

PLACER

Population: 366,115 • Authorized Judges: 12 (10 filled; 2 unfunded) • Staff: 123.5 FTE
Civil Filings: 4,957 • Criminal Filings: 35,236 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 4,277 • Other Filings: 829

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

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

- **Those seeking information from the court and who desire to file documents, face crushing wait times. With wait times often exceeding three hours in Family Law cases and nearly as long for civil cases.**

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

- **Criminal case processing is critically impacted. The court prioritizes processing of felonies, domestic violence, and driving under the influence updates and notifications. Final processing and reporting of other case types is delayed a year, sometimes more.**

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

- **Critical delays for entry of default judgements, parties can currently expect to wait four months for a response from the court.**
- **Parties may wait up to 160 days for documentation needed to collect money owed.**

Restore local court services and reopen courtrooms.

- **Families must wait nearly two months for non-emergency hearings on requests for orders, and more than six months for a hearing on contested family law matters, prolonging instability and uncertainty for those involved.**
- **We have focused on maintaining access to hearings in all locations, and do not plan to limit availability in the case of greater funding restrictions.**

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

- **Although the court has focused on expanding and improving self-help services when funding increases have occurred in recent years, the Self-Help Center remains closed each afternoon and services are not available in the North-Tahoe Area.**

PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

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

- Supplement clerical staffing to reduce delays in criminal, family law, and civil case processing, all focused on improving the challenges notes above.
- Supplement legal research staffing to address the increase in CEQA related workload and to speed the review of submitted defaults, judgments, and other research intensive pleadings.
- Reduce staff recruitment and retention challenges.
- Expand language access to self help services, child custody mediation, and at the court's Tahoe location.
- Expand courtroom staffing to enable one additional courtroom to reopen to reduce delays in setting family law cases and reduce congestion on criminal misdemeanor calendars.