

CONTRA COSTA

Population: 1,087,008 • Authorized Judges: 38 • Staff 318 FTE

Civil Filings: 15,143 • Criminal Filings: 123,355 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 11,085 • Other Filings: 2,071

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

Reduced staffing and increased complexity of cases and workload.

- **Staffing levels are so thin that we struggle to cover staff absences, spikes in workload, and to provide needed training time.**
- **With one of the highest rates of hearings per misdemeanor and felony filings in California, managing our criminal workload is a continuing challenge even as filings stabilize.**
- **One-on-One self-help assistance has been significantly reduced due to insufficient resources.**
- **While we have reduced wait times for mediation, case processing backlogs are starting to grow again because of chronic underfunding.**
- **Over 400 conservatorship investigations and reviews are delayed.**
- **The court, during the budget crisis, eliminated data analyst staff but the need for improved and accurate data analysis continues to grow.**

Infrastructure: The court's technology is seriously outdated, and court fixtures and furnishings are not adequate.

- **The court's ageing case management systems cannot easily accommodate changes to court rules and processes, the increasing need for accurate court data, and we face the eventual end of both vendor and county support and maintenance for the systems.**

No Funding for Cost Increases.

- **The lack of funding to address cost increases, particularly regarding courts' ability to provide equitable court staff pay, impacts staff morale and the ability to attract and retain staff.**

PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

Assuming an additional investment in operations funds, we intend to...

- Hire 3.0 clerks for sorely needed relief and training coverage for courtrooms and clerk's offices.
- Add 1.0 clerk to provide support for expansion of interpreter and language access program.
- Fill 1.0 vacant FTE Asst. Family Law Facilitator position to assist 20 to 25 self-represented litigants per day.
- Hire 1.0 Program Analyst to restore court data and program analysis capability.
- Address inflationary cost increases and make needed adjustments to recruit qualified candidates and retain experienced staff
- Develop an annual flooring, equipment replacement, and painting schedule to replace aging, worn, unattractive, uncomfortable, and unsafe furnishings.