an official source publishes it. A recent change is noted in parentheses after the limit.

State	Limit	Other limits	Filing fee	Law
Alabama	$6,000	None listed	Set by statute/county; ask the clerk	Ala. Code §12-12-31
Alaska	$10,000	None listed	$50 (claims ≤$2,500); $100 (over $2,500)	AS 22.15.040
Arizona	$5,000	None listed	Set by court; ask the clerk	A.R.S. §22-503
Arkansas	$5,000	None listed	Set by court; ask the clerk	Ark. Code §16-17-704; S. Ct. Admin. Order 18
California	$12,500 (individuals)	$6,250 businesses and other entities	$30 to $100, depending on claim size	Cal. Civ. Proc. Code §116.220–116.221
Colorado	$7,500	None listed	Set by court; ask the clerk	C.R.S. §13-6-403 (2026 ed.)
Connecticut	$5,000	$15,000 home-improvement contracts; security deposits	$95	Conn. Gen. Stat. §51-15(d)
Delaware	$25,000	None listed	Set by JP Court fee schedule	10 Del. C. §9301
District of Columbia	$10,000	None listed	Set by court fee schedule	D.C. Code §11-1321
Florida	$8,000	None listed	Miami-Dade Clerk lists $55 / $80 / $175 / $300 by claim size (Fla. Stat. 34.041 sets county-court fee ceilings of $50 / $75 / $170 / $295 for these tiers)	Fla. Sm. Cl. R. 7.010; Fla. Stat. §34.041
Georgia	$15,000 ($25,000 for actions filed on or after Jan. 1, 2027)	None listed	Set by court; ask the clerk	O.C.G.A. §15-10-2 (HB 999)

State	Limit	Other limits	Filing fee	Law
Hawaii	$5,000	No limit for residential security-deposit claims	$35	HRS §633-27
Idaho	$15,000	None listed	Set by statute; ask the clerk	Idaho Code §1-2301
Illinois	$10,000	None listed	Set by county (Cook County: $287 up to $2,500; $379 from $2,500.01 to $15,000)	Ill. S. Ct. Rule 281
Indiana	$10,000	None listed	Set by county	Ind. Code §33-29-2-4(b)(1)
Iowa	$6,500	None listed	$115	Iowa Code §631.1
Kansas	$10,000	None listed	Set by statute; ask the clerk	K.S.A. §61-2703
Kentucky	$2,500	None listed	Set by statute; ask the clerk	KRS 24A.230
Louisiana	$5,000 (justice of the peace and city court small claims)	None listed	$35 per defendant (La. R.S. 13:5205)	La. R.S. 13:5202
Maine	$10,000	None listed	Set by court; ask the clerk	14 M.R.S. §7482
Maryland	$5,000	None listed	$44 plus service ($60 sheriff or $20 clerk mailing, per defendant)	Md. Code Cts. & Jud. Proc. §4-405
Massachusetts	$7,000	No cap for motor-vehicle property damage	Set by court; ask the clerk	M.G.L. c. 218 §21
Michigan	$7,000	None listed	$30 / $50 / $70 by claim size (includes $5 e-filing system fee)	MCL 600.8401; 600.8420
Minnesota	$20,000	$4,000 consumer-credit claims	Set by statute; ask the clerk	Minn. Stat. §491A.01
Mississippi	$3,500	None listed	Set by county	Miss. Code §9-11-9
Missouri	$5,000	None listed	Set by statute; ask the clerk	RSMo §482.305
Montana	$7,000	None listed	Set by statute; ask the clerk	MCA §25-35-502
Nebraska	$7,500	None listed	Set by statute; ask the clerk	Neb. Rev. Stat. §25-2802
Nevada	$10,000	None listed	Set by court	NRS 73.010
New Hampshire	$10,000	None listed	Set by court; ask the clerk	RSA 503:1

State	Limit	Other limits	Filing fee	Law
New Jersey	$5,000	Special Civil Part up to $20,000	$35 for one defendant; $5 per additional defendant	NJ Courts small claims page
New Mexico	$10,000	None listed	Set by court	NMSA §35-3-3
New York	$10,000 (NYC Civil Court)	City courts $5,000; district courts $5,000; town and village justice courts $3,000	$15 (up to $1,000); $20 (over $1,000) in NYC Civil, city and district courts; $10 / $15 by the same tiers in town and village justice courts	N.Y. City Civ. Ct. Act §1801; UCCA, UDCA, UJCA §1801
North Carolina	Up to $10,000 (varies by county, $5,000 to $10,000)	Some counties set a lower limit under local rules ($5,000 to $10,000 range)	$96	N.C.G.S. §7A-210
North Dakota	$15,000	None listed	Set by statute; ask the clerk	N.D.C.C. §27-08.1-01
Ohio	$6,000	None listed	Set by court; ask the clerk	Ohio Rev. Code §1925.02
Oklahoma	$10,000	None listed	Set by county	12 O.S. §1751
Oregon	$10,000	Claims of $750 or less must use small claims	$57 ($2,500 or less); $102 (over $2,500)	ORS 46.405; 46.570
Pennsylvania	$12,000	None listed	$68.50 / $91 / $114 / $171 by claim size (2026), plus service	42 Pa.C.S. §1515(a)(3); 204 Pa. Code §29.402
Rhode Island	$5,000	None listed	Set by court	R.I. Gen. Laws §10-16-1
South Carolina	$7,500	None listed	Set by county	S.C. Code §22-3-10
South Dakota	$12,000	None listed	Tiered by claim (UJS fee calculator)	SDCL 16-12B-13
Tennessee	$25,000	None listed	Set by court; ask the clerk	Tenn. Code §16-15-501(d)(1) (Tenn. AG Op. 14-08)
Texas	$20,000	None listed	$54 filing fee shown in Bexar County's 2026 schedule (plus service); statewide figure not confirmed	Tex. Gov't Code §27.031
Utah	$20,000	None listed	$60 / $100 / $185 by claim size, through Dec. 31, 2026	Utah Code §78A-8-102
Vermont	$10,000	$5,000 for consumer-credit and medical debt	Set by statute	12 V.S.A. §5531
Virginia	$5,000	None listed	Set by statute	Va. Code §16.1-122.2

State	Limit	Other limits	Filing fee	Law
Washington	$10,000 (individuals)	$5,000 businesses and other entities	$35 or $50, depending on whether the county supports a dispute resolution center	RCW 12.40.010
West Virginia	$20,000	None listed	Set by court; ask the clerk	W. Va. Code §50-2-1
Wisconsin	$10,000 ($15,000 from Jan. 1, 2027)	$5,000 tort and personal-injury claims	Set by statute plus county charges	Wis. Stat. §799.01
Wyoming	$6,000	None listed	$10	W.S. §1-21-201

Your claim in three lines

State where you will file: _____

Limit shown above for that state ($): _____

Amount you are owed, with interest and costs left out ($): _____

Is your claim at or under the limit? (yes / no): _____

Filing fee quoted by the clerk ($): _____

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