



# Judicial Council of California

## Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

[www.courts.ca.gov/tcbac.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/tcbac.htm)

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### TRIAL COURT BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

April 16, 2025

12:00 p.m. — 2:00 p.m.

<https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/4014>

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**Advisory Body Members Present:** Judges: Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin (Chair), Hon. Judith C. Clark, Hon. Julie A. Emede, Hon. Kimberly A. Gaab, Hon. Wendy G. Getty, Hon. Samantha P. Jessner, Hon. David C. Kalemkarian, Hon. Patricia L. Kelly, Hon. Michael J. Reinhart, and Hon. Lisa M. Rogan

Executive Officers: Ms. Rebecca Fleming (Vice Chair), Ms. Stephanie Cameron, Mr. Chad Finke, Mr. Kevin Harrigan, Mr. Darrel E. Parker, Mr. Brandon E. Riley, Mr. Chris Ruhl, Ms. Kim Turner, Mr. David W. Slayton, and Mr. David H. Yamasaki

**Advisory Body Members Absent:** Hon. J. Eric Bradshaw, Hon. Sonny S. Sandhu, Mr. Shawn C. Landry, and Mr. Michael M. Roddy

**Others Present:** Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Ms. Fran Mueller, Ms. Donna Newman, Ms. Oksana Tuk, and Ms. Rose Lane

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#### OPEN MEETING

##### Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. and took roll call.

##### Approval of Minutes

The advisory body approved the minutes of the February 26, 2025, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) meeting.

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#### DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEM 1-6)

##### Item 1 – Fiscal Year (FY) 2026–27 Budget Change Concepts Under Purview of the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (Action Required)

Consideration of budget change concepts for FY 2026–27 from other advisory bodies under purview of the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee.

**Action:** The TCBAC unanimously voted to support the budget change concepts submitted by other advisory bodies without prioritization for Judicial Branch Budget Committee consideration at its May 16, 2025, meeting.

**Item 2 – Allocations from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund (IMF) for FY 2025–26 (Action Required)**

Consideration of allocations from the IMF in support of the trial courts for FY 2025–26

**Action:** The TCBAC unanimously voted to approve the following recommendations from the Revenue and Expenditure Subcommittee for consideration by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its July 18, 2025, business meeting:

1. A total of \$47.9 million in allocations for FY 2025–26 from the IMF to fund specific programs and services for the trial courts; and
2. The delegation of authority to the Administrative Director to authorize baseline technical adjustments, up to a maximum of 10 percent of specific allocations, to allow for the efficient implementation of required budgetary adjustments.

**Item 3 – Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Allocations for FY 2025–26 (Action Required)**

Consideration of CARE Act allocations to the trial courts for FY 2025–26.

**Action:** The TCBAC unanimously voted to approve the CARE Act allocations to the trial courts for FY 2025–26 as outlined in Attachment 3A, including any technical adjustments and contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for FY 2025–26 for consideration by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its July 18, 2025, business meeting.

**Item 4 – Funding Reallocation in FY 2025–26 with No New Money (Action Required)**

Consideration of a reallocation of existing funding in FY 2025–26 to support equity for the trial courts per the Workload Formula policy regarding no new money.

**Action:** The TCBAC voted to approve (with one opposition) the following recommendations from the Funding Methodology Subcommittee for consideration by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its July 18, 2025, business meeting:

1. The equity-based reallocation of existing funding for the trial courts for FY 2025–26 based on specified steps in the Workload Formula policy regarding no new money as displayed in Attachment 4A. The final reallocation will be based on the new calculated need and technical adjustments for FY 2025–26 and is contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for FY 2025–26; and
2. The sequence of funding adjustments for FY 2025–26 so that the equity-based reallocation of existing funding as noted in recommendation #1 occurs first before adding the \$40 million for increased operational costs for the trial courts, which is detailed in Item 5 of the agenda.

**Item 5 – Allocation Methodology for \$40 Million for Trial Court Operational Cost Increases (Action Required)**

Consideration of an allocation methodology for the ongoing \$40 million included in the FY 2025–26 Governor's Budget to address operational cost increases for the trial courts.

**Action:** *The TCBAC unanimously voted to approve the following recommendations from the Funding Methodology Subcommittee for consideration by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its July 18, 2025, business meeting:*

1. *The \$40 million allocation for operational cost increases as a proportional increase over each trial court's FY 2024–25 Workload Formula allocation as displayed in Attachment 5A, including technical adjustments to the calculation and contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for FY 2025–26; and*
2. *The sequence of funding adjustments for FY 2025–26 so that the \$40 million allocation is added after the equity-based reallocation of existing funding in the second year of no new money (as described in Item 4 of the agenda).*

**Item 6 – Allocation Methodologies for Potential Future Funding Reductions and Restoration (Action Required)**

Consideration of allocation methodologies for potential reductions and restoration of funding for the trial courts in future budget years.

**Action:** *The TCBAC voted to approve (with one opposition) the following recommendations from the Funding Methodology Subcommittee for consideration by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its July 18, 2025, business meeting:*

1. *The Reverse Workload Formula equity reduction allocation without reduction limitation calculated on each court's Workload Formula allocation for any potential future funding reduction. The steps are outlined on page 3 and utilize a 4 percent band around the statewide average funding level as displayed in Attachment 6A;*
2. *An allocation methodology for a restoration of funding that occurs in the same fiscal year the reduction took place based on a recalculation of the reduction using the initial methodology with restored funding as displayed in Attachment 6B; and*
3. *An allocation methodology for a restoration of funding in a future fiscal year that follows a reduction in a prior fiscal year based on the existing Judicial Council-approved Workload Formula methodology calculated on the Workload Formula need amount as displayed in Attachment 6C.*

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

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on May 7, 2025.