

## Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688  
[courts.ca.gov](http://courts.ca.gov)

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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

*Item No.: 26-026*

For business meeting on February 20, 2026

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**Title**

Trial Courts: Public Notice of Court Closures  
or Reduced Clerk's Office Hours

**Report Type**

Information

**Submitted by**

Michelle Curran, Administrative Director  
Judicial Council

**Date of Report**

January 26, 2026

**Contact**

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[Jonathan.Sibayan@jud.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Sibayan@jud.ca.gov)

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### Executive Summary

Government Code section 68106 directs trial courts to notify the public and the Judicial Council before closing courtrooms or clerks' offices or reducing clerks' regular office hours and the council to post all such notices on its website and relay them to the Legislature. This report lists the latest court notices received by the council under this statutory requirement. Since the previous report, one superior court—the Superior Court of Santa Barbara County—has issued a new notice.

### Relevant Previous Reporting or Action

Since the enactment of section 68106, 73 notices have been issued by courts under its requirements. The Judicial Council has posted such notices as they have been received.

### Analysis/Rationale

**Mandate in Government Code section 68106**

In providing fee increases and fund transfers for the courts in the judiciary budget trailer bill in 2010 (Sen. Bill 857; Stats. 2010, ch. 720), the Legislature expressly declared its intention that trial courts remain open to the public on all days that are not judicial holidays and that access to court services for civil litigants be preserved to the extent practicable. Statements in Government Code section 68106 (see Link A) affirmed this intent, and the 2012 amendment of the statute strengthened it.

Section 68106 imposes the following requirements on trial courts and the Judicial Council:

- Trial courts must provide written notice to the public at least 60 days before closing any courtroom or clerk’s office or reducing clerks’ office hours,<sup>1</sup> although “[n]othing in this section is intended to affect, limit, or otherwise interfere with regular court management decision making, including calendar management and scheduling decisions.”<sup>2</sup>
- The trial court is to provide this notice “by conspicuous posting within or about its facilities, on its public Internet Web site, and by electronic distribution to individuals who have subscribed to the court’s electronic distribution service, and to the Judicial Council.”<sup>3</sup>
- The notice must describe the scope of the closure or reduction in hours, state the financial constraints or other reasons that make the closure or reduction necessary, and invite public comment.<sup>4</sup> Courts are expressly not obligated to respond to comments received.<sup>5</sup>
- If a court changes its plan “as a result of the comments received or for any other reason” during the 60-day notice period, it must “immediately provide notice to the public by posting [and distributing] a revised notice” using the procedure previously described, including distribution to the council. The change in plan does not require notification beyond the original 60-day period.<sup>6</sup>
- The Judicial Council must, within 15 days of receiving a notice from a trial court, “conspicuously” post the notice “on its Internet Web site” and forward a copy to the chairs and vice-chairs of both the Senate and Assembly Committees on the Judiciary, the chair of the Assembly Committee on Budget, and the chair of the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review.<sup>7</sup>

### **Notices received from courts since last report**

The Judicial Council has received one new notice (see Attachment A) since the last section 68106 report was presented to the council in October 2025.

The Superior Court of Santa Barbara County provided notice that due to ongoing funding reductions imposed last year and increased financial constraints, it will reduce phone hours from

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<sup>1</sup> Gov. Code, § 68106(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*, § 68106(c).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*, § 68106(b)(1).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*, § 68106(b)(1) & (2)(A).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*, § 68106(b)(2)(B).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*, § 68106(b)(2)(A).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*, § 68106(b)(3).

8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from December 22, 2025, through January 2, 2026, at the clerk's office locations listed below.

- Santa Maria Court Campus, 312 East Cook Street, Santa Maria
- Anacapa Division, 1100 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara
- Figueroa Division, 118 East Figueroa Street, Santa Barbara
- Juvenile Court, 4285-B California Boulevard, Santa Maria
- Lompoc Division, 114 Civic Center Plaza, Lompoc

The notice detailed above has been added to the "Reduced Court Services" webpage ([courts.ca.gov/courts/superior-courts/reduced-court-services](https://courts.ca.gov/courts/superior-courts/reduced-court-services)) of the California Courts website. The webpage contains a summary of section 68106 and all notices received from trial courts about closures of courtrooms or clerks' offices or reductions in clerks' office hours. Judicial Council staff have also forwarded the notices from these courts to the designated legislative leaders.

### **Fiscal Impact and Policy Implications**

Posting the notice to the California Courts website fulfills a legislative mandate and has no fiscal impact or policy implications.

### **Attachments and Links**

1. Attachment A: Notice from the Superior Court of Santa Barbara County, October 27, 2025
2. Link A: Gov. Code, § 68106, [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&sectionNum=68106](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&sectionNum=68106)



October 27, 2025

Ms. Michelle Curran  
Administrative Director of the Courts  
Judicial Council of California  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102

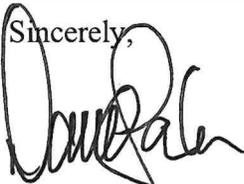
Re: Notice of Reduction in Clerk's Office Hours

Dear Ms. Curran:

Due to funding reductions and increased operating costs, the Santa Barbara Superior Court must reduce its clerk's office and public phone access hours from December 22, 2025, through January 2, 2026. Public, in person transactions will be accommodated from 8:00 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. each day the court is open. Phone access will be limited to the hours of 9:00 a.m. till 12:30 p.m. Electronic filing and drop boxes are available at each of the court's locations.

Pursuant to Government Code § 68106, the court has solicited for public comment in writing regarding the court's plan to reduce operating hours of the clerk's offices.

A copy of the public notice is attached.

Sincerely,  


Darrel E. Parker  
Court Executive Officer | Clerk of the Court | Jury Commissioner  
Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara

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**Darrel E. Parker**

*Court Executive Officer / Clerk of the Court / Jury Commissioner*



Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Reduced Hours of Operation – Clerk’s Offices**  
**PERIOD OF SEASONAL LEAVE**

**DECEMBER 22, 2025 – JANUARY 2, 2026**

**PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 68106**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 24, 2025

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### **NOTICE OF REDUCED CLERK’S OFFICE HOURS**

The Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara, will reduce phone hours to 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the public access operating hours to 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. of the Clerk’s Offices located at:

Santa Maria Court Campus  
312 East Cook Street  
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Anacapa Division  
1100 Anacapa Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Figueroa Division  
118 East Figueroa Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Juvenile Court  
4285-B California Blvd.  
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Lompoc Division  
115 Civic Center Plaza  
Lompoc, CA 93436

The Court has taken this action due to ongoing funding reductions imposed last year and the increased financial constraints which compel the court to reduce available labor to provide public access. The partial funding restoration in fiscal year 2024/2025 does not make it fiscally feasible to keep the Santa Barbara Court operating at optimal hours of operation.

Comments regarding these reductions in service should be directed to:

Darrel E. Parker,  
Court Executive Officer  
1100 Anacapa Street,  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Additionally, you may submit comments via e-mail at [CtAdmin@sbcourts.org](mailto:CtAdmin@sbcourts.org)

This notice has been posted on the Court’s website at [www.santabarbara.courts.org](http://www.santabarbara.courts.org)