



Bench-Bar Coalition

Day in Sacramento

and the State of the Judiciary

Monday, March 23, 2026

California State Capitol, Sacramento



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

BENCH-BAR COALITION DAY IN SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE VISITS

**Monday, March 23, 2026
California State Capitol First Floor, Room 127
1315 10th Street, Sacramento 95814**

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**Bench-Bar Coalition (BBC) Day in Sacramento & State of the Judiciary Address
Monday, March 23, 2026
State Capitol, Sacramento, California**

ITINERARY

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. California State Capitol First Floor, Room 127	BBC Day in Sacramento Check In Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review Briefing: Sponsored Legislation and Judicial Council Update
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Scheduled appointments with legislators
Lunch 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	On your own
1:00 p.m.	Room 127 closes. All personal belongings will be moved by Judicial Council staff next door to Room 125 for the remainder of the afternoon.
1:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Legislative Offices 1021 O Street	Scheduled appointments with legislators.
4:00 p.m. Assembly Chambers, State Capitol	Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero delivers State of the Judiciary address to a joint convention of the Legislature. Government Affairs will staff Room 125 for the duration of the speech. Briefcases, coats, etc., may be held here.
4:45 p.m. <i>(or upon conclusion of address)</i>	All guests from the Chamber, Gallery, and overflow viewing room adjourn.
5:00 p.m.	Room 125 in the Capitol closes. Please reclaim all personal items.
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Stanley Mosk Library & Courts Building, 914 Capitol Mall	Meet and Greet with Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero and judicial branch leaders.

2/26/2026 8:32 AM

Sacramento Restaurants

February 2026

Listed below are some Sacramento restaurants within walking distance of the legislative offices.

Restaurant	Address	Phone Number	Cuisine
Brasserie DuMonde http://brasserie dumonde.com	1201 K Street #100	(916) 329-8033	French
Cafeteria 15L http://cafeteria15l.com	1116 15th Street (near L Street)	(916) 492-1960	American
Crest Café www.crestcafeonline.com	1017 K Street (Next to the Crest Theatre)	(916) 444-2722	Mediterranean
Ella Dining Room and Bar www.elladiningroomandbar.com	1131 K Street	(916) 443-3772	Californian
House Kitchen & Bar www.houseoncapitol.com	555 Capitol Mall #155	(916) 498-9924	American
Il Fornaio www.ilfornaio.com/sacramento	400 Capitol Mall	(916) 446-4100	Italian
La Bou Bakery www.labou.com	1122 11th Street	(916) 930-0171	American
Thirtyfour Mexican Cantina IG: @thirtyfourmexicancantina	1331 O Street	(916) 706-1705	Mexican
Statehouse Café & Restaurant www.statehouserestaurant.com	Basement, Capitol Building	(916) 862-3155	American
Statehouse Outpost www.statehouserestaurant.com	1021 O Street, 3rd Floor	(916) 862-3155	American



Background on the Bench-Bar Coalition

The statewide Bench-Bar Coalition (BBC) was formed in 1993 under the leadership of the California Association of Local Bars (CALB), the State Bar of California, and the Judicial Council to enhance communication and coordinate activities with the state, local, and specialty bar associations on issues of common interest to the judicial branch—particularly in the legislative arena. Securing adequate, dependable, and stable funding for the trial courts has been a primary focus for the BBC. BBC membership is open to members of the bench and bar including judges and the presidents, past-presidents, presidents-elect, executive directors, or other person(s) designated by the president, of state, local, minority, or specialty bar associations; legal services organizations; or statewide organizations dedicated to improving the justice system.

The BBC is currently cochaired by Judge Russ Roeca of the Superior Court of San Francisco and Mr. Philip Nulud, Attorney, Los Angeles. Judge Roeca represents the Northern/Central California region and Mr. Nulud represents the Southern California region. Members of the BBC's Executive Committee support the cochairs in carrying out leadership responsibilities on quarterly conference calls, meetings, working groups, and related coalition activities.

In addition to its quarterly conference calls, the Bench-Bar Coalition holds meetings in conjunction with the State Bar of California and the judicial branch. The statewide BBC also participates with a Day in Sacramento, in which groups of judges and bar leaders meet with their legislators to discuss issues of mutual interest, with emphasis on the judicial branch budget. Judicial Council members and leaders of special commissions and task forces also are invited to participate in this event, which is held annually in conjunction with the State of the Judiciary address by the Chief Justice of California.

The BBC has been successful in the development of strong working relationships and increased communication between the judiciary and members of the bar, as well as enhanced advocacy efforts with the legislative and executive branches. Subject areas of joint interest include the judicial branch budget and the need for stable, adequate funding; access to justice; court technology; new judgeships; and courthouse construction.

For more information about the BBC, please contact Cory Jasperson, the Judicial Council's liaison to the BBC to cory.jasperson@jud.ca.gov.



Judicial Council of California

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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.



California Judicial Branch Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2026–27

The Chief Justice, the Judicial Council, and the courts support the Governor’s budget proposal for fiscal year 2026–27 for the judicial branch. Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero stated at the release of the January budget:

