

# BUTTE

Population: 222,316 • Authorized Judges: 11 • Staff: 129.5 FTE

Civil Filings: 3,453 • Criminal Filings: 26,798 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 3,480 • Other Filings: 820 •

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## OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

At current funding and staffing levels, the Court is not able to adequately or expeditiously:

Ensure court clerks are available when and how people need them.

- **While a recently implemented e-filing system and online payment portal help reduce the number of people who file and pay at the court, these options do not meet the needs of all Court users. Those who still must do their Court business in person can experience long wait times resulting from the Court's inability to adequately staff counters.**

Protect families with emergency orders and restore family stability with mediated custody agreements.

- **Up to a 2-month delay in completing/processing Child Custody/Support Orders and other documents in Family Law matters.**

Seal/expunge criminal records to help people get jobs and to protect privacy, and report criminal conviction activity to protect public safety.

- **Up to a 3-month delay in completing/processing documents in juvenile delinquency matters, including sealing of court records.**
- **Up to a 4-month delay in completing/processing documents in criminal matters, including disposition notifications to the Department of Justice and other justice partners.**

Process Civil Filings to enable businesses and individuals to obtain Judgments and collect monies owed in civil disputes.

- **Up to a 3-month delay in completing/processing Judgments and other documents in civil and probate matters.**

Provide Self-Help Services to Self-Represented litigants.

- **Current Self-Help services are limited primarily to assistance with Family Law matters. While the Court has recently been awarded an Innovations Grant to expand our program and provide Self-Help services to other Counties, case types where assistance is available remains limited, and the sustainability of the program is in question without sufficient ongoing funding.**

## PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

**Assuming an additional investment in operations funds, the Court intends to:**

- Hire additional staff to eliminate backlogs in processing in Criminal, Family, Juvenile and Civil and to enable the Court to implement additional technological case management solutions and automations at a more rapid pace. Current staffing levels do not provide enough resources to allow the Court to free up staff to concentrate on these types of initiatives.
- Hire additional staff to back-scan existing paper files to enable the Court to become fully paperless in all case types.
- Address inflationary cost increases and make needed adjustments to recruit qualified candidates and retain experienced staff.