

Judicial Council of California

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

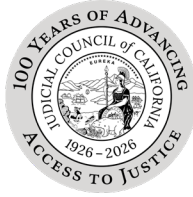
TRIAL COURT BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MATERIALS OCTOBER 29, 2026 VIRTUAL MEETING

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Judicial Council of California

**TRIAL COURT BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOTICE AND AGENDA OF OPEN ELECTRONIC MEETING**

October 29, 2026

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Public Access: <https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/5057>

Open to the public (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.75(c) and (e)(1)).

Meeting materials for open portions of the meeting will be posted on the [Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee](#) webpage on the California Courts website at least three business days before the meeting.

Request for ADA accommodations should be made at least three business days before the meeting and directed to: JCCAccessCoordinator@jud.ca.gov.

Members of the public seeking to make an audio recording of the open meeting portion of the meeting must submit a written request at least two business days before the meeting. Requests can be emailed to tcbac@jud.ca.gov.

Agenda items are numbered for identification purposes only and will not necessarily be considered in the indicated order.

I. OPEN MEETING (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(C)(1))

Call to Order and Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Approve minutes of the September 29, 2026, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(K))

This meeting will be conducted by electronic means. As such, the public may make comments in writing or remotely.

Written Comment

In accordance with California Rules of Court, rule 10.75(k)(1), written comments pertaining to any agenda item of a regularly noticed open meeting can be submitted up to one complete business day before the meeting. For this specific meeting, comments should be emailed to tcbac@jud.ca.gov. Only written comments received by 12:00 p.m. October 28, 2026, will be provided to advisory body members prior to the start of the meeting.

Remote Public Comment

Members of the public requesting to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting must provide the speaker's name, the name of the organization that the speaker represents if any, and the agenda item that the public comment will address. Requests to make a remote public comment must be received by 12:00 p.m. October 28, 2026, via email to tcbac@jud.ca.gov. The chair will establish speaking limits at the beginning of the public comment session. While the advisory body welcomes and encourages public comment, time may not permit all individuals requesting to speak to be heard at this meeting.

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1–3)

Item 1

Final Adjustments for Year-End Fund Balances for Fiscal Year 2025–26 (Action Required)

Consideration of final one-time adjustments for fiscal year 2025–26 year-end fund balances for the trial courts.

Presenter: Ms. Oksana Tuk, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Judicial Council Budget Services

Item 2

Increased Transcript Rate Allocations for Fiscal Year 2026–27 (Action Required)

Consideration of increased transcript rate allocations for fiscal year 2026–27.

Presenter: Ms. Rose Lane, Senior Analyst, Judicial Council Leadership Support Services

Item 3

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee Annual Agenda for 2027 (Action Required)

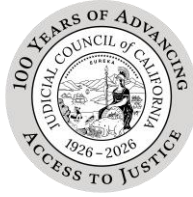
Consideration of the proposed Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee annual agenda for 2027.

Presenters: Hon. Judith K. Dulcich, Chair, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Ms. Megan Ellis, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Judicial Council Budget Services

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn



Judicial Council of California

**TRIAL COURT BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING WITH CLOSED SESSION**

September 29, 2026

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

<https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/5824>

Members Present: Judges: Hon. Judith K. Dulcich (Chair), Hon. J. Eric Bradshaw, Hon. Christopher R. Bowen, Hon. Rodney A. Cortez, Hon. Samantha P. Jessner, Hon. Patricia L. Kelly, and Hon. Scott R. L. Young

Executive Officers: Ms. Rebecca Fleming (Vice-Chair), Ms. Kate Bieker, Ms. Stephanie Cameron, Mr. Chad Finke, Mr. Kevin Harrigan, Mr. Robert M. Oliver, Mr. Michael M. Roddy, Mr. David W. Slayton, Ms. Kim Turner, and Mr. David H. Yamasaki

Members Absent: Hon. Julie A. Emede, Hon. Lisa M. Rogan, Hon. Lawrence Brown (Liaison), and Mr. Jake Chatters

Others Present: Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Ms. Randie Chance, Ms. Fran Mueller, Ms. Joleen Allgood, Mr. Jarret Yee, and Ms. Megan Ellis

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 August 27, 2026, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee meeting (TCBAC).

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1–2)

Item 1

Proposition 36 Allocations for Fiscal Year 2026–27 (Action Required)

Consideration of Proposition 36 allocations for fiscal year 2026–27.

Action: TCBAC unanimously voted to approve the fiscal year 2026–27 allocations to support implementation of Proposition 36, as displayed in Attachment 1B, based on 50 percent non-traffic misdemeanor and felony filings and 50 percent Proposition 36 survey data. This recommendation will be considered by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its business meeting on December 11, 2026.

Item 2

Trial Court Minimum Operating and Emergency Fund Balance Policy Updates (Action Required)

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

Action: *TCBAC unanimously voted to approve the revisions to the trial court minimum operating and emergency fund balance policy, with a modification to Attachment 2C to insert the following language in item 7: "as determined by the following calculation based upon the prior fiscal year's ending total unrestricted general fund expenditures (excluding special revenue, debt service, permanent proprietary, and fiduciary funds), less any material one-time expenditures (e.g., large one-time contracts)."*

The revisions will ensure the policy (1) aligns with contemporary fiscal realities, (2) supports greater flexibility for courts with limited financial resources, and (3) maintains prudent financial guidance without imposing outdated or burdensome requirements. This recommendation will be considered by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its business meeting on December 11, 2026.

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further open meeting business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Adjourned closed session at 12:50 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on enter date.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
BUDGET SERVICES
Report to the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
(Action Item)

Title: Final Adjustments for Year-End Fund Balances for Fiscal Year 2025–26

Date: 10/23/2026

Contact: Oksana Tuk, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Judicial Council Budget Services | 916-643-8027 | oksana.tuk@jud.ca.gov

Issue

The Judicial Council is required to finalize annual allocations to the trial courts by January of each fiscal year to ensure compliance with statutory limitations on the amount of reserves that courts can carry over to the next fiscal year. As the last step in this process, a one-time reduction of trial court allocations for courts that are above the 3 percent fund balance cap is proposed for fiscal year (FY) 2025–26.

Background

Government Code section 68502.5(c)(2)(A) requires the Judicial Council to make a preliminary allocation reduction in July and finalize those allocations each January. The final allocations are then offset by the amount of fund balance (or reserves) in excess of the fund balance cap authorized in statute. Under Government Code section 77203(b), a trial court may carry over unexpended funds in an amount not to exceed 3 percent of the courts operating budget from the prior fiscal year.¹

Process for Reporting Year-End Fund Balances

At its business meeting on July 29, 2014, the Judicial Council approved an annual process beginning in FY 2015–16 for courts to provide preliminary and final computations of the portion of their ending fund balance that is subject to the statutory cap:

- Trial courts are required to submit the computation form with preliminary year-end information by July 15 of each fiscal year. The information provided by the courts is used by the Judicial Council to make the preliminary reductions to allocations as required by statute. The courts are not required to provide the details related to encumbrances, prepayments, and restricted revenue when submitting the form for the preliminary allocation.

¹ Added as part of Senate bill 1021 (Stats. 2012, ch. 41), later amended by Senate Bill 95 (Stats. 2019, ch. 36 § 2), effective June 27, 2019.

- Trial courts are required to submit an updated computation form with final year-end information in the fall of each fiscal year when financial records are closed.
- The Judicial Council's Director of Budget Services will report to the council the information provided by the courts for the final allocation reduction, if any, before February of each fiscal year.

Adjustments for Funds Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts

Funds Held on Behalf (FHOB) of the Trial Courts is a Judicial Council–approved process that allows the trial courts to request funding that exceeds the 3 percent cap be used to fund allowable projects or expenditures for the benefit of those courts. When the final allocation is calculated, any court with reserves above the 3 percent cap must have the excess amount deducted unless the court submits a request through the FHOB program.

The program was created in recognition of the limited resources available to trial courts and the reality that some needs—such as technology upgrades, facility improvements, or other multiyear initiatives—cannot be funded within a single year's budget. Through this process, courts may request that the Judicial Council hold excess funds on their behalf and authorize their use for allowable purposes, ensuring that important projects can move forward without violating the reserve cap.

Allowable projects include technology improvements or infrastructure (case management systems); court efficiency efforts (online or smart forms for court users); facilities maintenance or repair allowed under California Rules of Court, rule 10.810; and one-time expenditures such as vehicle, equipment, or furniture replacement.

Funds approved through this process are held in the TCTF, and courts are reimbursed for actual expenses related to specific projects. This process is an important fiscal tool that allows the courts to meet operational and contractual obligations, maximize available resources, and provides critical flexibility given the 3 percent fund balance cap and ongoing fiscal constraints.