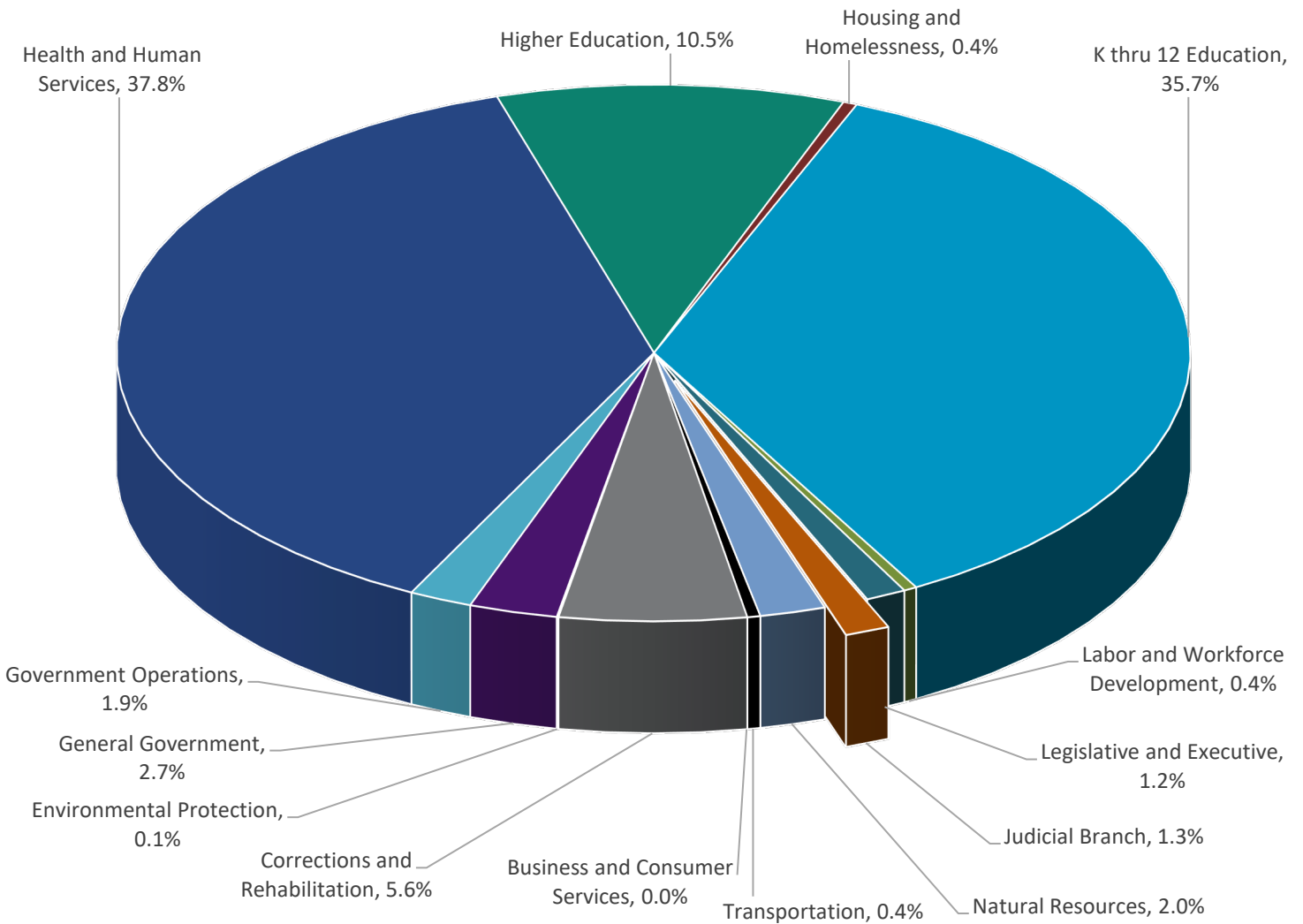
I appreciate Governor Newsom’s ongoing support of the judicial branch to ensure Californians continue to have access to critical services even during these challenging budget times. The Governor’s budget proposal includes much-needed investments to keep up with the rising costs of trial court operations, to increase funding for court-appointed appellate counsel representing indigent defendants, to reduce case backlogs and workload pressures in our appellate courts, and to advance critically needed new courthouse projects. As the budget is finalized in the coming months, we are committed to working collaboratively with the Governor’s administration and the Legislature to secure the resources necessary for the judicial branch to fulfill our mission of providing access to justice for all Californians.

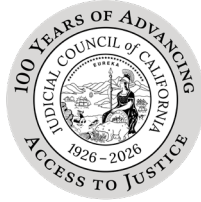
PRIORITIES ADDRESSED IN THE GOVERNOR’S BUDGET PROPOSAL		
The proposed budget continues to protect core operations for the judicial branch to ensure access to justice is maintained for all Californians.		
1. Trial court operational costs	\$70M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help the trial courts address increases in operational costs (e.g., salaries and benefits, supplies, equipment, and other services necessary for the courts to operate) and mitigate potential reductions to core programs and services.
2. Court-appointed counsel programs	\$11M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To fund a \$25 per hour rate increase for the Supreme Court (from \$155 to \$180 per hour) and Courts of Appeal (from \$140 to \$165 per hour) court-appointed counsel. This funding is intended to assist the courts in securing experienced counsel to represent appellants with capital cases and indigent defendants on appeals.
3. Courts of Appeal Workload	\$5.2M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To fund ongoing staffing to continue to address the courts’ existing workload, reduce backlogs, and prevent case delays in appellate districts.
4. Revenue backfill	\$41M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To backfill the State Court Facilities Construction Fund to maintain existing service levels.
5. Enacted legislation	\$4.3M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement Senate Bill 820 (Stats. 2025, ch. 330), which requires new incompetency to stand trial and involuntary medication order procedures for the trial courts.
6. Trial court employee costs	\$21.7M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For trial court employee health benefit and retirement costs.

California Judicial Branch Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2026–27

7. State-level judiciary employee and judicial officer costs	\$11M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reflect adjustments to retirement, salary, and benefit costs previously approved in the Budget Act of 2025–26.
8. Courthouse construction	\$414.8M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$320.3M from the Public Building Construction Fund for the design-build phase of the New San Luis Obispo Courthouse. \$58.5M General Fund for one new project in Los Angeles and continuation of the next phase of seven previously approved projects. \$36M General Fund to supplement previously approved funding to address cost increases to complete the active facility modification at the Central Justice Center in Orange County.

Judicial Branch as Percentage of State General Fund





Judicial Council of California

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MEMORANDUM

Date

January 9, 2026

Action Requested

For Your Information

To

Judicial Officers, Court Administrators, and
Employees of the Judicial Branch

Deadline

N/A

From

Michelle Curran
Administrative Director
Judicial Council

Contact

Zlatko Theodorovic, Director
Budget Services
916-263-1397
Zlatko.Theodorovic@jud.ca.gov

Subject

Fiscal Year 2026–27 Judicial Branch Budget

The Governor released his fiscal year 2026–27 State Budget proposal today. This memo provides a high-level summary of the proposed budget for the judicial branch of government.

Although the economic outlook has improved since the Budget Act of 2025 was signed back in June, California faces an estimated \$2.9 billion budget shortfall in fiscal year 2026–27 and a projected structural deficit of \$26.5 billion in fiscal year 2027–28. While General Fund revenues are projected to exceed the estimates made at the time of 2025 Budget Act, these gains are largely offset by constitutional spending requirements under Proposition 98 and Proposition 2, along with rising costs across other state programs. The budget outlook necessitates continued fiscal restraint to manage ongoing expenditures that outpace available revenues.

The Governor’s proposal provides \$5.7 billion in total operating and facility funds for the judicial branch for fiscal year 2026–27, an increase of \$400 million over the Budget Act of 2025. The funding reflects the priorities of the Chief Justice and the Judicial Council to sustain essential programs and services and lessen the impacts of the state’s multiyear budgetary challenges on the courts and the communities they serve.

