



Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of San Joaquin

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Backlogs in processing civil judgments continue to grow; no longer processing small claims cases
- There are longer wait times in the clerk's office and telephone calls go unanswered
- Complete closure of two court branches (Lodi and Tracy).

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Small claims litigants can file their claims to preserve the statute of limitations, but will not be assigned a hearing date; since September 1, 2012, 575 small claims cases have been filed and not scheduled for hearings. It is unknown how many cases have not been filed, due to litigants knowing that they will not receive a hearing date.

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

- No reductions have been made in this area.

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- In Oct. 2012, stopped providing court reporters in all five civil courtrooms; litigants are now required to bring their own reporter

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Closures have impacted the Stockton branch so that lines are longer, phones are busier, and the public's patience has dwindled; average wait times have jumped from 3-5 minutes to 30 minutes or more

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Four courtrooms have closed since FY 09-10
- Closed Tracy branch location and both Lodi branch facilities
- Because of the court closures, many litigants and jurors must travel up to 45 minutes one way to the main branch court in Stockton where there is unreliable public transportation

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- FY 09-10: 12 furlough days (all staff)
- FY 10-11: 8 furlough days (all staff)
- FY 11-12: 4 furlough days (all staff); 42 staff laid off on 10/1/11
- FY 12-13: 12 furlough days (unrepresented staff); 8 furlough days (represented staff); 11 staff laid off on 8/1/12; one commissioner laid off 3/4/13; 5 court reporters laid off on 4/5/13; 2/8/13 through 11/1/14- 2 floating holidays eliminated for all court employees
- FY 13-14: 4 furlough days (represented staff)
- Currently have 100 vacancies out of 350 positions; deleted 99 positions from Schedule 7A

Impacts: Court Security Services

- Courtrooms closures have lessened the number of bailiffs needed

Fewer Judicial Officers

- Judges are used to fill vacant judicial officer positions in order to rely less frequently on assigned judges
- One judge has no courtroom and the presiding judge shares a courtroom with another judge
- Keeping two commissioner positions vacant due to budget reductions. In March 2013, one commissioner was laid off.

Annual Allocation

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 45,350,583
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013*	\$ 38,756,249
Percentage change	-14.5%

*For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

San Joaquin Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	7 (3 closed)
Capital construction projects	3

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Jan. 2013:

Population served	696,214
Judicial officers	36.5
Judicial officers needed	47.5
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	334
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	250

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	6,028
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	26,757
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	85,285
Civil and Small Claims filings	19,371
Family and juvenile filings	10,350

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. David P. Warner
Court Executive Officer	Rosa Junqueiro