



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 25-182

For business meeting on December 12, 2025

Title

Allocations and Reimbursements to Trial
Courts: Fiscal Year 2025–26 Increased
Transcript Rate Allocations

Report Type

Action Required

Effective Date

December 12, 2025

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Date of Report

November 25, 2025

Recommended by

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Chair
Ms. Rebecca Fleming, Vice-Chair

Contact

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Executive Summary

Senate Bill 170 (Stats. 2021, ch. 240), which amended the Budget Act of 2021, included \$7 million ongoing General Fund for the Judicial Council to establish a methodology to allocate the funding to all trial courts to cover the costs associated with increased transcript rates. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends approving a proportional allocation based on the current council-approved methodology of the ongoing \$7 million to all trial courts to cover the costs associated with increased transcript rates for fiscal year 2025–26.

Recommendation

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council approve the \$7 million allocation to each trial court as outlined in Attachment A.

Relevant Previous Council Action

The Judicial Council approved the allocation methodology for the first year of this new funding in fiscal year (FY) 2021–22 at its business meeting on January 21, 2022, and directed Judicial Council staff to update the allocation methodology used for this ongoing funding based on the

most recent data available each year thereafter.¹ The Judicial Council subsequently approved the \$7 million allocations to all trial courts to cover the costs associated with increased transcript rates based on the same allocation methodology but with updated data for the following fiscal years at the following Judicial Council business meetings:

- FY 2022–23 on September 20, 2022²
- FY 2023–24 on November 17, 2023³
- FY 2024–25 on November 15, 2024⁴

This recommendation was presented to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee on November 13, 2025, and approved for consideration by the Judicial Council.⁵

Analysis/Rationale

Government Code section 69950 establishes the compensation rates for court reporters based on transcript length. 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, appropriated \$7 million ongoing General Fund to develop a methodology for distributing funds to trial courts to cover the increased costs associated with the higher transcript rates.

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

¹ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Allocations and Reimbursements to Trial Courts: SB 170 Funding for Increased Transcript Rates* (Dec. 15, 2021), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=10358387&GUID=E6D8CA62-BC80-449F-B7AC-25FF2F4F1AB3.

² Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Allocations and Reimbursements to Trial Courts: Funding for Court Reporters in Family Law and Civil Law Case Types* (Sept. 2, 2022), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11205576&GUID=7EDFF9FC-1FBB-45CA-A12A-87B3F8D9F2C0.

³ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Allocations and Reimbursements to Trial Courts: Funding for Increased Transcript Rates* (Oct. 27, 2023), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12400805&GUID=4543A122-6552-4314-BB70-9BD94837767E.

⁴ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Allocations and Reimbursements to Trial Courts: Funding for Increased Transcript Rates* (Oct. 22, 2024), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=13392742&GUID=320ECBAD-9ACA-4E8F-9FAA-06D0254BB47E.

⁵ Judicial Council of Cal., Staff Rep., *Increased Transcript Rate Allocations for Fiscal Year 2025–26* (Nov. 13, 2025), courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/jbbc-20251113-materials.pdf.

December 7, 2021.⁶ The Judicial Council approved the allocation methodology at its business meeting on January 21, 2022, and directed Judicial Council staff to update the allocation methodology used for this ongoing funding based on the most recent data available.⁷

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 budget language, the methodology includes:

- Averaging actual transcript expenditures by court for the last three fiscal years (i.e., 2022–23, 2023–24, and 2024–25);
- Applying a proportional allocation of the \$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.

The three-year average is updated each year based on the most recent data available for actual expenditures for court reporter transcripts, which is consistent with other workload methodologies for other funding sources. Details of the allocations by court are included as Attachment A.