For FY 2025–26 year-end fund balances, a total of 26 trial courts submitted FHOB requests totaling \$20.5 million.² The \$20.5 million is used in the calculation to determine the final fund balance reduction for FY 2025–26.

² Fiscal Planning Subcommittee meeting materials (October 21, 2026), [*Trial Court Trust Fund Funds Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts for Fiscal Year 2025–26*](#)

Final Trial Court Accounting Records for Fiscal Year 2025–26

The figures in Attachment 1A reflect the trial courts' final accounting records for FY 2025–26. This information was reviewed by the Judicial Council's Budget Services and Branch Accounting and Procurement staff.

The final one-time net reduction of \$601,000 for FY 2025–26 represents a total reduction of \$21.1 million above the fund balance cap, after allowable accounting adjustments, which is then offset by \$20.5 million in applicable FHOB requests for the trial courts.

- Column A displays the calculated fund balance cap amount for each court;
- Column F shows the courts' FY 2025–26 fund balance amounts subject to the cap, excluding statutorily restricted funds per Government Code section 77203(b), encumbrances consistent with the state contracting process, prepayments, and approved FHOB requests which are held in the Trial Court Trust Fund;
- Column G displays the courts' amount above the 3 percent cap totaling \$20.4 million;
- Column H provides the FY 2025–26 adjustments to the courts' FY 2023–24 and FY 2024–25 fund balance cap, totaling \$674,000;
- Column I displays the courts' final reduction of \$21.1 million, which affects 37 courts;
- Column J reflects the FHOB requests for FY 2025–26 totaling \$20.5 million, which are pending approval by the Judicial Council at its December 11, 2026, business meeting; and
- Column K displays the net reduction of \$601,000 for the fund balance above the 3 percent cap after accounting for the FHOB requests. The reduction will be allocated to the trial courts in the January 2027 distribution.

Recommendation

Approve the final FY 2025–26 year-end fund balance reduction of \$601,000, which reflects a total reduction of \$21.1 million above the fund balance cap offset by \$20.5 million in applicable FHOB requests. The \$601,000 reduction will be allocated to the trial courts in January 2027.

This recommendation will be considered by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its business meeting on December 11, 2026.

Attachments

1. **Attachment 1A:** FY 2025–26 Final Adjustments for Year-End Fund Balances

FY 2025–26 Final Adjustments for Year-End Fund Balances

Court	Fund Balance Cap A	FY 2025–26 Ending Fund Balance B	Encumbrance Reserves at June 30 C	Excluded Funds per GG 77203 D	Prepayments E	Fund Balance Subject to Cap¹ F (B-C-D-E)	Current Year Reduction G	Prior Year Disencumbrance H	Total Final Reduction I (G+H)	Approved FY 2025–26 FHOB² J	Net Reduction after FHOB (January 2027 Dist.) K (I-J)
ALAMEDA	3,708,255	7,911,699	2,915,555	2,253,766	0	2,742,378	0	0	0	0	0
ALPINE	34,000	183,087	1,101	22,081	65,227	94,678	60,678	0	60,678	60,678	0
AMADOR	200,473	1,869,037	1,528,731	149,803	137	190,366	0	0	0	0	0
BUTTE	568,186	1,868,344	502,323	601,719	6,763	757,538	17,984	171,369	189,352	103,400	85,952
CALAVERAS	149,626	846,838	85,425	323,975	312,178	125,261	0	23,957	23,957	0	23,957
COLUSA	107,809	679,151	35,831	416,232	0	227,087	91,712	27,566	119,279	91,712	27,566
CONTRA COSTA	2,109,777	5,198,119	1,567,272	3,066,641	0	564,205	0	0	0	0	0
DEL NORTE	146,510	1,001,459	382,833	430,546	0	188,080	38,988	2,583	41,570	0	41,570
EL DORADO	385,121	2,005,982	1,294,093	339,805	355,736	16,348	0	5,307	5,307	0	5,307
FRESNO	2,595,710	4,846,451	747,616	1,561,879	0	2,536,957	0	0	0	0	0
GLENN	146,453	414,145	66,673	188,299	2,583	156,590	0	16,381	16,381	15,500	881
HUMBOLDT	327,140	301,519	67,011	175,369	1,864	57,276	0	0	0	0	0
IMPERIAL	425,306	1,785,605	105,932	1,004,164	280,244	395,265	0	19,678	19,678	0	19,678
INYO	106,123	431,620	21,321	350,398	268	59,632	0	0	0	0	0
KERN	3,166,443	8,416,826	1,025,988	4,382,540	34,490	2,973,808	0	0	0	0	0
KINGS	439,053	1,190,918	83,593	350,364	315,018	441,943	0	4,837	4,837	4,837	0
LAKE	190,492	1,314,426	202,285	424,264	0	687,876	480,648	16,737	497,384	380,588	116,796
LASSEN	128,389	410,600	154,742	138,391	0	117,467	0	0	0	0	0
LOS ANGELES	31,802,785	166,885,584	73,605,555	50,743,776	1,101,717	41,434,537	9,631,751	0	9,631,751	9,631,751	0
MADERA	500,975	1,595,285	512,879	577,217	0	505,189	4,213	0	4,213	0	4,213
MARIN	521,871	1,939,243	0	993,790	64,047	881,406	359,535	0	359,535	359,535	0
MARIPOSA	75,701	584,030	41,079	69,157	166,296	307,498	187,937	43,860	231,797	216,047	15,750
MENDOCINO	312,487	693,398	22,010	309,627	0	361,761	49,274	0	49,274	49,274	0
MERCED	717,030	3,999,125	75,381	3,221,307	10,085	692,352	0	0	0	0	0
MODOC	59,051	199,509	0	72,577	587	126,345	67,294	0	67,294	0	67,294
MONO	105,348	504,700	230,333	167,176	82,002	25,190	0	4,017	4,017	0	4,017
MONTEREY	1,004,795	2,937,707	208,795	1,704,694	2,583	1,021,635	0	23,871	23,871	23,871	0
NAPA	439,056	665,424	129,642	526,920	0	8,861	0	0	0	0	0
NEVADA	284,899	925,702	0	698,322	0	227,380	0	0	0	0	0
ORANGE	8,300,041	12,192,224	42,651	7,200,709	0	4,948,864	0	60,290	60,290	60,290	0
PLACER	995,612	6,220,383	267,457	1,019,656	3,164,694	1,768,576	771,656	1,309	772,964	772,964	0
PLUMAS	61,063	1,066,646	27,104	145,257	330,955	563,330	502,257	10	502,267	405,000	97,267
RIVERSIDE	6,745,710	17,033,883	1,465,805	8,501,593	0	7,066,484	294,957	25,817	320,774	320,774	0
SACRAMENTO	4,324,365	8,838,246	1,018,610	5,009,003	0	2,810,633	0	1,728	1,728	0	1,728
SAN BENITO	236,759	1,530,823	1,322,294	77,665	0	130,864	0	43,989	43,989	43,989	0
SAN BERNARDINO	5,754,447	11,964,823	538,888	3,413,593	0	8,012,342	2,152,479	105,416	2,257,895	2,257,895	0
SAN DIEGO	7,104,758	15,941,757	133,560	9,648,630	305,110	5,854,457	0	0	0	0	0
SAN FRANCISCO	2,767,294	1,243,193	0	1,153,688	0	89,505	0	0	0	0	0
SAN JOAQUIN	1,958,543	9,673,292	1,747,780	2,792,618	548,602	4,584,292	2,584,233	41,516	2,625,749	2,625,749	0
SAN LUIS OBISPO	737,717	3,438,683	61,920	2,586,739	0	790,024	52,307	0	52,307	52,307	0
SAN MATEO	1,823,800	3,413,574	950	773,210	0	2,639,414	815,614	0	815,614	815,000	614
SANTA BARBARA	1,200,943	1,141,694	21,479	927,641	0	192,574	0	0	0	0	0
SANTA CLARA	3,850,775	11,439,676	4,957,809	2,071,763	593,701	3,816,404	0	29,132	29,132	0	29,132
SANTA CRUZ	628,387	2,029,227	362,729	1,287,755	0	378,743	0	0	0	0	0
SHASTA	809,319	1,776,275	73,797	595,445	124	1,106,909	297,590	0	297,590	297,590	0
SIERRA	31,612	261,187	3,874	8,829	161,743	86,740	55,128	0	55,128	0	55,128
SISKIYOU	178,383	564,418	20,000	376,240	1,069	167,109	0	0	0	0	0
SOLANO	1,213,874	2,273,366	18,883	1,506,578	121,838	626,067	0	0	0	0	0
SONOMA	1,137,803	4,805,774	783,805	1,912,333	673,091	1,436,545	296,767	1,975	298,742	296,767	1,975
STANISLAUS	1,247,905	3,258,510	59,935	644,657	1,085,129	1,468,788	220,569	315	220,884	220,884	0
SUTTER	326,946	1,774,074	469,846	216,476	0	1,087,752	760,773	33	760,806	760,773	33
TEHAMA	238,724	1,014,941	50,363	502,185	0	462,394	223,670	0	223,670	223,670	0
TRINITY	91,336	134,087	0	72,897	0	61,190	0	0	0	0	0
TULARE	1,443,371	2,258,131	1,035,697	537,106	384,814	300,514	0	2,091	2,091	0	2,091
TUOLUNME	209,280	262,689	31,342	162,621	0	68,726	0	0	0	0	0
VENTURA	1,767,255	3,866,935	536,603	1,188,070	0	2,142,262	375,007	0	375,007	375,007	0
YOLO	685,905	1,299,737	27,634	618,539	177,994	475,570	0	0	0	0	0
YUBA	271,472	386,835	4,357	331,292	21,163	30,022	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	106,902,261	352,710,611	100,699,170	130,547,588	10,371,850	111,092,003	20,393,020	673,783	21,066,803	20,465,852	600,953

¹ Variance in total is due to rounding.

