

L A S S E N

Population: 32,581 • Authorized Judges: 2 • Staff: 21.75 FTE

Civil Filings: 420 • Criminal Filings: 6,845 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 580 • Other Filings: 164

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

Ensure court clerks are available when and how people need them.

- **While the Clerk's office used to be open before and after regular work hours, it is now only available between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM.**
- **Phone hours have been reduced to 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and there is no phone service between noon and 1:00 PM.**
- **Remote court services to people in outlying areas have been eliminated.**

Help more self-represented litigants in family and housing cases at the Self Help/Facilitator's office.

- **We provide walk-in clinics on most Fridays, but the clinics have become impacted as a result of reduced staffing.**
- **Appointments are only available a few days per week, but these have also become impacted as a result of reduced staffing – such that appointments generally require at least a month wait.**
- **Individuals and families often need to return several times to get the assistance they need.**

Protect families with emergency orders and restore family stability with mediated custody agreements.

- **There is only one mediator, and all family support staff positions have been eliminated.**
- **Emergency orders are often delayed due to the reductions in staff available to assist litigants.**

Reduce wait time for sealing/expunging criminal records to help people get jobs and to protect privacy.

- **Reduced staffing in the Self-Help Center has increased the wait times for people to obtain assistance with sealing/expunging criminal records.**

Reduce wait time for businesses and individuals to get money owed in civil disputes.

- **Reduced staffing in the Self-Help Center has increased the wait times for people and businesses to obtain information and assistance regarding their civil collection efforts.**

PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

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

- Fill vacant Court Clerk positions to restore service hours and reduce wait times.
- Restore Family Law Facilitator and Self-Help staffing to ensure meaningful assistance and access to the courts through expanded clinics and individual appointments.
- Address inflationary cost increases and make needed adjustments to recruit qualified candidates and retain experienced staff.