Judicial Council *of* California

520 Capitol Mall, Suite 600 · Sacramento, California 95814-4717
Telephone 916-323-3121 · Fax 916-323-4347

PATRICIA GUERRERO
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

MICHELLE CURRAN
Administrative Director

2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Judicial Council has adopted the following Judicial Branch legislative priorities for 2026:

1. Advocate for the following:

    a. Continued funding for the judicial branch to include stable and reliable funding for courts to address annual cost increases in baseline operations and plan for the future; and

    b. Sufficient resources to improve physical access to the courts by keeping courts open, expand access by increasing the ability of court users to conduct branch business online, increase security to safeguard personnel, the public and court systems from physical, online, and cyber threats, strengthen programs and services, and continue to implement innovations in programs and services;

2. Continue to seek funding for judgeships and judicial officers in counties with the greatest need;

3. Continue to sponsor or support legislation to improve judicial branch operational efficiencies, including cost-savings and cost-recovery measures as well as the ability to conduct proceedings, in whole or in part, using remote technology in order to expand safe and reliable access to justice;

4. Continue to promote the availability of verbatim records of court proceedings by working collaboratively to address court reporter shortages and exploring innovations in technology; and

5. Seek legislative authorization, if needed and authorized by the Judicial Council in 2025, for the disposition of unused courthouses in fair market value transactions, with the proceeds to be directed to the State Court Facilities Construction Fund or any other Judicial Council facilities fund authorized by the Legislature.