

## D.C. on pace to break marriage license record

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WASHINGTON - Same-sex marriage has only been legal in the District for about two months, but the city is on track to set a record for marriages this year.

The D.C. Superior Court has already issued more than 2,000 marriage licenses.

"To put that in perspective," Judge William Jackson says. "All of last year was about 3,000."

In the first three months of 2010, the court processed 376 applications. Since March 3 -- when gay marriage became legal in the District -- the marriage license office has received 2,082 applications.

Based on the early numbers, the District is on target to issue four times as many marriage licenses this year as they did in 2009.

The court does not break down the number of same-sex and opposite-sex applications.

The increase means the court is seeing a cash windfall because fees for the application and the licenses come to \$45. That's tens of thousands of dollars the court is collecting that it didn't count on.

Chief Judge Lee Satterfield says the money from marriage license fees goes to the Superior Courts Crime Victims Compensation Fund, which pays out millions of dollars each year.

"It's a windfall for victims of violent crimes," Satterfield says. "We dispersed \$10 million last year for expenses that helped protect victims of violence and for medical expenses."

According to a spokeswoman for the courts, the money for the fund comes from all fees, fines, bar admission fees and victims fund assessments imposed on defendants found or pleading guilty.

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