The proposed budget continues to support core operations of the judicial branch by providing funding for:

- (1) Increased trial court operational costs,
- (2) Increased pay rates for Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal court-appointed counsel,
- (3) Continued support for Courts of Appeal case processing, and
- (4) Courthouse construction and other facilities costs.

The breakdown of the proposed fiscal year 2026–27 budget for all judicial branch entities is detailed in the following chart.

Proposed Judicial Branch Funding for Fiscal Year 2026–27

Judicial Branch Entity	Total Funding (\$ in millions)
Supreme Court	\$56.6
Courts of Appeal	312.1
Trial Courts	4,090.3
Judicial Council	279.8
Judicial Branch Facility Program	743.3
Habeas Corpus Resource Center	19.6
Subtotal, Operational Budget	5,501.7
Offset from Local Property Tax Revenue	-215.8
Adjusted Operational Budget	\$5,285.9
Less Nonstate Funds ¹	-195.4
Adjusted Operational Budget, State Funds	5,090.5
Court Construction Projects²	<u>374.2</u>
Total Funding³ (Sum of Adjusted Operational Budget and Court Construction Projects)	\$5,660.1
Some totals will not be exact because of rounding. ¹ Includes federal funds and reimbursements. ² Includes additional funding for current projects. ³ Includes General Fund; special, bond, federal, and nongovernmental cost funds; and reimbursements.	

Funding for Court Operations

Trial Court Operations: \$70 million ongoing General Fund to help the trial courts address increases in operational costs (e.g.: salaries and benefits, supplies, equipment, and other services necessary for the courts to operate) and mitigate potential reductions to core program and services.

Court-Appointed Counsel Program: \$11 million ongoing General Fund for a \$25 per hour rate increase for Supreme Court (from \$155 to \$180 per hour) and Courts of Appeal (from \$140 to \$165 per hour) court-appointed counsel. This funding is intended to assist the courts in securing experienced counsel to represent appellants with death judgments and indigent defendants on appeals.

Courts of Appeal Workload: \$5.2 million Appellate Court Trust Fund and 18 positions in fiscal year 2026–27 and \$4.9 million ongoing General Fund beginning in fiscal year 2027–28 to continue to address the courts' existing workload, reduce backlogs, and prevent case delays in appellate districts.

Incompetent to Stand Trial Procedures (SB 820): \$4.3 million General Fund annually for four years, fiscal year 2026–27 through fiscal year 2029–30, to implement SB 820 (Stats. 2025, ch. 330), which requires new incompetency to stand trial and involuntary medication order procedures for the trial courts.

Funding for Trial Courts and State-Level Judicial Entities

Trial Court Trust Fund Revenue Backfill: Civil fee and criminal fine and penalty revenues are sufficient to address current funding needs, therefore, there is no projected need for a revenue backfill at this time. Budget bill language provides authority to request additional resources as needed.

Trial Court Employee Costs: \$21.7 million ongoing General Fund for increased trial court employee health benefits and retirement costs.

Trial Court Judicial Officer Costs: \$2.1 million for compensation of superior court judges.

State-Level Judiciary Judicial Officer and Employee Costs: \$8.9 million adjustment for updated retirement, salary, and benefit costs for judicial officers and employees of the Supreme Court (\$773,000), Courts of Appeal (\$3.8 million), Judicial Council (\$4.0 million), and Habeas Corpus Resource Center (\$342,000).

Rent Costs: \$2.2 million to various branch funds for increased rent costs in facilities occupied by the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, Judicial Council, and Habeas Corpus Resource Center.

Judicial Branch Facilities

State Court Facilities Construction Fund Backfill: \$41 million General Fund backfill to address the structural deficit in the State Court Facilities Construction Fund, maintain existing service levels for trial court facilities projects, and ensure an adequate fund balance.

Orange Central Justice Center—Facility Modification: \$36 million one-time General Fund and \$3.6 million one-time State Court Facilities Construction Fund reimbursement authority in fiscal year 2026–27 and \$35 million one-time General Fund in fiscal year 2027–28 and \$3.5 million one-time State Court Facilities Construction Fund reimbursement authority in fiscal year 2027–28. This augmentation supplements previously approved funding to address cost increases to complete the active facility modification at the Central Justice Center in Orange County.

Los Angeles Spring Street and Chatsworth Courthouses—Courtroom Relocation and Construction: \$10.9 million General Fund in fiscal year 2026–27 for the Spring Street courthouse relocation. This includes \$4.6 million to relocate 23 courtrooms and operations to other courthouses throughout the county and \$6.3 million for a new capital outlay project for the preliminary plans and working drawings to build out six courtrooms, support space, and upgraded holding facilities at the Chatsworth Courthouse. This funding is necessary due to the federal government’s planned sale of the building currently leased by the Superior Court of Los Angeles County in the Civic Center area of downtown Los Angeles.

Other Court Construction: \$47.6 million General Fund and \$320.3 million in Public Buildings Construction Fund in fiscal year 2026–27 for the continuation of the next phase for eight previously approved projects:

- San Luis Obispo County: \$320.3 million for the New San Luis Obispo Courthouse—Design-build
- Nevada County: \$1.5 million for the New Nevada Courthouse—Performance Criteria
- Plumas County: \$2.3 million for the New Quincy Courthouse—Performance Criteria
- Kings County: \$7.6 million for the New Judgeship Courtroom—Construction
- Sutter County: \$6.5 million for the New Judgeship Courtroom—Construction
- San Joaquin County: \$6.4 million for the New Judgeship Courtroom—Working Drawings and Construction
- Solano County: \$5.2 million for the Solano Hall of Justice—reappropriation for Performance Criteria
- Fresno County: \$18.1 million for the New Fresno Courthouse—reappropriation for Performance Criteria

Reappropriation of Existing Funding

Deferred Maintenance: Reappropriation of \$6.7 million to extend the liquidation period to address projects that represent critical infrastructure deficiencies, including the deterioration of elevators and heating, air, and ventilation systems.

New Judgeship Facility Modification: Reappropriation of \$6.5 million to extend the liquidation period to support facility modification projects necessary to accommodate new superior court judgeships in four courts – the Superior Courts of Stanislaus, San Bernardino, Kern, and Riverside Counties.

Next Steps on Judicial Branch Budget

This proposed budget sets the stage for the next phase of the state’s budget development process for the new fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2026. For the judicial branch, this will include ongoing discussions with the administration on branch needs and priorities, related legislative advocacy and hearings with testimony by Judicial Council and court leaders, the May Revision to the Governor’s Budget, and a further intensive period of legislative activity to pass a balanced budget by the June 15 constitutional deadline.