² Approved TCTF FHOB requests include those requests pending before the Judicial Council at its December 11, 2026 business meeting.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
BUDGET SERVICES
Report to the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
(Action Item)

Title: Increased Transcript Rate Allocations for Fiscal Year 2026–27

Date: 10/22/2026

Contact: Rose Lane, Senior Analyst, Judicial Council Leadership Support Services | 916-643-6926 | rosemary.lane@jud.ca.gov

Issue

Consideration of fiscal year (FY) 2026–27 allocations for the ongoing \$7 million General Fund included in the Budget Act of 2026 to cover the additional costs incurred by courts associated with increased transcript rates.

Background

Government Code section 69950 establishes compensation rates for court reporters based on transcript length, calculated per 100 words. Specifically, it sets the fee for an original ribbon or printed transcript at \$1.13 per 100 words, and \$0.20 per 100 words for each copy purchased at the same time by the court, a party, or another purchaser of the original. (Gov. Code, § 69950(a).)

In 2021, Assembly Bill 177 (Stats. 2021, ch. 257) amended section 69950 to increase transcript fees, raising the rate for originals from \$0.85 to \$1.13 per 100 words. Additionally, Senate Bill 170 (Stats. 2021, ch. 240), which amended the Budget Act of 2021, allocated \$7 million in ongoing General Fund support to develop a methodology for distributing funds to trial courts to cover the increased costs associated with the higher transcript rates.

Allocation Methodology

The Funding Methodology Subcommittee of the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) established the Ad Hoc Court Reporter Funding Subcommittee (ad hoc subcommittee), consisting of members from TCBAC, to develop an allocation methodology recommendation for the first year of funding in FY 2021–22. Through deliberations, the ad hoc subcommittee developed a recommendation for an allocation methodology for the \$7 million and presented it to TCBAC at its meeting on November 30, 2021,¹ and to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee on December 7, 2021.² The Judicial Council approved the allocation methodology at its January 21,

¹ Judicial Council of Cal., Staff Rep., [SB 170 Ongoing \\$7 Million Increased Transcript Rate Funding Allocation Methodology](#) (Nov. 30, 2021).

² Judicial Council of Cal., Staff Rep., [SB 170 Ongoing \\$7 Million Increased Transcript Rate Funding Allocation Methodology](#) (Dec. 7, 2021).

2022, business meeting and directed staff to update the three-year average for the allocation methodology each year based on the most recent data available.³

The council-approved allocation methodology was developed for implementation that helps courts cover increased transcript costs. Focusing on an equitable approach for allocating funds to all trial courts, consistent with the annual budget bill language, the methodology includes:

- Averaging actual transcript expenditures by court for the last three fiscal years based on the most recent data available (i.e., FY 2023–24, 2024–25, and 2025–26);
- Applying a proportional allocation of \$7 million to each court based on the three-year average of transcript expenditures; and
- Allocating funds in one lump sum upon approval by the council.

Annual True-Up Process

Because this funding is intended solely to cover the costs associated with increased transcript rates, any unspent funds are required to revert to the General Fund for each fiscal year. The actual expenditures for each court from FY 2020–21 are used to establish a baseline from which cost increases eligible to be covered by these funds will be determined. Based on the historical baseline amount and the actual expenditures for the fiscal year, a true-up process will occur following the end of each fiscal year to pull back any remaining funds. An example of this process for FY 2026–27 is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Annual Reversion Calculation for FY 2026–27

Court	A. FY 2020–21 Baseline	B. FY 2026–27 Allocation From \$7M	C. FY 2026– 27 Actual Expenditures	D. Difference (C – A = D)	E. General Fund Reversion (B – D = E)
Y	\$85,000	\$43,260	\$120,000	\$35,000	\$8,260

In the example Table 1, Court Y will receive an allocation of \$43,260 from the FY 2026–27 court reporter transcript appropriation based on the existing methodology. At year-end, the court’s actual expenditures for FY 2026–27 are \$120,000, a \$35,000 increase from the FY 2020–21 baseline amount ($\$120,000 - \$85,000 = \$35,000$). Taking the difference between the FY 2026–27 allocation (\$43,260) and the \$35,000 increase ($\$43,260 - \$35,000 = \$8,260$), the court will be required to revert the remaining \$8,260 to the General Fund.

³ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., [Allocations and Reimbursements to Trial Courts: SB 170 Funding for Increased Transcript Rates](#) (Jan. 21, 2022).

Recommendation

Approve the FY 2026–27 proportional allocation of the \$7 million appropriation to each trial court using the council-approved methodology, which is based on an average of the prior three-year transcript expenditures, as outlined in Attachment 2A.

The approved recommendation will be considered by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its business meeting on December 11, 2026.

Attachments

1. Attachment 2A: Transcript Funding: Recommended FY 2026–27 Allocations

Attachment 2A: Transcript Funding: Recommended FY 2026–27 Allocations

Court	FY 2023–24 Actual Expenditures	FY 2024–25 Actual Expenditures	FY 2025–26 Actual Expenditures	3-Year Expenditure Average	Proportion of Average Expenditures Percentage	Proposed FY 2026–27 Proportional Allocation of \$7M
Statewide	\$23,695,109	\$25,246,096	\$25,327,208	\$24,756,137	100.00%	\$7,000,000
Alameda	503,353	452,023	478,700	478,025	1.93%	135,166
Alpine	141	335	0	159	0.00%	45
Amador	29,888	16,552	14,161	20,200	0.08%	5,712
Butte	111,183	99,163	108,559	106,302	0.43%	30,058
Calaveras	14,406	45,487	35,562	31,818	0.13%	8,997
Colusa	15,937	9,843	17,433	14,404	0.06%	4,073
Contra Costa	641,017	567,465	616,716	608,399	2.46%	172,030
Del Norte	34,221	31,719	19,288	28,409	0.11%	8,033
El Dorado	90,783	100,220	91,136	94,046	0.38%	26,592
Fresno	664,453	740,352	637,238	680,681	2.75%	192,468
Glenn	14,282	7,715	6,203	9,400	0.04%	2,658
Humboldt	4,528	5,077	3,758	4,454	0.02%	1,259
Imperial	41,292	59,192	44,021	48,168	0.19%	13,620
Inyo	12,614	20,673	12,776	15,354	0.06%	4,342
Kern	1,016,539	1,003,015	997,804	1,005,786	4.06%	284,394
Kings	360,009	279,146	273,285	304,147	1.23%	86,000
Lake	70,559	69,382	64,421	68,121	0.28%	19,262
Lassen	32,866	51,604	30,318	38,263	0.15%	10,819
Los Angeles	7,621,806	7,882,746	8,243,529	7,916,027	31.98%	2,238,321
Madera	131,650	97,177	95,307	108,045	0.44%	30,551
Marin	115,782	87,034	50,374	84,397	0.34%	23,864
Mariposa	10,631	11,188	14,656	12,158	0.05%	3,438
Mendocino	145,340	154,230	95,789	131,786	0.53%	37,264
Merced	159,871	153,581	181,319	164,924	0.67%	46,634
Modoc	8,534	12,567	22,614	14,572	0.06%	4,120
Mono	12,007	3,089	7,230	7,442	0.03%	2,104
Monterey	202,571	232,091	193,021	209,228	0.85%	59,161
Napa	126,090	106,344	137,636	123,357	0.50%	34,880
Nevada	69,669	59,369	63,684	64,241	0.26%	18,165
Orange	2,041,287	2,188,913	2,066,849	2,099,016	8.48%	593,514
Placer	338,621	362,939	295,469	332,343	1.34%	93,973
Plumas	7,655	11,107	11,499	10,087	0.04%	2,852
Riverside	21,906	24,815	20,606	22,442	0.09%	6,346
Sacramento	1,365,936	1,517,322	1,356,708	1,413,322	5.71%	399,628
San Benito	16,219	11,952	16,914	15,029	0.06%	4,249
San Bernardino	1,239,641	1,300,451	1,308,683	1,282,925	5.18%	362,758
San Diego	1,619,341	1,758,132	1,818,915	1,732,129	7.00%	489,774
San Francisco	683,834	754,970	871,155	769,986	3.11%	217,720
San Joaquin	391,653	465,572	471,579	442,935	1.79%	125,243
San Luis Obispo	233,587	220,404	287,430	247,140	1.00%	69,881
San Mateo	352,785	419,130	487,455	419,790	1.70%	118,699
Santa Barbara	216,414	269,186	330,485	272,029	1.10%	76,918
Santa Clara	619,864	693,031	817,729	710,208	2.87%	200,817
Santa Cruz	120,674	163,000	122,634	135,436	0.55%	38,296
Shasta	143,992	321,481	234,474	233,315	0.94%	65,972
Sierra	4,255	6,054	2,010	4,106	0.02%	1,161
Siskiyou	47,199	70,468	53,235	56,967	0.23%	16,108
Solano	311,808	297,882	393,625	334,438	1.35%	94,565

