



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 26-062

For business meeting on February 20, 2026

Title

Judicial Council: Judicial Branch Budget
Committee Report

Report Type

Information

Submitted by

Judicial Branch Budget Committee
Hon. Ann C. Moorman, Chair

Date of Report

February 11, 2026

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Executive Summary

The Judicial Branch Budget Committee assists the Judicial Council on the branch budget. The committee reviews submitted budget change concepts for potential adoption as formal budget change proposals and makes recommendations annually to the council. Additionally, the committee reviews and makes recommendations on the use of statewide emergency funding for the judicial branch and acts on other assignments as referred by the council. The Judicial Branch Budget Committee has oversight responsibility for the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee. This report summarizes the committee's activities since the last Judicial Council written report, which was submitted for the Judicial Council's business meeting on December 12, 2025.

Overview of Committee Meetings

The Judicial Branch Budget Committee met on one occasion between the Judicial Council meetings on December 12, 2025, and February 20, 2026.

On February 19, 2026, the committee considered (1) a one-year suspension of the Judicial Council's trial court minimum operating and emergency fund balance requirements to evaluate potential changes to the policy, (2) midyear reallocations of unspent funding for the Court Interpreters Program and the Pretrial Release Program for fiscal year 2025–26, (3) allocations for the Dependency Counsel Collections Program and the reallocation of unspent funding for court-

appointed juvenile dependency counsel for fiscal year 2025–26, and (4) judicial branch budget change concepts for fiscal year 2027–28. The committee also heard an informational presentation regarding the Governor’s Budget proposal for fiscal year 2026–27.