The proposed fiscal year 2026–27 Governor’s Budget may be reviewed in its entirety at ebudget.ca.gov.

MC/ZT/AC



Judicial Council of California

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M E M O R A N D U M

Date

October 11, 2024

Action Requested

Please Review

To

Mr. Cory Jaspersen, Director
Governmental Affairs

Deadline

N/A

From

Deborah C. Brown, Chief Counsel
Charles E. Perkins, Supervising Attorney
Dawn Payne, Attorney
Legal Services

Subject

Ethical Principles Applicable to Judicial
Officers Engaged in Legislative Activities

You asked Legal Services to provide an information sheet addressing the ethical principles that pertain to judicial officers who participate in legislative activities that can be distributed to judicial officers who engage in Bench-Bar Coalition legislative outreach activities. To assist judicial officers, this memorandum provides the following information: (1) the applicable canons from the California Code of Judicial Ethics; (2) an analysis of the Supreme Court's Committee on Judicial Ethics Opinions' (CJEO's) formal opinion addressing this issue; (3) relevant excerpts from the *California Judicial Conduct Handbook*; and (4) a brief discussion of potential disqualification and disclosure implications. It replaces the prior memorandum on this subject dated October 24, 2014, and it is not intended to be legal advice.

Relevant Canons¹

Governmental activities

Canon 4C(1) is the canon most directly on point for judges who wish to participate in legislative activity.² It prohibits a judge from appearing at a public hearing or consulting with an executive or legislative body or a public official except on matters concerning the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice. In deciding whether to engage in such activities, a judge must also consider whether that conduct would violate any other provision of the Code of Judicial Ethics. For example, the activity must uphold the integrity, impartiality, and independence of the judiciary (canons 1 and 2A), and it must not cause the judge to be frequently disqualified (canon 4A(4)).

Political activity

Canon 5 provides that judges may not be involved in political activity that is inconsistent with the independence, integrity, or impartiality of the judiciary, or that creates the appearance of political bias or impropriety. Canon 5D states that a judge is not permitted to engage in political activity unless it is related to the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice and consistent with the Code of Judicial Ethics.

Extrajudicial activities, appearance of impropriety, lending the prestige of office

There are several other canons that judges must consider when engaged in legislative activity. Canon 4A requires judges to conduct any extrajudicial activity so that such activity does not (1) reasonably cast doubt on a judge's impartiality, (2) demean the judicial office, (3) interfere with judicial duties, or (4) lead to frequent disqualification. Canon 2 provides that a judge must not engage in conduct that creates the appearance of impropriety. Canon 2A prohibits a judge from making any statement that commits the judge with respect to cases, controversies, or issues that are likely to come before the court. Finally, canon 2B(2) states that a judge must not lend the prestige of judicial office to advance the pecuniary or personal interests of the judge or others.

CJEO Formal Opinion No. 2014-006

In 2014, the Supreme Court's Committee on Judicial Ethics Opinions issued a formal opinion entitled "Judicial Comment at Public Hearings and Consultation with Public Officials and Other

¹ The text of the canons discussed in this section is provided in the attachment at the end of this memorandum.

² Canon 6A explains that the term "judge" applies to "[a]nyone who is an officer of the state judicial system and who performs judicial functions" and thus encompasses subordinate judicial officers. All the canons cited in this memorandum apply to judges and subordinate judicial officers, and we use the term "judge" to refer to justices, judges, and subordinate judicial officers.

Branches of Government.”³ The opinion addressed the circumstances under which a judge may appear at a public hearing or officially consult with executive or legislative bodies on “matters concerning the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice.” (See canon 4C(1).) The committee concluded that canon 4C(1) allows comment and consultation concerning the court system or matters of judicial administration. The canon permits a judge to appear before or consult with representatives of the other two branches of government “when the subject of the appearance or consultation is one with respect to which the judge’s experience and perspective *as a judge* gives him or her unique qualifications to assist the other branches of the government in fulfilling their responsibilities to the public.” (CJEO Formal Opn. 2014-006 (2014), *Judicial Comment at Public Hearings and Consultation with Public Officials and Other Branches of Government*, California Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics Opinions, p. 2, emphasis in original.)

The committee stated judges may testify or advocate at public hearings “only on behalf of the legal system—focusing on court users, the courts, or the administration of justice.” (CJEO Formal Opn. 2014-006, *supra*, at p. 7.) A judge may comment about substantive legal issues where the purpose is to benefit the law and legal system itself rather than any particular cause or group and when the comment or consultation is made from a judicial perspective. (*Ibid.*) Thus, any comments from a *legal* knowledge/experience perspective should be provided by attorneys, not judges. (*Ibid.*) Where a judge has both judicial and attorney experience in a particular area of law, the judge’s comments or consultation should be presented “from a purely judicial perspective.” (*Ibid.*)

The committee noted that, even if the exception in canon 4C(1) applies, the judge must ensure that the appearance or consultation does not violate any other canons, such as those listed in the attachment to this memorandum.

The opinion provides the following examples:

- A judge may comment or consult about “the judicial branch’s budget, or a bond measure for court construction, or a bill proposing to replace court reporters with electronic recording, as these matters clearly relate to the administration of justice.”
- Regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to replace the death penalty with life without parole, “a judge may comment on the dysfunction of the present system from a judicial perspective,” but advocacy for or against the death penalty as a policy matter would violate canon 4C(1).

³ The full opinion can be found on the CJEO website at www.judicialethicsopinions.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/cjeo_formal_opinion_2014-006.pdf.

- A judge who was an environmental attorney may express their views in support of a new California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) settlement process, but only from the viewpoint of a judge who is, for example, “seeking to unburden the court’s docket by resolving CEQA cases earlier in the judicial process.”
- A judge who was a prosecutor but has no criminal judicial experience may express support for proposed legislation to reduce the number of peremptory challenges in misdemeanor cases, but those views “should be expressed in terms of how the law would affect the legal system or the administration of justice (for example) by improving juror satisfaction, enhancing jury diversity, and saving court costs, while still providing the full panoply of due process.”
- A judge may not appear at a public hearing of a legislative committee to advocate for longer sentences for certain drug offenders because, even though such comments are about a matter “concerning the law,” advocacy for longer sentences for only a particular type of offender could undermine public confidence in the impartiality of the judiciary, thus violating canons 1 (upholding the integrity and independence of the judiciary), 2A (promoting public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary), 3B(9) (commenting publicly on pending cases), and 4A(1) (casting doubt on the judge’s capacity to act impartially). The judge could, however, discuss the impact of such sentences on the courts or the adjudicatory process.
- A judge may advocate for improvements in the administration of justice that would seek to reduce recidivism by providing information about collaborative court programs the judge had presided over or administered that employ alternative sentencing or probation periods for drug offenders.
- A judge may advocate for statewide use of alternative programs based on the judge’s experience but must not comment on the outcome of cases involving particular offenders and must not imply that the judge will be ruling a particular way in a class of cases.
- Judicial advocacy for specific legislation on proposed death penalty or collective bargaining measures could violate the prohibition in canon 2A against making statements that commit a judge with respect to cases, controversies, or issues that are likely to come before the court or that are inconsistent with the impartial performance of duties. But a judge may appear before a public body to explain, from a judicial perspective, the effects of proposed laws on the judicial process or judicial administration.