Attachment 2A: Transcript Funding: Recommended FY 2026–27 Allocations

Court	FY 2023–24 Actual Expenditures	FY 2024–25 Actual Expenditures	FY 2025–26 Actual Expenditures	3-Year Expenditure Average	Proportion of Average Expenditures Percentage	Proposed FY 2026–27 Proportional Allocation of \$7M
Sonoma	179,551	187,194	200,290	189,012	0.76%	53,445
Stanislaus	289,909	387,675	304,147	327,244	1.32%	92,531
Sutter	26,777	41,349	36,879	35,002	0.14%	9,897
Tehama	18,294	50,315	23,785	30,798	0.12%	8,708
Trinity	4,835	3,975	2,825	3,878	0.02%	1,097
Tulare	382,105	495,772	450,622	442,833	1.79%	125,215
Tuolumne	76,426	105,205	100,163	93,931	0.38%	26,560
Ventura	367,552	410,332	414,996	397,627	1.61%	112,432
Yolo	256,306	299,862	218,324	258,164	1.04%	72,998
Yuba	54,661	49,228	51,186	51,692	0.21%	14,616

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
BUDGET SERVICES
Report to the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
(Action Item)

Title: Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee Annual Agenda for 2027

Date: 10/25/2026

Contact: Megan Ellis, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Judicial Council Budget Services | 916-263-2445 | megan.ellis@jud.ca.gov

Issue

Consider proposed updates to the annual agenda for the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) for 2027. The annual agenda outlines the work the committee will focus on in the coming year and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and Judicial Council staff resources.

Background

Rule 10.64(a) of the California Rules of Court states the charge of the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee is to make recommendations to the Judicial Council on the preparation, development, and implementation of the budget for trial courts and provide input to the council on policy issues affecting trial court funding.¹

The annual agenda provides the work plan for the committee and the chair determines the projects and activities to include in the agenda for the coming year. These projects include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Determine the funding priorities for the trial courts to guide the development of the annual judicial branch budget;
- Recommend allocation methodologies, including changes to existing methodologies, for funding adjustments included in the annual budget. From a statewide perspective, these methodologies align with the Workload Formula policy's core principles of funding equity, stability, and predictability to support trial court operations; and
- Review of trial court budget policies and procedures, as needed.

The Judicial Branch Budget Committee provides oversight to the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee and is responsible for approving the annual agenda. The oversight committee may add or delete specific projects and reassign priorities as needed.

¹ California Rule of Court 10.64(a), [Rule 10.64. Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee | Judicial Branch of California](#).

The current 2026 annual agenda, as approved by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee on November 13, 2025, is provided as Attachment 3A.²

2027 Proposed Annual Agenda

The 2027 draft annual agenda reflects new or one-time projects, ongoing projects and activities, and summarizes 2026 project highlights and achievements for the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (Attachment 3B). All proposed projects are identified by priority of *The Strategic Plan for California's Judicial Branch*.³

The proposed 2026 annual agenda will be considered by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee at its meeting on November 12, 2026.

Recommendation

Approve the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee's draft annual agenda for 2027 for consideration by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee at its meeting on November 12, 2026.

Attachments

1. **Attachment 3A:** Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee, Annual Agenda 2026, Approved by Judicial Branch Budget Committee on November 13, 2025
2. **Attachment 3B:** Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee, Draft Annual Agenda—2027 Pending Approval by Judicial Branch Budget Committee: November 12, 2026

² Judicial Branch Budget Committee meeting materials (November 13, 2025), [Item 3 – Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee, Annual Agenda for 2026](#).

³ The Strategic Plan for California's Judicial Branch, <https://courts.ca.gov/system/files/2024-12/Strategic%20Plan%20Companion%202023.pdf>.

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
Annual Agenda¹— January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026
Approved by Judicial Branch Budget Committee on November 13, 2025

I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Chair:	Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Judge, Superior Court of Fresno County
Lead Staff:	Ms. Donna Newman, Manager, Judicial Council Budget Services
Advisory Body’s Charge/Membership: Rule 10.64(a) of the California Rules of Court states the charge of the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee, which is to make recommendations to the Judicial Council on the preparation, development, and implementation of the budget for trial courts and provide input to the council on policy issues affecting trial court funding. Rule 10.64(b) sets forth additional duties of the advisory body. Rule 10.64(c) sets forth the membership position of the advisory body. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee currently has 22 members. The current advisory body roster is available on the advisory body’s webpage.	
Subgroups of the Advisory Body²: 1. Fiscal Planning Subcommittee – Review annual recommendations for trial court requests, related to the fund balance cap as specified in Government Code section 77203, to set aside funds to be held on behalf of those courts in the Trial Court Trust Fund for specific projects. This subcommittee also reviews requests from trial courts related to Children’s Waiting Room funding. 2. Funding Methodology Subcommittee – Ongoing review and refinement of the Workload Formula policy, evaluation of existing allocation methodologies and consideration of alternative allocation approaches for funding augmentations and reductions as needed based on the Workload Formula policy’s core principles of funding equity, stability, and predictability to support trial court operations. Additionally, the subcommittee will develop methodologies for allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund Court Interpreters Program (0150037) as needed or in the event of funding shortfalls. 3. Revenue and Expenditure Subcommittee – Ongoing review of Trial Court Trust Fund and State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund allocations supporting trial court projects and programs, as well as any cash flow issues affecting the trial courts.	

¹ The Annual Agenda outlines the work an advisory body will focus on in the coming year or cycle and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and Judicial Council staff resources.

² For the definition of “subcommittee” see Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.30(c); for “working group,” see rule 10.70; for “workstream,” see rule 10.53(c); and for “education curriculum committee,” see rule 10.50(c)(6).

Advisory Body and Subgroup Meetings Planned for 2026³

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

January 2026/Remote Meeting; February 2026/Remote Meeting; May 2026/Remote Meeting; July 2026/Remote Meeting; October 2026/Remote Meeting

Funding Methodology Subcommittee

January 2026/Remote Meeting; April 2026/Remote Meeting; June 2026/Remote Meeting; September 2026/Remote Meeting

Fiscal Planning Subcommittee

October 2026/Remote Meeting

Revenue and Expenditure Subcommittee

April 2026/Remote Meeting

☐ Check here if in-person meeting is approved by the internal committee oversight chair.

³ Refer to section IV. 2 (Meeting frequency) of the [Operating Standards for Judicial Council Advisory Bodies](#) for governance on in-person meetings. Note: Because of the current budget and staffing constraints, advisory body chairs and staff must first consider meeting remotely. The chair of the Executive and Planning Committee is extending the suspension of advisory body in-person meetings for the 2025–2026 annual agenda cycle. If an in-person meeting is needed, the responsible Judicial Council office head must seek approval from their advisory body’s internal oversight committee chair. Please see the prioritization memo dated July 1, 2025, for additional details.

