

# CA Judicial System



## Fact Sheet

*The impact of state budget cuts  
and how they threaten justice.*

### Background

The Legislature recently approved \$350 million in reductions to the Judicial Branch in the ***Budget Act of 2011***.

- Of these reductions, the Legislature scheduled \$200 million on a pro-rata basis throughout the branch, and \$150 million to trial court operations only, though it includes language that authorizes the Judicial Council to allocate and offset the reduction to areas in the branch.

The Judicial Council approved a budget plan for FY 2011-2012 that makes the following reductions:

- 6.8% of funding for California's 58 trial courts
- 9.7% of funding for the state Supreme Court and the six Courts of Appeal
- 12% of funding for the Judicial Council and the Administrative Office of the Courts
- ...a reduction of more than 15% across the board can be expected for FY 2012-2013... California's trial courts are burdened with the biggest cut at over \$135 million, which means...

### Impact of the cuts

- Our access to justice is significantly reduced.
- Hundreds of workers responsible for running our justice system will face pay cuts, furloughs, and layoffs.
- Dozens of courthouses and courtrooms will be shut down.
- Hours of court operations will be reduced
- Wait times will increase, lines will get longer
- Self-help centers, community programs, and public outreach will be eliminated
- Courts must meet statutory time requirements for criminal cases, but specialty courts such as Drug Court, Homeless Court and Veteran's Court may be eliminated.
- Processing of civil cases will be delayed; Traffic Court services will be delayed, and backlogs in processing traffic citations and payments will result.

Sources: Budget: Allocation of \$350 Million Ongoing Reduction to the Judicial Branch, from the Trial Court Budget Working Group, and FY 2011-12 and FY 2012-13 Trial Court Budget Reduction Impact Survey, Summary and Highlights of Responses.

# The FY 2011-2012 Budget Plan

Appropriation Item	Adjusted Operations Budget	Net FY 2011-2012 Reduction	Reduction as % of Adjusted Operations Budget
Supreme Court	\$26,063,706	-\$2,813,668	-9.7%
Courts of Appeal	\$128,970,191	-\$12,485,653	-9.7%
Judicial Council/AOC	\$112,276,000	-\$13,434,192	-12.0%
Judicial Branch Facility Program	\$1,183,000	-\$180,154	-15.2%
Trial Court Operations, Grant and Local Assistance Funding	\$2,013,025,334	-\$135,892,489	-6.8%
Habeas Corpus Resource Center	\$13,789,000	-\$1,649,899	-12.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,295,307,231</b>	<b>-\$166,456,056</b>	<b>-7.2%</b>



Appropriation Item	Computed Ongoing Reduction of \$200 Million	Computed Reduction of \$150 Million	Amount of \$180 Million One-Time Offset Available	\$124.2 Million One-Time Offset
Supreme Court	-\$2,529,140	-\$284,528	\$0	\$0
Courts of Appeal	-\$11,223,059	-\$1,262,594	\$0	\$0
Judicial Council/AOC	-\$9,770,321	-\$3,663,870	\$0	\$0
Judicial Branch Facility Program	-\$102,945	-\$77,209	\$0	\$0
Trial Court Operations, Grant and Local Assistance Funding	-\$175,174,607	-\$144,261,826	\$59,304,944	\$124,239,000
Habeas Corpus Resource Center	-\$1,199,927	-\$449,972	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>-\$200,000,000</b>	<b>-\$150,000,000</b>	<b>\$59,304,944</b>	<b>\$124,239,000</b>



Source: Recommended Spread of \$350 Million Reduction to Judicial Branch, from the Trial Court Budget Working Group, adopted by the Judicial Council on July 22, 2011.