California Judicial Conduct Handbook

The *California Judicial Conduct Handbook*, also known as the Rothman treatise, addresses judicial involvement in executive and legislative matters:

§ 11.3 Appearances at public hearings and participation in executive or legislative matters

Ethics rules on the subject. A judge . . . must . . . draw the distinction between inappropriate involvement with the legislative and executive branch in what could be called “political” matters as opposed to appropriate involvement in matters that concern the law, legal system, and administration of justice. Thus, for example, a judge may endorse legislation that would provide the court with facilities and services, because such matters deal with the administration of justice.

* * *

Recognition of the separation of powers—urging moderation in advocacy by judges. Judges are frequently active in advocating positions before the legislative and executive branches on a variety of subjects. The Code of Judicial Ethics does not prohibit this activity so long as the activity is limited to issues related to the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice and the activity complies with other canons. The boundary of this limitation should not be stretched.

Judges should consider limiting advocacy of issues before the legislative and executive branches to only the clearest and most urgent of circumstances. When judges frequently engage in such advocacy, they may be perceived as encroaching on legislative and executive prerogatives. Separation of powers and preservation of the independence of the judiciary require judges to ration their advocacy.

Special position of juvenile and family court judges. The special demands of juvenile and family court assignments frequently involve judges in proactive efforts to improve the law. These judges are expected to regularly make recommendations concerning civil procedure and the development of programs to help children. For example, the presiding judge of a juvenile court, when asked by a local service-provider agency, may cosign a letter to the local Board of Supervisors requesting that it impose a moratorium on collection of, and subsequently eliminate, fines and fees levied against children and families appearing in juvenile court.

Examples of appropriate advocacy. Is it proper for a judge to be involved in writing a statute that increases or reduces child support, or deals with the length of sentences in juvenile or criminal cases? Judges regularly advocate for additional judicial officers, but would it be improper for them to advocate for additional police officers?

Judges do not agree on the answers to these questions. Some believe that such activity is part of the judicial function and is permissible. Others, however, believe that the test is whether such advocacy could “cast reasonable doubt on the judge’s capacity to act impartially.”

It would be proper for a judge to endorse a bond measure that increases county revenues, which would increase funding for judicial-related activities as well as increasing revenues for non-legal system county projects, provided the endorsement was carefully phrased to focus on judicial needs, while avoiding endorsement of nonjudicial issues. Because of the Trial Court Funding Act, local judicial-related funding advocacy would be very limited, if any, at the local level.

A judge may write a letter to the Legislature regarding a bill proposing to replace court reporters with electronic recording as this plainly concerns the administration of justice. Although the Trial Court Funding Act centralized funding of courts, local courts and judges throughout the state have an important role in advocating for adequate funding to assure access to justice. Absent adequate funding, fairness, justice and the rule of law will decline. The conduct of judges meeting with lawyers who practice before the courts in order to seek their assistance in securing public and legislative support for adequate funding for the courts was found to be ethical conduct under canon 5D in Formal Opinion No. 2013-2001 of the California Supreme Court CJEO. Although the opinion determined that such activity was proper, it discussed in detail the ethical issues judges must keep in mind in such meetings and advocacy.

A judge may write a letter to the Legislature regarding a bill proposing to replace court reporters with electronic recording as this plainly concerns the administration of justice. A judge, acting in a private capacity, may write a letter on private stationery to elected officials to express concern about the increase in the number of mentally ill people coming onto the grounds of the judge’s church and the need for more mental health services.

A judge, who was formerly a member of the Legislature, should not be further involved in legislation or consult with legislators or others except on legislation

and other matters concerning the law, the legal system or the administration of justice.

(David M. Rothman et al., *California Judicial Conduct Handbook*, 4th ed. (Thomson Reuters, 2017), pp. 736–739.)

The *California Judicial Conduct Handbook* also discusses judicial support of or opposition to ballot measures:

§ 11.24 Supporting or opposing ballot measures

* * *

“A judge or candidate for office may engage in activity in relation to measures concerning improvement of the law, the legal system or the administration of justice, only if the conduct is consistent with [the] code.” The Terminology section of the California Code of Judicial Ethics explains the phrase “[l]aw, the legal system, or the administration of justice.”

Measures not related to improvement of the law, legal system or administration of justice. Although one might argue that anything on the ballot relates to the improvement of the law, such is not the case. For example, it would be improper for a judge to draft, promote, or be listed publicly as supporting a school bond ballot proposal as such a proposal is not related to improvement of the law, the legal system or the administration of justice. A commissioner may not publicly take a position on a ballot proposal regarding public funding of a sports stadium.

Proper and improper comment by judges on ballot measures. Appropriate judicial activity related to ballot measures includes public support of a tax measure or other ballot proposition that would provide revenue for court operations or jail construction because the objects of the funding pertain to the administration of justice. A court and its judges may also take a public position on a ballot proposition that affects judicial funding and the administration of justice.

A judge may:

- speak and take a public stance against a ballot measure that would take away the power to appoint and retain the chief probation officer from the courts and place it in the hands of the board of supervisors;

- act in support of political goals that directly relate to improvement of the judicial system such as jail construction or renovation of a juvenile detention facility;
- use his or her name in a newspaper advertisement concerning a ballot measure that concerns the improvement of the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice.

A judge may not:

- sign a ballot statement, essentially a public endorsement, for an ordinance advocating criminal penalties for violation of a law/ordinance;
- make public comments with regard to an initiative where the judge's comments appeared to be indulgent of a certain kind of criminal activity.

This conduct implicates canons 1 and 2A because it affects the integrity, impartiality and independence of the judiciary.

(Rothman et al., *supra*, at pp. 748–749, citations omitted.)

