



Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Courtroom closures resulted in hearing delays and increased travel – 30 to 45 miles – for litigants and local law enforcement to appear at hearings
- Enormous challenge in serving litigants timely in domestic violence, small claims, and family law matters
- 13 collaborative courts serving over thousands of litigants annually

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Fewer resources to assist self-represented litigants results in calendar backlogs and more judicial time per case in the courtroom
- Increasing delays in paperwork processing of up to 2 months in some areas

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

- Reduced staff results in fewer services and less access to justice
- Closed two remote self-help locations and mobile unit which served litigants in 12 remote areas
- Mediation services in small claims reduced by 50%

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Maintains a 16% court reporter vacancy rate
- Lack of certified and registered interpreters results in increased workload and delayed wait times for court hearings

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Maintains normal business hours, contributing to higher overtime costs to process work after hours and up to one hour wait time for service in family law and civil due to window closures
- Continued hearings due to reduced staff to complete or prepare files
- Traffic night court sessions reduced by 75% and daily traffic and small claims calendars by 25%

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Closed one criminal courtroom and one civil courtroom
- Closed a juvenile dependency department

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- Significantly reduced workforce by 166.75 positions
- Released retired annuitants and temporary employees serving as clerical support, courtroom clerks, and probate investigators
- Instituted mandatory furlough days for all employees
- 18.5% vacancy rate of positions

Impacts: Court Security Services

- Maintained existing security service levels

Fewer Judicial Officers

- Reduced commissioners by one

Annual Allocation*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 132,765,533
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 109,852,575
Percentage change	-17.3%

*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

**For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

Santa Clara Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	15
Capital construction projects	1

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	1,816,486
Judicial officers	89
Judicial officers needed	89
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	846
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	701

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	8,147
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	32,887
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	235,562
Civil filings	35,774
Family and juvenile filings	14,368

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Brian Walsh
Court Executive Officer	David H. Yamasaki