



CALIFORNIA JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR 2022–23

The Chief Justice, the Judicial Council, and the courts support the Governor’s budget proposal for the judiciary. The proposed 2022–23 budget provides a historic \$5.2 billion in operating and facility funds—the largest ever budget for the judicial branch of government. \$890.6 million in new funding reflects the priorities of the Chief Justice to advance equal access to justice for all Californians. We look forward to working on this landmark budget proposal with the Governor and the Legislature in the next few months as the budget becomes finalized.

PRIORITIES ADDRESSED IN THE GOVERNOR’S BUDGET PROPOSAL		
Investment in core structural funding for the judicial branch includes an unprecedented infusion of ongoing funding to increase equal access for the public and their representatives.		
Trial Court Equity Funding	\$100M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses the Judicial Council’s top budget priority by promoting fiscal equity among trial courts to better serve court users.
Consumer Price Index (CPI) Funding	\$84.2M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a 3.8 percent CPI adjustment in recognition of trial court operational cost pressures due to inflation. These funds are intended to benefit all trial courts.
New Trial Court Judgeships	\$39.9M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for 23 additional trial court judgeships to address a critical judicial shortage and essential services in communities with the greatest need.
Revenue Backfill	\$207.8M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$117.8M backfill to the Trial Court Trust Fund to mitigate the continued decline in civil fee and criminal fine and penalty revenues. \$50M to backfill civil assessment fee revenue loss due to a reduction in the civil assessment from \$300 to \$150. \$40M backfill to the State Court Facilities Trust Fund to maintain existing service levels in courthouses.
Branchwide Information Technology Modernization	\$34.7M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding to support and maintain judicial branch modernization efforts for the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, and trial courts. This investment will also support branch initiatives that promote public access to digital records and court proceedings by expanding electronic case filing, digitizing court documents, enabling online dispute resolutions, and enhancing remote proceedings.

Judicial Branch Data Governance	\$15M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding to implement a data and information framework, providing tools for court staff to increase consistency and reliability of statewide reported data. This investment will enhance the ability of all three branches of government to assess court programs and resource needs.
Remote Access to Court Proceedings	\$33.2M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding to implement and support remote access to courtroom proceedings as required by AB 716 (Chapter 526, Statutes of 2021).
Trial Court Courthouse Construction and Modifications	\$282.4M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$263M for new courthouse projects and continued funding of previously approved projects to replace deteriorating, unsafe facilities. \$19.4M for critical building repairs in trial courts.
Other Operational Costs	\$93.4M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for employee health, retirement, and salary costs (\$65.9M), recently enacted legislation (\$17.3M), Courts of Appeal Court-Appointed Counsel costs (\$8.3M), increased public access workload (\$1.1M), and rent (\$0.8M).