II. COMMITTEE PROJECTS

#	New or One-Time Projects								
1.	Project Title: Workload Formula Equity-Based Reallocation Policy Updates	Priority: 1							
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">I Access ☒</td> <td style="text-align: center;">II Independence ☐</td> <td style="text-align: center;">III Modernization ☐</td> <td style="text-align: center;">IV Quality ☐</td> <td style="text-align: center;">V Education ☐</td> <td style="text-align: center;">VI Infrastructure ☐</td> <td style="text-align: center;">VII Funding ☒</td> </tr> </table>			I Access ☒	II Independence ☐	III Modernization ☐	IV Quality ☐	V Education ☐	VI Infrastructure ☐	VII Funding ☒
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Project Summary: The project originated from a new item added to the approved Funding Methodology Subcommittee’s annual work plan for fiscal year (FY) 2025–26. The project is to clarify certain aspects of how the equity-based reallocation policy is interpreted and applied including, but not limited to, band penetration criteria and surplus reallocation funding. This clarification will improve transparency in budget planning and funding adjustments, and help courts anticipate and prepare for changes in their allocations. The equity-based reallocation was implemented for the first time in FY 2025–26. In October 2025, the Funding Methodology Subcommittee initiated work on this project which will continue throughout FY 2025–26. At the conclusion of the project, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee will consider recommendations for potential updates to the Workload Formula policy. This project aligns with the policy’s core principles of funding equity, stability, and predictability to support trial court operations. Status/Timeline: New and one-time. Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Budget Services staff. ☒ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. <i>Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.</i> Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts. AC Collaboration: Judicial Branch Budget Committee.									

#	New or One-Time Projects								
2.	Project Title: Pretrial Release Program	Priority: 1							
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:									
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>I Access ☒</td> <td>II Independence ☐</td> <td>III Modernization ☐</td> <td>IV Quality ☐</td> <td>V Education ☐</td> <td>VI Infrastructure ☐</td> <td>VII Funding ☒</td> </tr> </table>			I Access ☒	II Independence ☐	III Modernization ☐	IV Quality ☐	V Education ☐	VI Infrastructure ☐	VII Funding ☒
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Project Summary: Beginning in FY 2021–22, the budget included funding for the operation of ongoing court programs and practices that promote the safe, efficient, fair, and timely pretrial release of individuals booked into jail. The Budget Act of 2025 reduced the overall appropriation for the Pretrial Release Program by \$5 million from \$68.95 million to \$63.95 million. In September 2025, the Judicial Council approved the FY 2025–26 pretrial release allocations of \$63.95 million for the trial courts according to the methodology authorized in budget language. Additionally, the council directed staff to conduct a midyear survey and recommend a methodology for reallocating funding among the trial courts based on demonstrated need in the current year. The reallocation will maximize the use of available funding in FY 2025–26 to support program operations. Status/Timeline: New and one-time. Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Criminal Justice Services and Budget Services staff. ☒ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts. AC Collaboration: Judicial Branch Budget Committee.									
3.	Project Title: Court-Appointed Juvenile Dependency Counsel Funding	Priority: 1							
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:									
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>I Access ☒</td> <td>II Independence ☐</td> <td>III Modernization ☐</td> <td>IV Quality ☐</td> <td>V Education ☐</td> <td>VI Infrastructure ☐</td> <td>VII Funding ☒</td> </tr> </table>			I Access ☒	II Independence ☐	III Modernization ☐	IV Quality ☐	V Education ☐	VI Infrastructure ☐	VII Funding ☒
I Access ☒	II Independence ☐	III Modernization ☐	IV Quality ☐	V Education ☐	VI Infrastructure ☐	VII Funding ☒			
Project Summary: In September 2025, the Judicial Council approved court-appointed counsel allocations of \$186.7 million for FY 2025–26 for the trial courts. The council also directed the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee to add an additional item to the Funding Methodology Subcommittee’s FY 2025–26 work plan to consider a revised methodology to allocate funding for court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel to address unique challenges faced by the trial courts. Stakeholders have raised concerns that the existing methodology									

#	New or One-Time Projects								
	does not address the realities of current juvenile dependency practice. Trial courts have also noted concerns that the small court adjustment, which provides additional funding to smaller courts to help them meet minimum staffing and service standards despite having fewer cases, should be revisited to ensure it reflects current program needs. The revised allocation methodology is intended to improve outcomes in the dependency system. Status/Timeline: New and one-time. Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Center for Families, Children & the Courts and Budget Services staff. ☒ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts and dependency providers. AC Collaboration: Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee and Judicial Branch Budget Committee.								
4.	Project Title: Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Program	Priority: 1							
	Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>I Access ☒</td> <td>II Independence ☐</td> <td>III Modernization ☐</td> <td>IV Quality ☐</td> <td>V Education ☐</td> <td>VI Infrastructure ☐</td> <td>VII Funding ☒</td> </tr> </table>		I Access ☒	II Independence ☐	III Modernization ☐	IV Quality ☐	V Education ☐	VI Infrastructure ☐	VII Funding ☒
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	Project Summary: In July 2025, the Judicial Council approved an \$18.2 million Trial Court Trust Fund allocation for FY 2025–26 for the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Program. In October 2025, the council approved an augmentation of \$1.4 million from program reserves to address the urgent need for legal aid services due to recent wildfires that caused widespread housing loss, in addition to cuts in federal funding. This resulted in a total program allocation of \$19.6 million for FY 2025–26. In spring 2026, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee will consider recommendations from the Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee for the FY 2026–29 grant cycle. Status/Timeline: One-time. Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Center for Families, Children & the Courts and Budget Services staff. ☒ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts. AC Collaboration: Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee and Judicial Branch Budget Committee.								

#	New or One-Time Projects								
5.	Project Title: Trial Court Minimum Operating and Emergency Fund Balance Policy	Priority: 1							
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:									
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>I Access ☒</td> <td>II Independence ☐</td> <td>III Modernization ☐</td> <td>IV Quality ☐</td> <td>V Education ☐</td> <td>VI Infrastructure ☐</td> <td>VII Funding ☒</td> </tr> </table>			I Access ☒	II Independence ☐	III Modernization ☐	IV Quality ☐	V Education ☐	VI Infrastructure ☐	VII Funding ☒
I Access ☒	II Independence ☐	III Modernization ☐	IV Quality ☐	V Education ☐	VI Infrastructure ☐	VII Funding ☒			
Project Summary: The Judicial Council’s trial court minimum operating and emergency fund balance policy was established in FY 2006–07 and requires trial courts to set aside a percentage of funds for use in emergency situations or due to budgetary shortfalls. The policy has been suspended by the council since FY 2012–13 due to changes in statute and to consider additional changes that would provide reserve funding for emergencies or unanticipated costs. The current suspension expires on June 30, 2026. In May 2024, the council directed the Funding Methodology Subcommittee to consider whether the policy should be repealed at a future time based on the current reserve options available to the courts including the \$5 million state-level emergency reserve and 3 percent fund balance cap. In spring 2026, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee will consider recommendations to determine the impact of existing reserve funding on trial court operations and a potential repeal of the policy before the current suspension expires. Status/Timeline: New and one-time. Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Budget Services staff. ☒ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts. AC Collaboration: Judicial Branch Budget Committee.									
6.	Project Title: Court Cluster System	Priority: 2							
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:									
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>I Access ☒</td> <td>II Independence ☐</td> <td>III Modernization ☐</td> <td>IV Quality ☐</td> <td>V Education ☐</td> <td>VI Infrastructure ☐</td> <td>VII Funding ☒</td> </tr> </table>			I Access ☒	II Independence ☐	III Modernization ☐	IV Quality ☐	V Education ☐	VI Infrastructure ☐	VII Funding ☒
I Access ☒	II Independence ☐	III Modernization ☐	IV Quality ☐	V Education ☐	VI Infrastructure ☐	VII Funding ☒			
Project Summary: The project originated from a Funding Methodology Subcommittee work plan item for FY 2020–21 to establish an ad hoc subcommittee to reevaluate the court cluster system and the impact of trial courts’ placement in the Resource Assessment Study. The statewide four-cluster system is determined by the number of authorized judicial positions and is used in the Resource Assessment Study to determine court workload. In July 2023, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee approved updates to the Funding Methodology Subcommittee workplan, which referred the court cluster project to the Data Analytics Advisory Committee. The Data Analytics Advisory									

#	New or One-Time Projects
	Committee will meet on November 4, 2025, to continue its evaluation of the system and will report its findings and recommendations to the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee. Status/Timeline: One-time. Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Research, Analytics, and Data and Budget Services staff. ☒ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts. AC Collaboration: Data Analytics Advisory Committee and Judicial Branch Budget Committee.

