



Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Lassen

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- The staff vacancy rate has affected court services in that the Court cannot offer bi-lingual services, there is a reduction in litigant information services, and case flow and calendar management are compromised
- Lassen is a two-judge rural court with one location; currently the Court's reserves are the only thing keeping courtrooms open

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Wait times have increased especially during time periods of heavy court use, like the lunch hour; it also takes longer to have documents processed and pay citations
- Court utilizes reserves to fund programs and grants while awaiting reimbursement; if reserves are reduced, Court cannot fund daily operations or grants

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

- Court combined the family law facilitator/self-help/research attorney position, reducing self-help by about 50%
- No longer offers individual appointments and only offers one to two general informational self-help clinics per month

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Has not reduced interpreters because Court does not have any staff interpreters

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- The court has had to reduce public service hours and telephone hours to be able to provide basic services and process workload

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- None at this time

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- Eliminated two management positions and two limited-term positions, which resulted in 19% vacancy rate, including three vacancies that were left open; reduced administrative analyst time
- Six furlough days per year for two fiscal years

Impacts: Court Security Services

- Court has reduced a contract security services position
- Court has limited security as it is and security is a high priority that the court does not want to compromise

Fewer Judicial Officers

- This remains a two-judge court

Annual Allocation*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 3,118,388
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 2,283,932
Percentage change	-26.8%

*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

**For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

Lassen Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	1
Capital construction projects	0

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	34,167
Judicial officers	2.3
Judicial officers needed	3.4
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	38.4
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	35.75

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	473
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	1,014
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	8,045
Civil filings	1,165
Family and juvenile filings	690

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Michele Verderosa
Court Executive Officer	Andi Ashby