Disqualification and Disclosure

Judges who are involved in legislative activity must be aware of the disqualification and disclosure implications if it appears that the judge cannot be impartial in ruling on a matter concerning the issue with which the judge was involved. Code of Civil Procedure section 170.1(a)(6)(A)(iii) provides that a judge is disqualified if “[a] person aware of the facts might reasonably entertain a doubt that the judge would be able to be impartial.” A judge is *not* disqualified, however, if the judge “[h]as as a lawyer or public official participated in the drafting of laws or in the effort to pass or defeat laws, the meaning, effect or application of which is in issue in the proceeding unless the judge believes that his or her prior involvement was so well known as to raise a reasonable doubt in the public mind as to his or her capacity to be impartial.” (Code Civ. Proc., § 170.2(c).)

The *California Judicial Conduct Handbook* addresses this issue:

A judge's expression of opinions outside of the context of judicial decision may raise disqualification and disclosure issues.

* * *

Drafting or advocating concerning laws. Code of Civil Procedure section 170.2, subdivision (c), provides that a judge is not disqualified if he or she, “[h]as as a lawyer or public official participated in the drafting of laws or in the effort to pass or defeat laws, the meaning, effect or application of which is in issue in the proceeding unless the judge believes that his or her prior involvement was so well known as to raise a reasonable doubt in the public mind as to his or her capacity to be impartial.” Code of Judicial Ethics, canon 3E(6), applies this rule to appellate justices.

Although there can be an argument that the use of the term “public official” is not intended to encompass a judge, subdivision (c) of Code of Civil Procedure section 170.2 appears to allow a judge to preside over a case in which he or she may be required to apply or interpret a law that the judge participated in drafting or in advocating for its passage or defeat. Judges have been involved on many occasions in such activities although, as noted in the concluding language of subdivision (c), such involvement has the potential of requiring disqualification.

(Rothman et al., *supra*, at pp. 479–480.)

Judges must also keep in mind canon 4A(4), which states that a judge must conduct all of the judge’s extrajudicial activities so that they do not lead to frequent disqualification of the judge.

Contact Information for Questions

If judicial officers have questions about whether their own conduct would violate any provision of the Code of Judicial Ethics, they may contact the Supreme Court’s Committee on Judicial Ethics Opinions at judicial.ethics@jud.ca.gov or 855-854-5366, or the California Judges Association’s Ethics Hotline at 866-432-1252.

DCB/CEP/DP/zb

Attachment

cc: Michelle Curran, Administrative Director
Robert Oyung, Chief Deputy Director

Relevant Canons and Commentary

Canon 1

A judge shall uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary.

Canon 2

A judge shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all of the judge's activities.

Canon 2A

A judge shall respect and comply with the law and shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary. A judge shall not make statements, whether public or nonpublic, that commit the judge with respect to cases, controversies, or issues that are likely to come before the courts or that are inconsistent with the impartial performance of the adjudicative duties of judicial office.

Canon 2B(2)

A judge shall not lend the prestige of judicial office or use the judicial title in any manner, including any oral or written communication, to advance the pecuniary or personal interests of the judge or others.

Canon 4A

A judge shall conduct all of the judge's extrajudicial activities so that they do not

- (1) cast reasonable doubt on the judge's capacity to act impartially,
- (2) demean the judicial office,
- (3) interfere with the proper performance of judicial duties, or
- (4) lead to frequent disqualification of the judge.

Canon 4C(1)

A judge shall not appear at a public hearing or officially consult with an executive or legislative body or public official except on matters concerning the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice, or in matters involving the judge's private economic or personal interests.

Advisory Committee Commentary: Canon 4C(1)

When deciding whether to appear at a public hearing or whether to consult with an executive or legislative body or public official on matters concerning the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice, a judge should consider whether that conduct would violate any other provisions of this code. For a list of factors to consider, see the explanation of “law, the legal system, or the administration of justice” in the Terminology section. See also Canon 2B regarding the obligation to avoid improper influence.

Canon 5

A judge or candidate for judicial office shall not engage in political or campaign activity that is inconsistent with the independence, integrity, or impartiality of the judiciary.

Judges and candidates for judicial office are entitled to entertain their personal views on political questions. They are not required to surrender their rights or opinions as citizens. They shall, however, not engage in political activity that may create the appearance of political bias or impropriety. Judicial independence, impartiality, and integrity shall dictate the conduct of judges and candidates for judicial office.

Canon 5D

A judge or candidate for judicial office may engage in activity in relation to measures concerning the improvement of the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice, only if the conduct is consistent with this code.

Advisory Committee Commentary: Canon 5D

When deciding whether to engage in activity relating to measures concerning the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice, such as commenting publicly on ballot measures, a judge must consider whether the conduct would violate any other provisions of this code. See the explanation of “law, the legal system, or the administration of justice” in the Terminology section.

Explanation of “law, the legal system, or the administration of justice” from the Terminology section

When a judge engages in an activity that relates to the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice, the judge should also consider factors such as whether the activity upholds the integrity, impartiality, and independence of the judiciary (Canons 1 and 2A), whether the activity impairs public confidence in the judiciary (Canon 2), whether the judge is allowing the activity to take precedence over judicial duties (Canon 3A), and whether engaging in the activity would cause the judge to be disqualified (Canon 4A(4)). See Canons 4B (Commentary), 4C(1), 4C(1) (Commentary), 4C(2), 4C(2) (Commentary), 4C(3)(a), 4C(3)(b)

(Commentary), 4C(3)(d)(ii), 4C(3)(d) (Commentary), 4D(6)(d), 4D(6)(e), 5A (Commentary), 5D, and 5D (Commentary).

**ASSEMBLY MEMBERS
2025 - 2026
Legislative Session**

Last Name	First Name	House	Suite	Phone	District	Counties Represented	Party
Addis	Dawn	A	4120	916 319 2030	30	Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz	D
Aguiar-Curry	Cecilia	A	8210	916 319 2004	4	Colusa, Lake, Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Yolo	D
Ahrens	Patrick	A	6110	916 319 2026	26	Santa Clara	D
Alanis	Juan	A	4640	916 319 2022	22	Merced, Stanislaus	D
Alvarez	David	A	5320	916 319 2080	80	San Diego	D
Arambula	Joaquin	A	6130	916 319 2031	31	Fresno	D
Avila Farias	Anamarie	A	6140	916 319 2015	15	Contra Costa	D
Bains	Jasmeet Kaur	A	5730	916 319 2035	35	Kern	D
Bauer-Kahan	Rebecca	A	5210	916 319 2016	16	Alameda, Contra Costa	D
Bennett	Steven	A	4710	916 319 2038	38	Ventura	D
Berman	Marc	A	8130	916 319 2023	23	San Mateo, Santa Clara	D
Boerner	Tasha	A	4150	916 319 2076	77	San Diego	D
Bonta	Mia	A	390 LOB	916 319 2018	18	Alameda	D
Bryan	Isaac	A	5630	916 319 2055	55	Los Angeles	D
Calderon	Lisa	A	4650	916 319 2056	56	Los Angeles	D
Caloza	Jessica	A	5620	916 319 2052	52	Los Angeles	D
Carrillo	Juan	A	5610	916 319 2039	39	Los Angeles, San Bernardino	D
Castillo	Leticia	A	4240	916 319 2058	58	Riverside, San Bernardino	R