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities								
1.	Project Title: Funding Adjustments for Annual Governor’s Budget, May Revision, and Enacted Budget	Priority: 1							
	Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">I Access ☒</td> <td style="text-align: center;">II Independence ☐</td> <td style="text-align: center;">III Modernization ☐</td> <td style="text-align: center;">IV Quality ☐</td> <td style="text-align: center;">V Education ☐</td> <td style="text-align: center;">VI Infrastructure ☐</td> <td style="text-align: center;">VII Funding ☒</td> </tr> </table>		I Access ☒	II Independence ☐	III Modernization ☐	IV Quality ☐	V Education ☐	VI Infrastructure ☐	VII Funding ☒
I Access ☒	II Independence ☐	III Modernization ☐	IV Quality ☐	V Education ☐	VI Infrastructure ☐	VII Funding ☒			
	Project Summary: The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Judicial Council for funding adjustments included in the annual Governor’s Budget, May Revision, and enacted budget. The committee will address funding proposals that impact the trial courts and collaborate with Judicial Council program offices, other advisory committees, and stakeholders, to implement budget proposals as needed. Status/Timeline: Ongoing. Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Budget Services staff. ☒ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts. AC Collaboration: Judicial Branch Budget Committee.								
2.	Project Title: Workload Formula Policy and Allocations to Trial Courts	Priority: 1							
	Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">I Access ☒</td> <td style="text-align: center;">II Independence ☐</td> <td style="text-align: center;">III Modernization ☐</td> <td style="text-align: center;">IV Quality ☐</td> <td style="text-align: center;">V Education ☐</td> <td style="text-align: center;">VI Infrastructure ☐</td> <td style="text-align: center;">VII Funding ☒</td> </tr> </table>		I Access ☒	II Independence ☐	III Modernization ☐	IV Quality ☐	V Education ☐	VI Infrastructure ☐	VII Funding ☒
I Access ☒	II Independence ☐	III Modernization ☐	IV Quality ☐	V Education ☐	VI Infrastructure ☐	VII Funding ☒			
	Project Summary: The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Judicial Council regarding annual allocations to the trial courts. For FY 2025–26, this included total allocations of \$3.1 billion (\$3 billion from the Trial Court Trust Fund and \$117.8 million General Fund) based on recommended methodologies and the Workload Formula policy. The allocations were approved by the council at its July 2025 business meeting.								

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities																			
	The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee will continue to make recommendations to the council on the preparation, development, and implementation of the budget for the trial courts and provide input on policy issues affecting trial court funding. This will include an ongoing evaluation of existing allocation methodologies and consideration of alternative allocation approaches based on the Workload Formula policy’s goal of funding equity, stability, and predictability. The committee will continue to collaborate with other advisory committees including, but not limited to, the Court Executives Advisory Committee and the Data Analytics Advisory Committee on issues affecting the Workload Formula policy and trial court funding matters. Status/Timeline: Ongoing. Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Budget Services staff. ☒ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts. AC Collaboration: Court Executives Advisory Committee, Judicial Branch Budget Committee, and Data Analytics Advisory Committee.																			
3.	Project Title: Workload Formula Policy Adjustment Request Process					Priority: 1														
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:																				
<table><tr><td>I Access</td><td>II Independence</td><td>III Modernization</td><td>IV Quality</td><td>V Education</td><td>VI Infrastructure</td><td>VII Funding</td></tr><tr><td>☒</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☐</td><td>☒</td></tr></table>							I Access	II Independence	III Modernization	IV Quality	V Education	VI Infrastructure	VII Funding	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
I Access	II Independence	III Modernization	IV Quality	V Education	VI Infrastructure	VII Funding														
☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒														
Project Summary: In August 2013, the Judicial Council approved the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee’s recommendation to adopt the Workload Formula policy’s adjustment request process to provide the trial courts with an annual opportunity to submit recommendations for changes to the policy as needed. The most recent requests were received in January 2025 from the Superior Court of Alameda County and the Superior Court of Stanislaus County. It was determined the proposals could impact the Resource Assessment Study, which calculates different caseweights to determine the workload-based funding need for the trial courts. In February 2025, the requests were referred to the Data Analytics Advisory Committee for review. The Data Analytics Advisory Committee will meet on November 4, 2025, to continue its evaluation of the requests and will report its findings and recommendations to the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee. Status/Timeline: Ongoing.																				

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities
	<i>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</i> Judicial Council Research, Analytics, and Data and Budget Services staff. ☒ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. <i>Internal/External Stakeholders:</i> External stakeholders include the trial courts. <i>AC Collaboration:</i> Data Analytics Advisory Committee and Judicial Branch Budget Committee.

III. LIST OF 2025 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
1.	Workload Formula Policy, State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund, and Trial Court Trust Fund Allocations The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee made recommendations to the Judicial Council that included State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund and Trial Court Trust Fund allocations for FY 2025–26 to support trial court programs and operations. In July 2025, the Judicial Council approved allocations totaling \$46.6 million from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund and an allocation of \$3.1 billion (\$3 billion from the Trial Court Trust Fund, \$117.8 million General Fund, and an ongoing \$55 million reduction to the trial courts’ operational funding) included in the Budget Act of 2024.
2.	Allocation for Partial Restoration of Trial Court Funding for FY 2024–25 In February 2025, the Judicial Council approved a recommendation from the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee to partially restore \$42 million of the \$97 million reduction for trial court operations included in the Budget Act of 2024 beginning in FY 2024–25. This resulted in a revised \$55 million ongoing reduction. The Judicial Council–approved methodology to allocate the \$55 million reduction supports the Workload Formula policy’s core principles of funding equity, stability, and predictability as higher funder courts took a larger share of the reduction than lower funded courts.
3.	Workload Formula Allocation Methodologies for Potential Future Budget Reductions and Funding Restoration In July 2025, the Judicial Council approved recommendations from the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee to update the Workload Formula policy to include allocation methodologies to address future budget situations including (1) budget reductions, (2) funding restorations in the same fiscal year as the reduction occurred, and (3) funding restorations that occur in a future fiscal year following a reduction in a prior fiscal year. Having specific methodologies in the policy for these situations increases transparency regarding how funding is allocated to the trial courts so they can plan for changes in funding levels and the Judicial Council can address budget changes more efficiently going forward.
4.	Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Beginning in FY 2022–23, the budget included funding to implement the CARE Act, a new court-based mental health services engagement and oversight program. The program was implemented in two cohorts of courts and all 58 courts had an operational program by December 2024. The Judicial Council approved a recommendation from the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee to establish an allocation methodology using the Workload Formula policy to allocate CARE Act funding to all participating courts in FY 2023–24 and in subsequent years. In April 2025, the Judicial Council also approved the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee’s recommendation to reallocate unspent FY 2024–25 CARE Act funding to maximize the appropriation to support program needs.

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
5.	Court Reporter Funding Reallocation Beginning in FY 2021–22, the Judicial Council has approved recommendations from the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee to allocate \$30 million annually to the trial courts to increase the number of court reporters in family and civil law cases. In July 2024, the council directed staff to survey the courts for a one-time redistribution of unspent funds in FY 2024–25. In February 2025, the council approved a midyear reallocation of \$820,000. The reallocation maximized the use of available funding to increase the number of court reporters in these case types.
6.	Court Interpreter Funding Augmentation and Reallocation In January 2023, the Judicial Council approved recommendations from the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee to address funding shortfalls in the Court Interpreters Program. Shortages would first be covered by savings from courts with unspent funding up to the appropriation amount in the budget, and then Court Interpreters Program fund balance, if available, would be used. In FY 2024–25, the council approved an augmentation of \$16.2 million from program reserves to address shortfalls in both FY 2023–24 and FY 2024–25. The council also approved a FY 2024–25 midyear reallocation of \$510,000 of unspent funding to support interpreter services.
7.	Trial Court Trust Fund Allocation Increase for Judicial Council Offices for FY 2024–25 In February 2025, the Judicial Council approved a recommendation from the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee for an increase of \$1.3 million to the FY 2024–25 allocation from the Trial Court Trust Fund for the Audit Services office to reflect funding included in the Budget Act of 2024 for required audits conducted by the State Controller’s Office. The council also approved an increase of \$150,000 to the FY 2024–25 allocation for the Budget Services office based on a reevaluation of budget workload for the collections program funded by the Trial Court Trust Fund. The increased allocations provided the necessary funding to the offices for the required activities.

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee Annual Agenda¹—2027

Approved by Judicial Branch Budget Committee: November 12, 2026

I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Chair: Hon. Judith K. Dulcich

Lead Staff: Ms. Megan Ellis, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Judicial Council Budget Services

Advisory Body's Charge/Membership:

[Rule 10.64\(a\)](#) of the California Rules of Court states the charge of the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee, which is to make recommendations to the Judicial Council on the preparation, development, and implementation of the budget for trial courts and provide input to the council on policy issues affecting trial court funding. [Rule 10.64\(b\)](#) sets forth additional duties of the advisory body.

[Rule 10.64\(c\)](#) sets forth the membership position of the advisory body. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee currently has 20 members. The current advisory body [roster](#) is available on the advisory body's webpage.

Subgroups of the Advisory Body²:

1. Fiscal Planning Subcommittee – Review annual recommendations for trial court requests, related to the fund balance cap as specified in Government Code section 77203, to set aside funds to be held on behalf of those courts in the Trial Court Trust Fund for specific projects. This subcommittee also reviews requests from trial courts related to Children's Waiting Room funding.
2. Funding Methodology Subcommittee – Ongoing review and refinement of the Workload Formula policy, evaluation of existing allocation methodologies and consideration of alternative allocation approaches for funding augmentations and reductions as needed based on the Workload Formula policy's core principles of funding equity, stability, and predictability to support trial court operations. Additionally, the subcommittee will develop methodologies for allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund Court Interpreters Program (0150037) as needed or in the event of funding shortfalls.
3. Revenue and Expenditure Subcommittee – Ongoing review of Trial Court Trust Fund and State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund allocations supporting trial court projects and programs, as well as any cash flow issues affecting the trial courts.

