

# SAN LUIS OBISPO

Population: 272,357 • Authorized Judges: 12 • Staff: 129 FTE

Civil Filings: 3,162 • Criminal Filings: 44,305 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 2,604 • Other Filings: 1,261

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## OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

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

- **We have had to cancel phone hours entirely on Fridays, limiting access to all of our divisions.**

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

- **We have had to decrease our Self-Help Center classes due to inability to secure space.**

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

- **We are struggling with six month delays in custody evaluations due to decreased staffing.**
- **Another year without a funding increase would lead to staff shortages and significant delays.**

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

- **We have managed to stay up to date in these areas, but any decrease in staffing levels could jeopardize our timeliness.**
- **Other critical projects, like records purging and case management system upgrades, have been delayed or put on hold indefinitely.**

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

- **We are not experiencing significant delays in these areas, but anticipate court delays in civil due to an open court research attorney position.**

Restore local court services and reopen courtrooms.

- **Our South county second branch court, previously full service, has remained vacant for years because of underfunding.**
- **We currently cannot provide a criminal department in North County at our one operational branch court because necessary funds for holding cells have been delayed indefinitely.**

## PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

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

- Backfill 2 clerks for window and phone service to reduce wait times by 15 minutes per person.
- Reclassify 2 FTE Family Law Self Help staff to increase self-represented access to legal information.
- Backfill 2 full time court reporters to fill vacancies to speed criminal trial process.
- Address inflationary cost increases and make needed adjustments to recruit qualified candidates and retain experienced staff.
- Invest in technology infrastructure to support public portal for self-represented litigants' remote access to court records.
- Backfill 1 open FTE Information Technology staff to decrease our consulting costs and improve efficiency and self-represented litigants' access to on line case information.
- Backfill 1 FTE Court Research attorney to avoid closure of civil courtroom in 2018, increasing speed of civil cases.