



JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

Thursday, February 19, 2026

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102, Redwood Room

<https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/5096>

Advisory Body Members Present:	Hon. Ann C. Moorman, Chair; Hon. Maria D. Hernandez, Vice Chair; Hon. Brad R. Hill; Hon. Maria Lucy Armendariz; Hon. Michael Rhoads
Advisory Body Members Absent:	Mr. Darrel E. Parker, Ms. Rachel W. Hill
Others Present:	Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Mr. John Yee, Ms. Francine Byrne, Ms. Amber Barnett, Mr. Tamer Ahmed, Mr. Eric Schnurpfeil, Ms. Fran Mueller, Mr. John Larson, Ms. Leah Rose-Goodwin, Ms. Kelly Meehleib, Mr. Douglas Denton, Ms. Angela Cowan, Ms. Deirdre Benedict, Ms. Oksana Tuk,

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The advisory body approved the minutes of the November 13, 2025, Judicial Branch Budget Committee meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1 – 5)

Item 1: Trial Court Minimum Operating and Emergency Fund Balance Policy (Action Required)

Consideration of revisions to the Judicial Council's trial court minimum operating and emergency fund balance requirement.

Action: *The Budget Committee unanimously voted to approve a one-year suspension of the Judicial Council's minimum operating and emergency fund balance policy for the trial courts until June 30, 2027, and add this item to the Funding Methodology Subcommittee's annual work plan. This will allow time to revise the policy to appropriately reflect current conditions regarding trial court financial operations and reserve needs.*

This recommendation will be considered by the Judicial Council at its business meeting on April 24, 2026.

Item 2: Mid-Year Reallocation and Augmentation for Court Interpreters Program for Fiscal Year 2025–26 (Action Required)

Consideration of a mid-year reallocation of unspent funding for the Court Interpreters Program for fiscal year 2025–26.

Action: *The Budget Committee unanimously voted to approve the FY 2025–26 mid-year reallocation of \$59,000 and augmentation of \$19.1 million from the program savings balance of \$27.8 million, as outlined in Attachment 2A, including any technical adjustments, for further consideration by the Judicial Council at its business meeting on April 24, 2026.*

Item 3: Mid-Year Reallocation for Pretrial Release Program for Fiscal Year 2025–26 (Action Required)

Consideration of a mid-year reallocation of unspent funding for the Pretrial Release Program for fiscal year 2025–26.

Action: *The Budget Committee unanimously voted to approve the mid-year reallocation of \$194,000 in unspent funding for the Pretrial Release Program in FY 2025–26, as outlined in Attachment 3A, Table 1, for further consideration by the Judicial Council at its business meeting on April 24, 2026.*

Item 4: Allocations for Dependency Counsel Collections Program and Unspent Funding for Fiscal Year 2025–26 (Action Required)

Consideration of allocations for the Dependency Counsel Collections Program and reallocation of unspent funding for court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel in fiscal year 2025–26.

Action: *The Budget Committee unanimously voted to approve the following FY 2025–26 allocations for court-appointed counsel funding for further consideration by the Judicial Council at its business meeting on April 24, 2026:*

1. *Allocate Juvenile Dependency Counsel Collections Program funds of \$125,145 remitted in FY 2024–25 (Attachment 4A); and*
2. *Allocate FY 2025–26 estimated unspent dependency counsel funding of \$980,773 from courts that have identified funds they do not anticipate spending to courts that are not fully funded to their need (Attachment 4B).*

Item 5: Judicial Branch Budget Change Concepts for Fiscal Year 2027–28 (Action Required)

Review of budget change concepts for the judicial branch for fiscal year 2027–28.

Action: *No action was taken on the concepts presented. The Judicial Branch Budget Committee Chair requested that Judicial Council staff develop a budget change concept for a comprehensive workload assessment of dependency representation for court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel to be presented at the Judicial Branch Budget Committee meeting in April 2026.*

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

Info 1

Governor's Budget Update for Fiscal Year 2026–27

Action: No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:03p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on April 23, 2026.