



## Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Fresno

### Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- In dire need of a case management system, the cost of which would be equal to 50 staff positions
- Unable to impose mandatory furloughs next fiscal year due to retirement board decision
- Backlogs have been increasing due to the reduction in staff and furlough days

### Budget Impacts

#### General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Public access severely limited by courthouse closures
- The loss of more staff to purchase a case management system will result in the court being unable to provide essential and mandatory services and catastrophic constitutional violations

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

- Self-Help Center is closed every Wednesday
- Turn away approximately 250-350 customers a week, a 400% reduction in the quantity of public served
- 80% of all Family cases are pro per requiring a critical need for SHC
- Language other than English spoken at home by 43% of population

#### Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Laid off all court reporters in FY 2012/13 from non-mandated case types
- Users must bring their own reporters in civil, family law, and probate cases

#### Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Clerk's office hours not reduced yet, but anticipate reduction of two hours per day within the next few months

#### Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Closed over 71% of courthouses by closing 9 outlying courts and 1 downtown location
- Closed numerous courtrooms as a result of these closures
- Felony Home Courts: daily calendar from 80 to 140 cases per day

#### Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- Laid off eight full time and 2 extra help employees in FY 2012/13
- Anticipate future layoffs in FY 2013/14
- All employees furloughed in FY 2008/09 – 2012/13
- Overall vacancy rate is 20%, management vacancy rate is 38%

#### Impacts: Court Security Services

- Redirected security from outlying locations upon closures to fill areas that were already deficient

#### Fewer Judicial Officers

- No reductions in judicial officers
- One unfilled judgeship, four approved unfunded positions

### Annual Allocation\*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 64,392,443
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 57,934,753
Percentage change	-10.0%

\*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

\*\*For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

### Fresno Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	11
Capital construction projects	4 (3 complete, 1 indefinitely delayed)

### Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	945,711
Judicial officers	53
Judicial officers needed	61.6
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	542
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	451

### Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	8,212
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	38,525
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	122,545
Civil filings	24,304
Family and juvenile filings	16,341

### Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Gary D. Hoff
Court Executive Officer	Sheran L. Morton (Acting)