



Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Contra Costa

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- One courthouse and six courtrooms closed; civil, family law, and small claims hearings are delayed.
- Staffing levels have reached a critically low point and backlogs are growing.
- Phone calls go unanswered and public frustration is palpable.

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- It takes longer for the public to get services in civil, family, and small claims cases
- Physical fights and verbal altercations have occurred between individuals standing in line for lengthy periods of time

Reduced Public Access: Self-Help/Mediator/Facilitator Services

- Those seeking child support orders and people needing to have their drivers license restored must wait longer

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- No longer providing court reporters in Family, Civil, and Probate cases
- Loss of court reporter staff exacerbates difference in the justice available to the rich and the poor

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- In 2011, reduced Clerk's office hours by 1 hour
- In 2012, reduced Clerk's office hours by another hour

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Closed Concord Courthouse
- Closed a total of five courtrooms staffed by Commissioners
- Converted one other courtroom to a settlement/overflow courtroom in an attempt to reduce the need for courtroom support staff
- Closed child support courtroom one day a week
- Eliminated Traffic Night Court, reduced Small Claims Night Court to once a month

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- Reduced line staff by 30% and management by 40%
- 8 furlough days for staff in FY 13-14, 9 in FY 14-15 and 10 in FY 15-16
- Eliminated retiree health benefits for new employees and increased employee share of health benefit premium cost to 50% of the annual increases in premiums

Impacts: Court Security Services

- Redirected 1 perimeter screening deputy and five courtroom bailiffs
- Three shootings, two resulting in death, at court in the past two decades have made court unwilling to put future lives at risk by compromising court security

Fewer Judicial Officers

- Maintains caseload with five less bench officers than needed as specified in the branchwide Judgeship Needs Assessment
- Five Commissioners departed in December 2012

Annual Allocation*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 63,449,973
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 53,282,799
Percentage change	-16.0%

*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

**For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

Contra Costa Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	6 courthouses
Capital construction projects	1 (complete)

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	1,065,117
Judicial officers	46
Judicial officers needed	46.1
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	428
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	311

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	3,571
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	24,615
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	128,713
Civil filings	26,403
Family and juvenile filings	12,051

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Barry P. Goode
Court Executive Officer	Kiri S. Torre