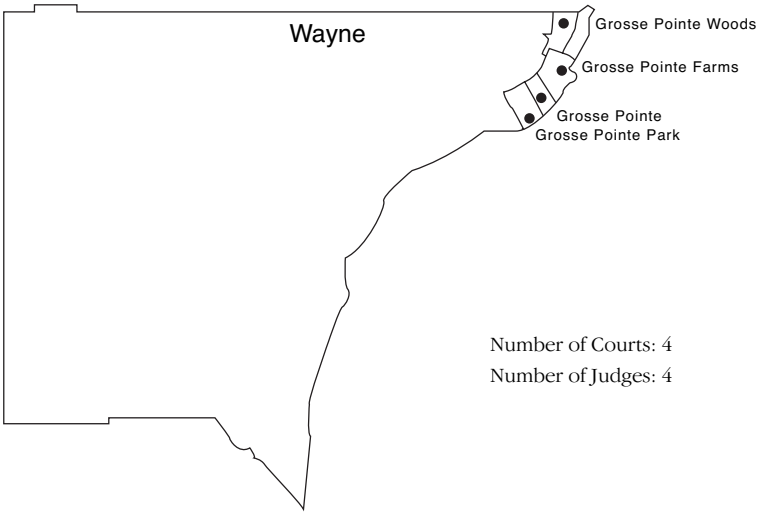
MUNICIPAL COURTS

Municipal courts were organized subject to Act 5 of 1956, although most were organized under either Act 279 of 1909 or Act 269 of 1933. They have exclusive original jurisdiction over all ordinance violations, criminal jurisdiction equal to that of district court, and civil jurisdiction of claims limited to $3,000.

The District Court Act of 1968 abolished most of the municipal courts, but permitted some municipalities to retain their courts. Four such municipal courts remain: Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, and Grosse Pointe Woods, all in Wayne County.

Municipal judges must be lawyers and residents and electors of their municipalities. They are paid by the municipalities and are elected for 4-year terms.

In 2006, 42,559 cases were filed, up 6.5% from 2005, but down generally from the previous three years. The majority of case filings (58.1%) were parking tickets, a trend that has existed since before 2002.



Number of Courts: 4
Number of Judges: 4