Annual reconciliation process

Because this funding is intended solely to cover the costs associated with increased transcript rates, any unspent funds revert to the General Fund each fiscal year. Each court’s actual expenditures 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 current fiscal year, a true-up process will occur at the end of each fiscal year to pull back any remaining funds. An example of this process, including the adjustments for FY 2025–26, is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Annual Reversion Calculation for FY 2025–26

Court	FY 2020–21 (Baseline)	Actual Expenditures			3-Year Average	FY 2025–26 Allocation From \$7M	FY 2025–26 Expenditures	General Fund Reversion
		FY 2022–23	FY 2023–24	FY 2024–25				
A	\$85,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$110,000	\$100,000	\$43,260	\$120,000	\$8,260

⁶ Judicial Council of Cal., Staff Rep., *SB 170 Ongoing \$7 Million Increased Transcript Rate Funding Allocation Methodology* (Nov. 18, 2021), courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/tcbac-20211130-materials.pdf; Judicial Council of Cal., Staff Rep., *SB 170 Ongoing \$7 Million Increased Transcript Rate Funding Allocation Methodology* (Nov. 30, 2021), courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/jbbc-20211207-materials.pdf.

⁷ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Allocations and Reimbursements to Trial Courts: SB 170 Funding for Increased Transcript Rates* (Dec. 15, 2021), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=10358387&GUID=E6D8CA62-BC80-449F-B7AC-25FF2F4F1AB3.

In the example in Table 1, Court A will receive an allocation of \$43,260 from the FY 2025–26 court reporter transcript appropriation based on the existing methodology. At year-end, the court’s actual expenditures for FY 2025–26 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 2025–26 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.

Policy Implications

No policy implications are associated with this report.

Comments

Public comments were not solicited for this proposal because the recommendation is within the Judicial Council’s purview to approve without circulation.

Alternatives considered

The recommended allocations are based on the methodology approved by the council in January 2022. The TCBAC approved updating the data used in the methodology.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

The recommended allocation methodology would provide courts with the funds needed to cover the costs associated with increased transcript rates, as intended by the budget language.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: *Transcript Funding: Recommended FY 2025–26 Allocations*

