



Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Kings

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- The Court expects a \$1.3 million budget shortfall this fiscal year due to budget cuts and revenue sweeps.
- The Court's mainframe computer will no longer be supported, potentially resulting in a return to manual processing.
- The greatest impact to litigants thus far is in the area of Family Law: litigants must wait up to 3 months to be heard.

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Case processing is significantly delayed: 5-7 weeks backlog in family law and limited civil, due to furloughs
- Mail requests backlogged 6-8 weeks; new complaints take 3 weeks to process; law enforcement requests now take up to 20 days; defendant and employment record checks now take up to 30 days
- Sold old furnishings, computers to generate revenue for the court
- Rent courtrooms for private judging to generate extra revenue
- Attorney Conference Rooms are being used as office space for staff

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

- The Self-Help Center is forced to turn away up to 15 clients per day due to staffing limitations
- On Fridays, the center is closed at 11:30 a.m. due to staff furloughs

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Court reporters no longer utilized in traffic, small claims and unlawful detainer

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Counters close at 4:00 Mon-Thurs, Fridays at 11:30 as a result of staff furloughs
- As of 05/13/13, Corcoran will close Mon-Thurs during the lunch hour due to coverage limitations
- Some court divisions have only two staff
- Shorter hours mean reduced revenue for the State and the court; persons seeking to pay fines, fees and other charges and collections are routinely turned away

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Lemoore Family Law and Probate Court closed as of 09/10/12
- Avenal and Corcoran courthouses closed from 12/24/12 to 01/01/13
- Avenal courtroom is closed every other Friday
- Two remaining satellite courts may be closed in FY 2013-14
- The Family Law Commissioner since transferred from the Lemoore Court to Hanford does not have an assigned courtroom, thus, she holds hearings in various existing courtrooms and jury rooms

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- 3 employees laid off with another 5 to 11 possible, which includes management staff, in the upcoming fiscal year
- Lay off of IT staff has reduced service to the court and to the public; Help Desk is limited and projects are backed up to 6 weeks
- Satellite Court Divisions are reduced to 2 staff members
- All employees have taken 15 to 27 furlough days for each of the last 3 fiscal years, with another 27 furlough days expected for FY 2013-14
- Employee benefits have been reduced, and there have been no promotions or new hires
- Management Staff has not obtained salary increases the last 6 years
- Vacancies have not been filled for the past 3 years
- Court Executives are job sharing 40 days this current FY and collecting Unemployment Insurance Benefits

Annual Allocation*

Total Allocation FY 2007-2008	\$ 8,543,643
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 7,120,292
Percentage change	-16.7%

*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

**For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

Kings Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	8
Capital construction projects	1

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	152,419
Judicial officers	9.5
Judicial officers needed	11.7
Authorized staff positions	93.7
Filled staff positions	89

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	1,789
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	4,210
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	28,918
Civil filings	2,959
Family and juvenile filings	2,918

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Thomas DeSantos
Court Executive Officer	Todd H. Barton