¹ The Annual Agenda outlines the work an advisory body will focus on in the coming year or cycle and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and Judicial Council staff resources.

² For the definition of "subcommittee" see Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.30(c); for "working group," see rule 10.70.

Advisory Body and Subgroup Meetings Planned for 2027:

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

- January 2027 (Remote Meeting)
- March 2027 (Remote Meeting)
- May 2027 (In-Person)
- June 2027 (Remote Meeting)
- September 2027 (Remote Meeting)
- October 2027 (Remote Meeting)

Funding Methodology Subcommittee

- February 2027 (Remote Meeting)
- May 2027 (Remote Meeting)
- August 2027 (Remote Meeting)
- November 2027 (Remote Meeting)

Fiscal Planning Subcommittee

- October 2027 (Remote Meeting)

Revenue and Expenditure Subcommittee

- April 2027 (Remote Meeting)

☐

Check here if more than one in-person meeting is approved by the internal committee oversight chair.

II. COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Priority Levels and Branch Goals Key

Priority Levels for Non-Rules/Forms

- 1 – Must be done
- 2 – Should be done

Priority Levels for Rules/Forms Proposals

1a (Legal Compliance) – Proposal urgently needed to conform to or accurately reflect the law.

1b (Council Directive) – Council has directed the committee to consider new or amended rules and forms.

1c (Urgent Remedial Action) – Change is urgently needed to remedy a problem that is causing significant cost or inconvenience to the courts or the public.

1d (Financial/ Legal Risk Mitigation) – Proposal is otherwise urgent and necessary, such as a proposal that would mitigate exposure to immediate or severe financial or legal risk.

2a (Useful Changes in Law) – Useful, but not necessary, to implement changes in law.

2b (Responsive to Concerns) – Responsive to identified concerns or problems.

2c (Helpful Advancing Branch Goals) – Helpful in otherwise advancing Judicial Council goals and objectives

Judicial Branch Strategic Plan–Branch Goals

- I. [Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion](#)
- II. [Independence and Accountability](#)
- III. [Modernization of Management and Administration](#)
- IV. [Quality of Justice and Service to the Public](#)
- V. [Education for Branchwide Professional Excellence](#)
- VI. [Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence](#)
- VII. [Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch](#)

New or One-Time Projects

1. *Project Title:* New Judgeship Funding

Priority: 1

Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:

I. Access ☒	II. Independence ☐	III. Modernization ☐	IV. Quality ☐	V. Education ☐	VI. Infrastructure ☐	VII. Funding ☒
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Project Summary:

The FY 2026–27 budget includes \$99.9 million to begin funding 13 of the 26 judgeships authorized by Senate Bill 75 (Stats. 2023, ch. 482) over the next five fiscal years. This funding includes \$1.5 million for the operational costs associated with three judgeships beginning in the last quarter of the fiscal year, and \$98.4 million for facility construction and modifications to support the judgeships. The Funding Methodology Subcommittee will develop an allocation methodology for the \$1.3 million included in the Budget Act of 2026 for operational costs to support 13 trial court judgeships, which will be phased in over a five-year period.

The Funding Methodology Subcommittee recommendations will be considered by the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee and the Judicial Branch Budget Committee before being reviewed by the Judicial Council.

Status/Timeline: One-Time.

Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Budget Services staff.

☒ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.

Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.

AC Collaboration: Judicial Branch Budget Committee.

2. *Project Title:* Workload Formula Equity-Based Reallocation Policy Updates

Priority: 1

Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:

I. Access ☒	II. Independence ☐	III. Modernization ☐	IV. Quality ☐	V. Education ☐	VI. Infrastructure ☐	VII. Funding ☒
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Project Summary:

Evaluate the Workload Formula equity-based reallocation policy including technical refinement and clarification of the application of the existing methodology. The project is to clarify certain aspects of how the equity-based reallocation policy is interpreted and applied including, but not limited to, band penetration criteria and surplus reallocation funding. This clarification will improve transparency in budget planning and funding adjustments and help courts anticipate and prepare for changes in their allocations. The equity-based reallocation was implemented for the first time in FY 2025–26.

In October 2025, the Funding Methodology Subcommittee initiated work on this project which will continue throughout FY 2026–27. At the conclusion of the project, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee will consider recommendations for potential updates to the Workload Formula policy. This project aligns with the policy’s core principles of funding equity, stability, and predictability to support trial court operations.

Status/Timeline: One-Time.

Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Budget Services staff.

☒ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.

Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.

AC Collaboration: Judicial Branch Budget Committee

3. *Project Title: Court-Appointed Juvenile Dependency Counsel Funding*

Priority: 1

Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:

I. Access ☒	II. Independence ☐	III. Modernization ☐	IV. Quality ☐	V. Education ☐	VI. Infrastructure ☐	VII. Funding ☒
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Project Summary:

In September 2025, the Judicial Council directed the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee to add an additional item to the Funding Methodology Subcommittee’s work plan to consider a revised methodology to allocate \$186.7 million in funding for court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel to address unique challenges faced by the trial courts. Stakeholders have raised concerns that the existing methodology does not address the realities of current juvenile dependency practice. Trial courts have also noted concerns that the small court adjustment, which provides additional funding to smaller courts to help them meet minimum staffing and service standards despite having fewer cases, should be revisited to ensure it reflects current program needs. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee authorized a working group to review the current allocation methodology, held a regionally based external stakeholder engagement session, and is working towards finalizing recommendations to be presented to the Funding Methodology Subcommittee. The revised allocation methodology is intended to improve outcomes in the dependency system.

Status/Timeline: One-Time.

Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Budget Services staff.

☒ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.

Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.

AC Collaboration: Judicial Branch Budget Committee.

4. *Project Title:* Court Cluster System

Priority: 2

Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:

I. Access ☒	II. Independence ☐	III. Modernization ☐	IV. Quality ☐	V. Education ☐	VI. Infrastructure ☐	VII. Funding ☒
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Project Summary:

The statewide four-cluster system is determined by the number of authorized judicial positions and is used in the Resource Assessment Study to determine court workload. This project is to reevaluate the court cluster system and the impact of trial courts' placement in the Resource Assessment Study. In July 2023, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee approved updates to the Funding Methodology Subcommittee workplan, which referred the court cluster project to the Data Analytics Advisory Committee. This project is included in the Data Analytics Advisory Committee annual agenda for 2027.

Status/Timeline: One-Time.

Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Research, Analytics, and Data and Budget Services staff.

☒ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.

Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.

AC Collaboration: Data Analytics Advisory Committee and Judicial Branch Budget Committee.

5. Project Title: Evaluate the impact of the Bureau of Labor Statistics factor and Operating Expenses & Equipment on the Workload Formula calculation.

Priority: 2

Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:

I. Access ☒	II. Independence ☐	III. Modernization ☐	IV. Quality ☐	V. Education ☐	VI. Infrastructure ☐	VII. Funding ☒
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Project Summary:

The Funding Methodology Subcommittee is responsible for the ongoing review and refinement of the Workload Formula policy. As included in the Funding Methodology Subcommittee work plan for FY 2026–27, time is needed to evaluate the Bureau of Labor Statistics factor on the Workload Formula calculation. Additionally, the Funding Methodology Subcommittee will evaluate the application of operating expenses and equipment on the Workload Formula calculation. The review will assess whether factors appropriately reflect regional differences in the costs of goods and services across the state and whether current applications are still appropriate in the model.

Status/Timeline: One-Time.

Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Research, Analytics, and Data and Budget Services staff.

☒ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.

Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.

AC Collaboration: Data Analytics Advisory Committee and Judicial Branch Budget Committee.

Ongoing Projects and Activities

1. *Project Title:* Funding Adjustments for Annual Governor’s Budget, May Revision, and Enacted Budget

Priority: 1

Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:

I. Access ☒	II. Independence ☐	III. Modernization ☐	IV. Quality ☐	V. Education ☐	VI. Infrastructure ☐	VII. Funding ☒
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Project Summary:

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Judicial Council for funding adjustments included in the annual Governor’s Budget, May Revision, and enacted budget. The committee will address funding proposals that impact the trial courts and collaborate with Judicial Council program offices, other advisory committees, and stakeholders, to implement budget proposals as needed.

Status/Timeline: Ongoing.

Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Budget Services staff.

☒ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.

Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.

AC Collaboration: Judicial Branch Budget Committee.