**ASSEMBLY MEMBERS
2025 - 2026
Legislative Session**

Last Name	First Name	House	Suite	Phone	District	Counties Represented	Party
Chen	Phillip	A	4620	916 319 2059	59	Orange, San Bernardino	R
Connolly	Damon	A	5240	916 319 2012	12	Marin, Sonoma	D
Davies	Laurie	A	4720	916 319 2074	74	Orange, San Diego	R
DeMaio	Carl	A	4630	916 319 2075	75	San Diego	R
Dixon	Diane	A	5330	916 319 2072	72	Orange	R
Elhawary	Sade	A	6320	916 319 2057	57	Los Angeles	D
Ellis	Stan	A	5350	916 319 2032	32	Fresno, Kern, Tulare	R
Flora	Heath	A	4740	916 319 2009	9	Amador, Calaveras, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus	R
Fong	Mike	A	5650	916 319 2049	49	Los Angeles	D
Gabriel	Jesse	A	8230	916 319 2046	46	Los Angeles, Ventura	D
Gallagher	James	A	4730	916 319 2003	3	Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter, Tehama, Yuba	R
Garcia	Robert	A	6240	916 319 2050	50	San Bernardino	D
Gipson	Mike	A	6210	916 319 2065	65	Los Angeles	D
Gonzalez	Jeff	A	4230	916 319 2036	36	Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino	R
Gonzalez	Mark	A	6150	916 319 2054	54	Los Angeles	D
Hadwick	Heather	A	5710	916 319 2001	1	Alpine, Amador, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou	R
Haney	Matt	A	5740	916 319 2017	17	San Francisco	D

**ASSEMBLY MEMBERS
2025 - 2026
Legislative Session**

Last Name	First Name	House	Suite	Phone	District	Counties Represented	Party
Harabedian	John	A	4350	916 319 2041	41	Los Angeles, San Bernardino	D
Hart	Gregg	A	6230	916 319 2037	37	Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo	D
Hoover	Josh	A	4540	916 319 2007	7	Sacramento	R
Irwin	Jacqui	A	6220	916 319 2042	42	Los Angeles, Ventura	D
Jackson	Cory	A	6120	916 319 2060	60	Riverside	D
Johnson	Natasha	A	4520	916 319 2063	63	Riverside	R
Kalra	Ash	A	4610	916 319 2025	25	Santa Clara	D
Krell	Maggy	A	5230	916 319 2006	6	Sacramento	D
Lackey	Tom	A	5340	916 319 2034	34	Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino	R
Lee	Alex	A	6330	916 319 2024	24	Alameda, Santa Clara	D
Lowenthal	Josh	A	8320	916 319 2069	69	Los Angeles	D
Macedo	Alexandra	A	5530	916 319 2033	33	Fresno, Kings, Tulare	R
McKinnor	Tina	A	5520	916 319 2061	61	Los Angeles	D
Muratsuchi	Al	A	5310	916 319 2066	66	Los Angeles	D
Nguyen	Stephanie	A	5720	916 319 2010	10	Sacramento	D
Ortega	Liz	A	5120	916 319 2020	20	Alameda	D
Pacheco	Blanca	A	4510	916 319 2064	64	Los Angeles	D
Papan	Diane	A	4220	916 319 2021	21	San Mateo	D

**ASSEMBLY MEMBERS
2025 - 2026
Legislative Session**

Last Name	First Name	House	Suite	Phone	District	Counties Represented	Party
Patel	Darshana	A	5140	916 319 2076	76	San Diego	D
Patterson	Joe	A	4530	916 319 2005	5	El Dorado, Placer	R
Pellerin	Gail	A	6310	916 319 2028	28	Santa Clara, Santa Cruz	D
Petrie-Norris	Cottie	A	8120	916 319 2073	73	Orange	D
Quirk-Silva	Sharon	A	4210	916 319 2067	67	Orange	D
Ramos	James	A	8310	916 319 2045	45	San Bernardino	D
Ransom	Rhodesia	A	6340	916 319 2013	13	San Joaquin	D
Rivas	Robert	A	8330	916 319 2029	29	Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz	D
Rodriguez	Celeste	A	4320	916 319 2043	43	Los Angeles	D
Rodriguez	Michelle	A	5640	916 319 2053	53	Los Angeles, San Bernardino	D
Rogers	Chris	A	5130	916 319 2002	2	Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, Trinity	D
Rubio	Blanca	A	5250	916 319 2048	48	Los Angeles	D
Sanchez	Kate	A	4340	916 319 2071	71	Orange, Riverside	R
Schiavo	Pilar	A	4140	916 319 2040	40	Los Angeles	D
Schultz	Nick	A	5150	916 319 2044	44	Los Angeles	D
Sharp-Collins	LaShae	A	4130	916 319 2079	79	San Diego	D
Solache, Jr.	Jose Luis	A	5110	916 319 2062	62	Los Angeles	D
Soria	Esmeralda	A	4110	916 319 2027	27	Fresno, Madera, Merced	D

**ASSEMBLY MEMBERS
2025 - 2026
Legislative Session**

Last Name	First Name	House	Suite	Phone	District	Counties Represented	Party
Stefani	Catherine	A	5220	916 319 2019	19	San Francisco, San Mateo	D
Ta	Tri	A	5540	916 319 2070	70	Orange	R
Tangipa	David	A	4310	916 319 2008	8	Calaveras, Fresno, Inyo, Madera, Mariposa, Mono, Tuolumne	R
Valencia	Avelino	A	5510	916 319 2068	68	Orange	D
Wallis	Greg	A	4330	916 319 2047	47	Riverside, San Bernardino	R
Ward	Christopher	A	6350	916 319 2078	78	San Diego	D
Wicks	Buffy	A	8140	916 319 2014	14	Alameda, Contra Costa	D
Wilson	Lori	A	8110	916-319-2111	11	Contra Costa, Sacramento, Solano	D
Zbur	Rick Chavez	A	4250	916 319 2051	51	Los Angeles	D

