

Judicial Council Information Technology Budget Change Concepts for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027–28

Digital Courts and Enterprise Systems Sustained Operational Maintenance

The Judicial Council requests 14 new ongoing positions at \$4.2 million ongoing General Fund beginning in FY 2027–28 and two additional new ongoing positions starting in FY 2031–32 (additional \$2 million ongoing), along with \$2.3 million one-time General Fund in FY 2027–27, \$1.2 million one-time General fund in FY 2028–29, \$1.3 million one-time General Fund in FY 2029–30, \$1.3 million one-time General Fund in FY 2030–31, and \$1.4 million General Fund ongoing starting in FY 2031–32.

This request will fund the staffing and resources needed to operate and maintain the five essential judicial branch programs or systems. These programs ensure (1) secure and stable core digital infrastructure that keeps court websites, applications, and online services secure, stable, and accessible to all users; (2) web accessibility compliance through a new program aligned with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, enabling barrier-free access for users with disabilities; (3) support for key systems such as Ability to Pay, Online Trial by Declaration, and electronic case filing (eFiling) which allow attorneys and litigants to submit documents online, reducing paperwork and improving efficiency for courts and the public. They also provide (4) continuity of required statewide integration (California Court Protective Order Registry, CARE Act reporting, the California Disposition Reporting Exchange, jury management systems, and appellate court eFiling) critical for Department of Justice compliance and secure data exchange across the judicial systems; and (5) data systems to maintain the branch’s data warehouse, which supports the systems mentioned above as well as reporting, analytics, and legislative inquiries.

Sustaining and Modernizing Core Judicial Applications

The Judicial Council requests two new ongoing positions beginning FY 2027–28 and two additional new ongoing positions starting FY 2029–30, including \$2.6 million ongoing funding and \$3 million one-time General Fund beginning FY 2027–28, \$2.3 million one-time General Fund in FY 2028–29, and \$3.2 ongoing General Fund starting FY 2029–30. This request will provide the staffing and resources necessary to operate and maintain six judicial branch systems that support and sustain the operations of the trial and appellate courts. These systems perform key judicial administrative operational functions, including (1) managing the protective order registry, (2) processing court-appointed counsel payments, (3) assigning judges, (4) facilitating statewide data exchange, (5) distributing court fees, and (6) supporting human resources functions. By funding these positions and resources, the Judicial Council will ensure the continuity, reliability, and compliance of these systems, which are vital to sustaining judicial operations across California.

Digital Courts Services and Operations for Appellate Court Core Systems

The Judicial Council requests eight new ongoing positions and \$3.4 million ongoing General Fund beginning in FY 2027–28, one-time General Fund allocations of \$1.7 million in FY 2027–28, \$680,000 in FY 2028–29, \$370,000 in FY 2029–30, \$380,000 in FY 2030–31, and \$390,000 in FY 2031–32. This funding will support the modernization, operations, and maintenance of the Appellate Courts Case Management System (ACCMS), which is essential for managing appellate court case processing, and cover increased operational expenses for software, database licensing, hosting, and data services, as well as necessary IT infrastructure refreshes and maintenance. By providing these positions and funding, the Judicial Council will ensure ACCMS remains secure, reliable, and capable of meeting the evolving needs of California’s appellate courts.

Expanding Branchwide Security Program

[Information forthcoming—this item will be shared during the meeting.]

Court Technology Remote Proceedings Program

The Judicial Council requests eight new ongoing positions and an ongoing \$35 million in General Fund support for FY 2027–28, FY 2028–29, FY 2029–30, and an ongoing \$23 million in General Fund support starting FY 2030–31. This funding will establish a statewide program to refresh and maintain remote proceedings—audio and video—technology across California’s superior courts. The funding will address critical needs, including procurement of hardware (targeting older technology and additional capacity), staff recruitment, training, site visits, equipment maintenance, and development of a mock courtroom for testing. The FTE positions will support trial courts to consistently meet the Judicial Council’s [Minimum Technology Standards for Remote Proceedings](#), as mandated by Senate Bill 133 (2023, Chapter 34), ensuring reliable, accessible, and compliant remote hearing capabilities. This proposal presents a comprehensive, branchwide vision for audio and video capabilities that addresses courts lacking foundational technology, remedies broken or obsolete systems, and modernizes aging equipment to meet current operational needs. The proposal remains subject to further analysis to define baseline requirements and phased enhancements. That analysis may recommend a staggered implementation strategy—for example, first ensuring reliable core audio functionality where it does not exist or has failed, selectively incorporating video where it is operationally critical (such as in collaborative or domestic violence proceedings), and upgrading legacy systems—while ensuring parity across courts to deliver a consistent, high-quality experience for remote participants and the public.