2. *Project Title:* Workload Formula Policy and Allocations to Trial Courts

Priority: 1

Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:

I. Access ☒	II. Independence ☐	III. Modernization ☐	IV. Quality ☐	V. Education ☐	VI. Infrastructure ☐	VII. Funding ☒
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Project Summary:

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Judicial Council regarding annual allocations to the trial courts. For FY 2026–27, this included total allocations of \$3.2 billion (\$3.1 billion from the Trial Court Trust Fund and \$117.8 million General Fund) based on recommended methodologies and the Workload Formula policy. The allocations were approved by the council at its July 17, 2026, business meeting.

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee will continue to make recommendations to the council on the preparation, development, and implementation of the budget for the trial courts and provide input on policy issues affecting trial court funding. This will include an ongoing evaluation of existing allocation methodologies and consideration of alternative allocation approaches based on the Workload Formula policy’s goal of funding equity, stability, and predictability. The committee will continue to collaborate with other advisory committees including, but not limited to, the Court Executives Advisory Committee and the Data Analytics Advisory Committee on issues affecting the Workload Formula policy and trial court funding matters.

Status/Timeline: Ongoing.

Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Budget Services staff.

☒ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts

Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.

AC Collaboration: Judicial Branch Budget Committee.

3. Project Title: Workload Formula Policies Adjustment Request Process

Priority: 1

Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:

I. Access ☒	II. Independence ☐	III. Modernization ☐	IV. Quality ☐	V. Education ☐	VI. Infrastructure ☐	VII. Funding ☒
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Project Summary:

In August 2013, the Judicial Council approved the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee's recommendation to adopt the Workload Formula policy's adjustment request process to provide the trial courts with an annual opportunity to submit recommendations for changes to the policy as needed.

The January 2025 Workload Adjustment Review Process request from the Superior Court of Alameda County was referred to the Data Analytics Advisory Committee for evaluation due to potential implications for Resource Assessment Study assumptions. In September 2026, the Data Analytics Advisory Committee completed its review of Alameda's request and recommended that the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee consider a supplemental Resource Assessment Study calculation to account for staffing needs associated with authorized judgeships. This item remains as an ongoing project pending the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee's review.

The most recent requests were received in January 2026 from the Superior Court of San Francisco County and the Superior Court of Sacramento County. The request from the Superior Court of Sacramento County was referred to Data Analytics Advisory Committee for review due to potential implications for Resource Assessment Study assumptions. Data Analytics Advisory Committee completed its review and concluded that the proposal did not warrant changes to the Resource Assessment Study model, and the item was closed in July 2026.

The requests from the Superior Court of San Francisco County were referred to the Funding Methodology Subcommittee for evaluation. In September 2026, the Funding Methodology Subcommittee determined that neither request should move forward for further consideration, and both items are now closed.

Status/Timeline: Ongoing

Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Budget Services.

☒ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.

Internal/External Stakeholders: External stakeholders include the trial courts.

AC Collaboration: Data Analytics Advisory Committee and Judicial Branch Budget Committee.

III. LIST OF 2026 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Project Highlights and Achievements

1. **Workload Formula, State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund, and Trial Court Trust Fund Allocations**

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee made recommendations to the Judicial Council that included State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund and Trial Court Trust Fund allocations for FY 2026–27 to support trial court programs and operations. On July 17, 2026, the Judicial Council approved allocations totaling \$47.8 million from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund and an allocation of \$3.2 billion, which includes \$3.1 billion from the Trial Court Trust Fund, \$117.8 million from the General Fund, and an ongoing \$55 million General Fund reduction to the trial courts' operational funding due to the state's fiscal deficit.

2. **Pretrial Release Program Augmentation**

Beginning in FY 2021–22, the budget included funding to support court programs and practices that promote the safe, efficient, fair, and timely pretrial release of individuals booked into jail. In FY 2025–26, the Judicial Council directed staff to assess court funding needs through a statewide survey. The survey identified one court returning funding and multiple courts requesting additional resources, citing reductions in state and local pretrial funding, including decreased probation services, electronic monitoring, and program support. The Judicial Council approved the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee's recommended reallocation methodology to maximize the use of available funding and support courts with demonstrated operational needs.

The Budget Act of 2026 originally allocated \$48.9 million to the Pretrial Release and approved by the Judicial Council in July 2026. In August 2026, the Judicial Council approved recommendations from the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee regarding augmentation of \$20 million for FY 2026–27 via Circulating Order Number CO-26-02, to fully restored the program allocation to \$68.9 million.. These actions helped preserve access to critical pretrial services and supported the continued operation of local pretrial release programs throughout the state.

3. **Approved Revised Allocations for the Implementation of Proposition 36**

The Budget Act of 2025 included an initial \$20 million one-time General Fund, of which \$19 million was allocated for the courts to begin implementation activities. The Budget Act of 2026 included an additional \$10 million one-time General Fund to support the increased workload for Proposition 36 and expand or establish collaborative courts. Of this amount, \$9.5 million will be distributed to the trial courts and \$500,000 is for the Judicial Council's administrative costs. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommended the approval of the FY 2026–27 allocations to support implementation of Proposition 36 based on 50 percent non-traffic misdemeanor and felony filings and 50 percent Proposition 36 survey data. This recommendation will be considered by the Judicial Council at its business meeting on December 11, 2026.

4. **Approved Involuntary Medication Orders (Senate Bill 820) Allocations and Allocation Methodology for Fiscal Year 2026–27**

The Budget Act of 2026 included \$4.3 million General Fund annually for four years, beginning FY 2026–27 through FY 2029–30, for the trial courts to implement the new responsibilities and workload required by SB 820. SB 820 creates an alternative process to allow involuntary medication of individuals who are confined in the county jail and have been found incompetent to stand trial after being

charged with a misdemeanor. The bill allows involuntary medication in an emergency situation, as defined, or where a court has found a defendant to be gravely disabled and without capacity to refuse treatment with psychiatric medication.

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee approved the Funding Methodology Subcommittee allocation methodology recommendation where sixty percent of the funding is allocated based on each trial court's incompetent to stand trial filing data and forty percent of the funding is allocated based on each trial court's non-traffic misdemeanor filings. The recommendation was approved by the Judicial Council at its business meeting on October 16, 2026.

5. Workload Formula Policy Base Funding Floor Adjustment

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee approved the Funding Methodology Subcommittee's recommended change to the application of the Workload Formula policy's base funding floor adjustment when calculating annual allocations for the two funding floor courts by treating the base funding floor amount as a minimum floor. This will allow the floor courts to retain their full Workload Formula allocation calculated in years where that exceeds the floor, to ensure they have sufficient resources to meet essential operational needs and maintain minimum staffing levels. The recommended methodology was approved by the Judicial Council at its October 16, 2026, business meeting.

6. Approved Court-Appointed Juvenile Dependency Counsel Allocations for Fiscal Year 2026–27

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommended the approval of revised allocations for court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel funding for fiscal year (FY) 2026–27, considering court spending plans to ensure the funding is maximized to serve children and families in dependency proceedings. In May 2026, council staff conducted the court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel spending plan survey. Fifty-four courts responded to the survey. Of those courts, 52 indicated that they would fully expend their proposed allocation, and 37 of those courts requested additional funding, if available. Two courts reported that they would not fully expend their proposed allocations, making a total of \$520,000 available for allocation to other courts.

Council staff recommend allocating funds identified through the spending plan survey first to small courts impacted by funding reductions to help them adjust to FY 2026–27 reductions. Any remaining funding was allocated to large courts to offset reductions to their funding for the small court adjustments. Based on this methodology, of the reallocated \$520,000, \$185,561 went to small courts and \$334,439 went to large courts.

7. Closed Workload Adjustment Review Process Requests

Three Workload Adjustment Review Process requests were closed in 2026.

The 2025 Workload Adjustment Review Process request from the Superior Court of Stanislaus County was referred to the Data Analytics Advisory Committee for evaluation. The Data Analytics Advisory Committee concluded that the proposal did not warrant changes to the existing methodology, and the item was closed in January 2026.

Finally, two Workload Adjustment Review Process requests from Superior Court of San Francisco County received in 2026 were referred to the Funding Methodology Subcommittee for evaluation. In September 2026, the Funding Methodology Subcommittee determined that neither request should move forward for further consideration, and both items are now closed.

8. Court Interpreter Funding Augmentation and Reallocation

In January 2023, the Judicial Council approved recommendations from the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee to address funding shortfalls in the Court Interpreters Program through Trial Court Trust Fund restricted fund balance designated to the Court Interpreters Program. Shortages would first be covered by savings from courts with unspent funding up to the appropriation amount in the budget, and then Court Interpreters Program fund balance, if available, would be used. In FY 2025–26, the council approved an augmentation of \$19.1 million from the Trial Court Trust Fund to support interpreter services.