

SOLANO

Population: 424,233 • Authorized Judges: 20 • Staff: 202 FTE

Civil Filings: 7,381 • Criminal Filings: 45,261 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 5,837 • Other Filings: 1,329

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

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

- **Clerk's Offices must close at 3:00 p.m., a two hour reduction in availability.**
- **Phone hours have been reduced (unavailable during the lunch hour and after 3:00 p.m.).**
- **The public is often required to wait in long lines due to staffing shortages.**

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

- **Our Self-Help Center is only open 5 days a week for 4 hours a day due to staff limitations.**
- **We are limited in the services we can provide in the Self Help Center.**
- **Members of the public sometimes wait in line for hours to access the Self Help Center.**

Restore local court services and reopen courtrooms.

- **Closure of one courtroom to hear traffic and unlawful detainer cases has burdened already heavy calendars in other departments.**

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

- **We experience significant wait times for regular hearings in our Family Law Departments.**
- **We have a limited amount of Family Law Judicial Officers.**
- **We are unable to appoint counsel for seriously at risk minors.**
- **We need to expand Family Law Mediation services.**

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

- **Our Juvenile Division has a backlog of sealing records.**
- **Our Criminal Division has a backlog of closing and reporting cases.**
- **It is difficult to provide timely bail hearings for indigent in-custody defendants.**

PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

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

- Hire sufficient staff to open the clerk's office for all divisions from 3:00 to 4:00.
- Hire sufficient staff to expand hours of operation for the Self Help Center.
- Reopen one courtroom eliminated during the recession.
- Digitize files and move towards e-filing to allow the public greater access to electronic documents.
- Hire sufficient IT staff to move technology projects forward.
- Expand Family Law Mediation services for earlier resolution of custody disputes.
- Recruit and maintain quality staff by providing competitive wages.
- Add a half-time FTE Family Law Facilitator in self-help to serve four more people a day
- Address inflationary cost increases and make needed adjustments to recruit qualified candidates and retain experienced staff.