**SENATORS
2025 - 2026
Legislative Session**

Last Name	First Name	House	Room	Phone	District	Counties Represented	Party
Allen	Ben	S	7610	916 651 4024	24	Los Angeles	D
Alvarado-Gil	Marie	S	7240	916 651 4004	4	Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Inyo, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Stanislaus, Tuolumne	D
Archuleta	Bob	S	6620	916 651 4030	30	Los Angeles, Orange	D
Arreguin	Jesse	S	6710	916 651 4007	7	Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco	D
Ashby	Angelique	S	8630	916 651 4008	8	Sacramento	D
Becker	Josh	S	6520	916 651 4013	13	San Mateo, Santa Clara	D
Blakespear	Catherine	S	7720	916 651 4038	38	Orange, San Diego	D
Cabaldon	Christopher	S	7320	916 651 4003	3	Contra Costa, Napa, Sacramento, Solano, Sonoma, Yolo	D
Caballero	Anna	S	7620	916 651 4014	14	Fresno, Madera, Monterey, San Benito, Stanislaus	D
Cervantes	Sabrina	S	7330	916 651 4031	31	Riverside, San Bernardino	D
Choi	Steven	S	7130	916 651 4037	37	Orange	R
Cortese	Dave	S	7520	916 651 4015	15	Santa Clara	D
Dahle	Megan	S	7230	916 651 4001	1	Alpine, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou	R
Durazo	Maria Elena	S	7530	916 651 4026	26	Los Angeles	D

**SENATORS
2025 - 2026
Legislative Session**

Last Name	First Name	House	Room	Phone	District	Counties Represented	Party
Gonzalez	Lena	S	7510	916 651 4033	33	Los Angeles	D
Grayson	Tim	S	7250	916 651 4009	9	Alameda, Contra Costa	D
Grove	Shannon	S	7150	916 651 4012	12	Kern, San Bernardino, Tulare	R
Hurtado	Melissa	S	6510	916 651 4016	16	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Tulare	D
Jones	Brian	S	7640	916 651 4040	40	San Diego	R
Laird	John	S	8720	916 651 4017	17	Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz	D
Limon	Monique	S	8518	916 651 4019	19	Santa Barbara, Ventura	D
McGuire	Mike	S	8610	916 651 4002	2	Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Sonoma, Trinity	D
McNerney	Jerry	S	6640	916 651 4005	5	Alameda, San Joaquin	D
Menjivar	Caroline	S	6630	916 651 4020	20	Los Angeles	D
Niello	Roger	S	7110	916 651 4006	6	Placer, Sacramento	R
Ochoa Bogh	Rosilicie	S	7220	916 651 4023	23	Riverside, San Bernardino	R
Padilla	Stephen	S	7630	916 651 4018	18	Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	D
Perez	Sasha	S	6720	916 651 4025	25	Los Angeles, San Bernardino	D

**SENATORS
2025 - 2026
Legislative Session**

Last Name	First Name	House	Room	Phone	District	Counties Represented	Party
Reyes	Eloise	S	7210	916 651 4029	29	San Bernadino	D
Richardson	Laura	S	7340	916 651 4035	35	Los Angeles	D
Rubio	Susan	S	8710	916 651 4022	22	Los Angeles	D
Seyarto	Kelly	S	7120	916 651 4032	32	Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	R
Smallwood-Cuevas	Lola	S	6530	916 651 4028	28	Los Angeles	D
Stern	Henry	S	7710	916 651 4027	27	Los Angeles, Ventura	D
Umberg	Thomas	S	6610	916 651 4034	34	Los Angeles, Orange	D
Valladares	Suzette	S	7140	916 651 4023	23	Los Angeles, San Bernardino	R
Wahab	Aisha	S	8530	916 651 4010	10	Alamenda, Santa Clara	D
Weber Pierson	Akilah	S	7310	916 651 4039	39	San Diego	D
Wiener	Scott	S	8620	916 651 4011	11	San Francisco, San Mateo	D

2026 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK
Revised September 29, 2025

DEADLINES

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- Jan. 1** Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Jan. 5** Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
- Jan. 10** Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12 (a)).
- Jan. 16** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(1)).
- Jan. 19** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Jan. 23** Last day for any committee to hear and report to the **Floor** bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(2)). Last day to **submit bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- Jan. 31** Last day for each house to **pass bills introduced** in that house in the odd-numbered year (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c)), (J.R. 61(b)(3)).

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

- Feb. 16** Presidents' Day.
- Feb. 20** Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(b)(4)), (J.R. 54(a)).

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- Mar. 26** **Spring Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Mar. 30** Cesar Chavez Day observed.

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- Apr. 6** Legislature reconvenes from **Spring Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Apr. 24** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(5)).

MAY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- May 1** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the Floor **non-fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(6)).
- May 8** Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to June 1 (J.R. 61(b)(7)).
- May 15** Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report to the Floor bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61 (b)(8)). Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to June 1 (J.R. 61 (b)(9)).
- May 25** Memorial Day.
- May 26 – 29 Floor Session only.** No committees, other than conference or Rules committees, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(b)(10)).
- May 29** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house (J.R. 61(b)(11)).

*Holiday schedule subject to Senate Rules committee approval.

2026 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK
Revised September 29, 2025

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

- June 1** Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(b)(12)).
- June 15** Budget Bill must be passed by **midnight** (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)(3)).
- June 25** Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the Nov. 3 General Election ballot (Elections Code Sec. 9040).

JULY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- July 2** Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(13)). **Summer Recess** begins upon adjournment of session, provided Budget Bill has passed (J.R. 51(b)(2)).
- July 3** Independence Day observed.

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- Aug. 3** Legislature reconvenes from **Summer Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(2)).
- Aug. 14** Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills to the Floor (J.R. 61(b)(14)).
- Aug. 17 – 31 Floor Session only.** No committee, other than conference and Rules committees, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(b)(15)).
- Aug. 21** Last day to **amend** on the Floor (J.R. 61(b)(16)).
- Aug. 31** Last day for **each house to pass bills** (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c)), (J.R. 61(b)(17)). **Final recess** begins upon adjournment. (J.R. 51(b)(3)).

*Holiday schedule subject to Senate Rules committee approval.

IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING FINAL RECESS

2026

- Sept. 30 Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 1 and in the Governor’s possession on or after Sept. 1 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(2)).
- Nov. 3 General Election.
- Nov. 30 Adjournment *sine die* at midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
- Dec. 7 12 Noon convening of the 2027-28 Regular Session (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).

2027

- Jan. 1 Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).