Transcript Funding: Recommended FY 2025–26 Allocations

Court	Baseline * FY 2020–21	Actual Expenditures on Court Reporter Transcripts				Proportion of Average Expenditures (%)	Proportional Allocation of \$7M
		FY 2022–23	FY 2023–24	FY 2024–25	Average		
Statewide	\$12,739,717	\$22,616,137	\$23,695,109	\$25,246,096	\$23,852,447	100	\$7,000,000
Alameda	\$316,575.08	\$551,194.52	\$503,352.62	\$452,022.99	\$502,190.04	2.11	\$147,378.18
Alpine	139.20	164.69	141.24	335.07	213.67	0.00	62.70
Amador	18320.64	31429.90	29887.69	16551.88	25956.49	0.11	7,617.48
Butte	97893.56	93852.23	111183.44	99163.25	101399.64	0.43	29,757.85
Calaveras	26846.07	32234.06	14406.12	45486.57	30708.92	0.13	9,012.17
Colusa	8007.57	8962.50	15936.70	9843.18	11580.79	0.05	3,398.63
Contra Costa	405960.66	627383.89	641016.62	567464.66	611955.06	2.57	179,591.02
Del Norte	53390.84	33493.56	34220.60	31718.91	33144.36	0.14	9,726.91
El Dorado	49904.40	109159.31	90782.81	100219.55	100053.89	0.42	29,362.91
Fresno	431682.90	675194.77	664452.92	740352.11	693333.27	2.91	203,473.16
Glenn	7650.33	4636.63	14282.06	7714.89	8877.86	0.04	2,605.39
Humboldt	7435.39	4693.25	4527.74	5077.08	4766.02	0.02	1,398.69
Imperial	23298.05	35250.70	41292.15	59191.94	45244.93	0.19	13,278.07
Inyo	10357.10	29840.67	12613.87	20673.30	21042.61	0.09	6,175.40
Kern	709145.12	1038790.88	1016538.97	1003014.80	1019448.22	4.27	299,178.42
Kings	275881.52	384796.57	360009.24	279145.50	341317.10	1.43	100,166.65
Lake	32335.95	62401.66	70559.26	69381.79	67447.57	0.28	19,793.90
Lassen	30822.35	52085.09	32865.86	51604.40	45518.45	0.19	13,358.34
Los Angeles	3433512.76	7314384.71	7621806.47	7882745.65	7606312.28	31.89	2,232,231.58
Madera	83122.68	164173.71	131650.42	97177.11	131000.41	0.55	38,444.81
Marin	45711.35	101810.67	115781.79	87034.20	101542.22	0.43	29,799.69
Mariposa	4709.35	23790.30	10630.50	11188.27	15203.02	0.06	4,461.65
Mendocino	134226.15	136446.08	145339.87	154230.46	145338.80	0.61	42,652.71
Merced	156237.40	212591.19	159871.18	153581.20	175347.86	0.74	51,459.50
Modoc	7154.80	4142.25	8534.07	12567.48	8414.60	0.04	2,469.44
Mono	2805.75	6889.76	12007.44	3089.16	7328.79	0.03	2,150.79
Monterey	127556.45	180728.67	202571.33	232090.74	205130.25	0.86	60,199.77
Napa	90805.57	143355.68	126090.16	106343.61	125263.15	0.53	36,761.09
Nevada	23785.51	51186.78	69668.91	59369.10	60074.93	0.25	17,630.25
Orange	982450.73	1664727.05	2041287.39	2188912.63	1964975.69	8.24	576,663.26
Placer	148518.21	289885.16	338621.00	362938.52	330481.56	1.39	96,986.73
Plumas	2103.83	3646.08	7654.59	11107.04	7469.24	0.03	2,192.00
Riverside	11186.15	17280.58	21905.57	24815.05	21333.73	0.09	6,260.83
Sacramento	623901.57	1147043.45	1365936.27	1517322.39	1343434.04	5.63	394,258.84
San Benito	3765.81	14587.46	16219.36	11952.26	14253.03	0.06	4,182.85
San Bernardino	636886.38	1126530.31	1239640.68	1300451.22	1222207.40	5.12	358,682.35
San Diego	501180.75	1339811.09	1619341.04	1758132.34	1572428.16	6.59	461,461.96
San Francisco	300913.53	463844.20	683833.72	754970.00	634215.97	2.66	186,123.96
San Joaquin	349811.40	429188.32	391653.40	465572.03	428804.58	1.80	125,841.68
San Luis Obispo	135605.83	237865.67	233586.90	220403.51	230618.69	0.97	67,679.88
San Mateo	280960.99	453090.98	352784.89	419130.15	408335.34	1.71	119,834.55
Santa Barbara	134407.98	418522.75	216414.43	269186.22	301374.47	1.26	88,444.65
Santa Clara	497742.88	657971.51	619863.69	693031.08	656955.43	2.75	192,797.32
Santa Cruz	100254.92	142959.21	120674.01	162999.98	142211.07	0.60	41,734.81
Shasta	88542.58	184845.25	143991.52	321480.72	216772.50	0.91	63,616.43
Sierra	698.10	856.26	4255.28	6053.73	3721.76	0.02	1,092.23
Siskiyou	31755.06	48526.21	47198.64	70468.38	55397.74	0.23	16,257.63

Transcript Funding: Recommended FY 2025–26 Allocations

Court	Baseline * FY 2020–21	Actual Expenditures on Court Reporter Transcripts				Proportion of Average Expenditures (%)	Proportional Allocation of \$7M
		FY 2022–23	FY 2023–24	FY 2024–25	Average		
Statewide	\$12,739,717	\$22,616,137	\$23,695,109	\$25,246,096	\$23,852,447	100	\$7,000,000
Solano	159262.13	268888.06	311807.61	297882.49	292859.39	1.23	85,945.72
Sonoma	118224.22	201893.11	179551.45	187194.21	189546.26	0.79	55,626.32
Stanislaus	239016.29	253288.36	289909.07	387674.65	310290.69	1.30	91,061.30
Sutter	36528.42	22578.15	26776.87	41349.38	30234.80	0.13	8,873.04
Tehama	13000.01	35540.78	18294.10	50314.57	34716.48	0.15	10,188.28
Trinity	7874.70	5500.05	4835.20	3974.64	4769.96	0.02	1,399.85
Tulare	298604.18	383719.73	382105.33	495772.22	420532.43	1.76	123,414.04
Tuolumne	90623.59	61691.77	76425.66	105205.06	81107.50	0.34	23,802.69
Ventura	168224.17	306031.45	367551.66	410332.11	361305.07	1.51	106,032.54
Yolo	138545.20	266251.08	256306.22	299862.14	274139.81	1.15	80,452.07
Yuba	23853.10	54508.58	54660.99	49228.03	52799.20	0.22	15,495.03