



Judicial Council of California

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**JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING WITH CLOSED SESSION**

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April 23, 2026

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Videoconference

**Advisory Members Present:** Hon. Ann C. Moorman, Chair; Hon. Maria D. Hernandez, Vice-Chair; Hon. Brad R. Hill; Hon. Maria Lucy Armendariz; Hon. Michael Rhoads; and Mr. Charles Johnson

**Advisory Members Absent:** Ms. Rachel Hill and Ms. Kate Bieker

**Others Present:** Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Ms. Fran Mueller, Ms. Sarah Davis, Ms. Leah Rose-Goodwin, Ms. Angela Cowan, Ms. Deidre Benedict, Ms. Lollie Roberts, Ms. Kelly Ragsdale, and Ms. Rose Lane

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**OPEN MEETING**

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**Call to Order and Roll Call**

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:46 p.m. and took roll call.

**Approval of Minutes**

The advisory body approved the minutes of the February 19, 2026, Judicial Branch Budget Committee (Budget Committee) meeting and March 5, 2026, Action by E-mail Between Meetings.

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**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1–5)**

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**Item 1**

**Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act Funding Allocation for Fiscal Year 2026–27 (Action Required)**

Consideration of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act allocations for fiscal year 2026–27

**Action:** *The Budget Committee unanimously voted to approve the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommendation for Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act allocations to the trial courts for fiscal year 2026–27 as outlined in Attachment 1A, including any technical adjustments and contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for fiscal year 2026–27. This recommendation will be considered by the Judicial Council at its business meeting on July 17, 2026.*

**Item 2**

**Pretrial Release Program Allocation for Fiscal Year 2026–27 (Action Required)**

Consideration of Pretrial Release Program allocations for fiscal year 2026–27.

**Action:** *The Budget Committee unanimously voted to approve the following recommendations for consideration by the Judicial Council at its business meeting on July 17, 2026:*

1. *Approve the fiscal year 2026–27 allocations, including the funding floor allocations, for the Pretrial Release Program as outlined in Attachment 2A, including any technical adjustments and contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for fiscal year 2026–27.*
2. *Direct Judicial Council staff to conduct a midyear survey of expenditures and spending plans in November 2026 to determine which jurisdictions anticipate having unspent funding and which jurisdictions anticipate a demonstrated need for additional funding and recommend a methodology for reallocating funding between the trial courts based on demonstrated need.*

**Item 3**

**AB 1058 Child Support Commissioner and Family Law Facilitator Allocations for Fiscal Year 2026–27 (Action Required)**

Consideration of AB 1058 Child Support Commissioner and Family Law Facilitator Program allocations for fiscal year 2026–27.

**Action:** *The Budget Committee unanimously voted to approve the following recommendations for consideration by the Judicial Council at its business meeting on July 17, 2026:*

1. *Approve Child Support Commissioner allocations for fiscal year 2026–27 using the existing workload-based methodology, as described in the report and reflected in Attachment A.*
2. *Approve Family Law Facilitator allocations for fiscal year 2026–27 using the existing population-based methodology, as described in the report and reflected in Attachment B.*
3. *Authorize distribution of federal drawdown funding consistent with the methodology previously adopted by the Judicial Council and based on the court's surveyed request for these funds.*

**Item 4**

**Court Reporter Allocations for Fiscal Year 2026–27 (Action Required)**

Consideration of court reporter allocations for fiscal year 2026–27 for family law and civil case types.

**Action:** *The Budget Committee unanimously voted to approve the following recommendations for consideration by the Judicial Council at its business meeting on July 17, 2026:*

1. *Allocate \$30 million for court reporters on a proportional basis using the council-approved methodology with assessed judicial need data based on the 2022 Judicial Needs Assessment as outlined in Attachment 4A, including any technical adjustments and contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for FY 2026–27.*
2. *Direct council staff to conduct a midyear survey in fiscal year 2026–27 and authorize a corresponding reallocation process to ensure maximum use of available funds to support court reporters in family law and civil case types.*

**Item 5**

**Additional Judicial Branch Budget Change Concept for FY 2027–28 (Action Required)**

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

*Action: No action taken.*

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**A D J O U R N M E N T**

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There being no further open meeting business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

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**C L O S E D   S E S S I O N   ( C A L .   R U L E S   O F   C O U R T ,   R U L E   1 0 . 7 5 ( D ) ( 5 ) )**

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**Item 1**

**Pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 10.75 (D)(5) (No Action Required)**

***Security plans, procedures, or other matters.***

Review and discussion of security aspects of fiscal year 2027–28 budget change concepts for the judicial branch.

*Action: No action taken.*

Adjourned closed session at 1:44 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on May 20, 2026.