



Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Tulare

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- The Tulare Court faces as much as a 15% reduction of its current operating budget
- Tulare Court has been forced to lay off 39 court employees since 2008/09
- Public safety is compromised because law enforcement officers must now travel to the main courthouse in Visalia and wait, taking them out of their communities due to closures of two courthouses since 2008/09

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Closed courthouses require court users to travel further.
- Long lines and wait times cause loss of income by court users who must miss work to attend court

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

- Self Help attorney on staff replaced by paralegal to realize savings.
- Self Help/FLF space reduced by half to realize savings on lease.

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Four (4) full time court reporters have been terminated and three (3) full time per diem court reporters are no longer utilized.

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Ten (10) counter staff have been laid off since 2008/09 causing significantly longer lines and wait times for court users because workload has not decreased.

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Tulare Court facility was closed in August 2012 requiring the public to travel to Visalia or Porterville to access court services
- Dinuba Court is open to public only 1 day a week to pay fees only.

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- 12 mandatory furlough days for all court staff.

Impacts: Court Security Services

- No impact. County provides all court security.

Fewer Bench Officers

- One Court Commissioner was laid off in 2012 due to budget reductions.

Annual Allocation*

FY 2008-2009	
Total Allocation	\$ 24,499,936
Total Allocation excluding Security	\$ 19,508,369
FY 2012-2013	
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 22,107,492
Est. Allocation excluding Security	\$ 16,560,876
Percentage change	-9.8%
Percentage change excluding Security	-15%

*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

**For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

Tulare Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	4
Capital construction projects	1

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	451,977
Judicial officers	21
Judicial officers needed	28.4
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	255
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	211

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filing	3,946
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	11,048
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	63,452
Civil filings	9,147
Family and juvenile filings	7,089

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Lloyd L. Hicks
Court Executive Officer	LaRayne Cleek

