



Judicial Council of California
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

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TRIAL COURT BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

January 15, 2026
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

<https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/5050>

Advisory Body Members Present: Judges: Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin (Chair), Hon. J. Eric Bradshaw, Hon. Christopher R. Bowen, Hon. Judith C. Clark, Hon. Julie A. Emede, Hon. Samantha P. Jessner, Hon. David C. Kalemkarian, Hon. Patricia L. Kelly, Hon. Lisa M. Rogan, Hon. Sonny S. Sandhu, and Hon. Scott R.L. Young
Executive Officers: Ms. Rebecca Fleming (Vice-Chair), Ms. Kate Bieker, Ms. Stephanie Camero, Mr. Jake Chatters, Mr. Chad Finke, Mr. Kevin Harrigan, Mr. Michael M. Roddy, Mr. Chris Ruhl, Mr. David W. Slayton, Ms. Kim Turner, and Mr. David H. Yamasaki

Advisory Body Members Absent: Hon. Judith K. Dulcich and Hon. Bunmi Awoniyi

Others Present: Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Ms. Fran Mueller, Ms. Joleen Allgood, Ms. Maria Lira, Ms. Oksana Tuk, Ms. Megan Ellis, Mr. Douglas Denton, Ms. Deirdre Benedict, and Ms. Kelly Meehleib

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 October 29, 2025, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM (ITEM 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 requirements

Action: The TCBCAC unanimously voted to approve a one-year suspension of the minimum operating and emergency fund balance policy for the trial courts until June 30, 2027, and add this item to the Funding Methodology Subcommittee 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 Branch Budget Committee and then 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 TCBCAC 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. This recommendation will be considered by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then 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 TCBCAC unanimously voted to approve option one as a one-time methodology for reallocation of the \$194,000 in available pretrial funding for the Pretrial Release Program in FY 2025–26, as outlined in Attachment 3A, Table 1. This recommendation will be considered by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then 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 TCBCAC unanimously voted to approve the following FY 2025–26 allocations for court-appointed counsel funding for consideration by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its April 24, 2026, business meeting:

1. Allocate Juvenile Dependency Counsel Collections Program funds of \$121,145 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 intend to spend to courts that are not fully funded to their need (Attachment 4B).

Item 5 – Trial Court Budget Change Concepts for Fiscal Year 2027–28 (Action Required)

Consideration of trial court funding priorities and budget change concepts for the fiscal year 2027–28 budget development process.

Action: *The TCBAC unanimously voted to approve three budget change concepts for fiscal year 2027–28 in the following priority order: (1) inflationary adjustment for the trial courts (Consumer Price Index), (2) increased and ongoing technology funding, and (3) increased funding for the Court Interpreters Program. The committee directed Judicial Council staff to verify the key components of the information technology proposal. These budget change concepts will be considered by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee at its meeting on February 19, 2026.*

I. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (ITEM 1) (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

Info 1 – Governor’s Budget Update for Fiscal Year 2026–27

Update on the Governor’s Budget proposal for fiscal year 2026–27.

Action: *No action taken.*

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on March 26, 2026.