



# Superior Court of Placer County

JUDICIAL COUNCIL LIAISON VISIT – APRIL 18-19, 2017

PRESENTED TO JUDICIAL COUNCIL ON MAY 19, 2017 BY JUSTICE MARSHA SLOUGH

# Superior Court of Placer County Finding Ways to Help – Creatively, Collaboratively, and Collegially

Always focus on:



Whenever possible:



Sometimes it takes:

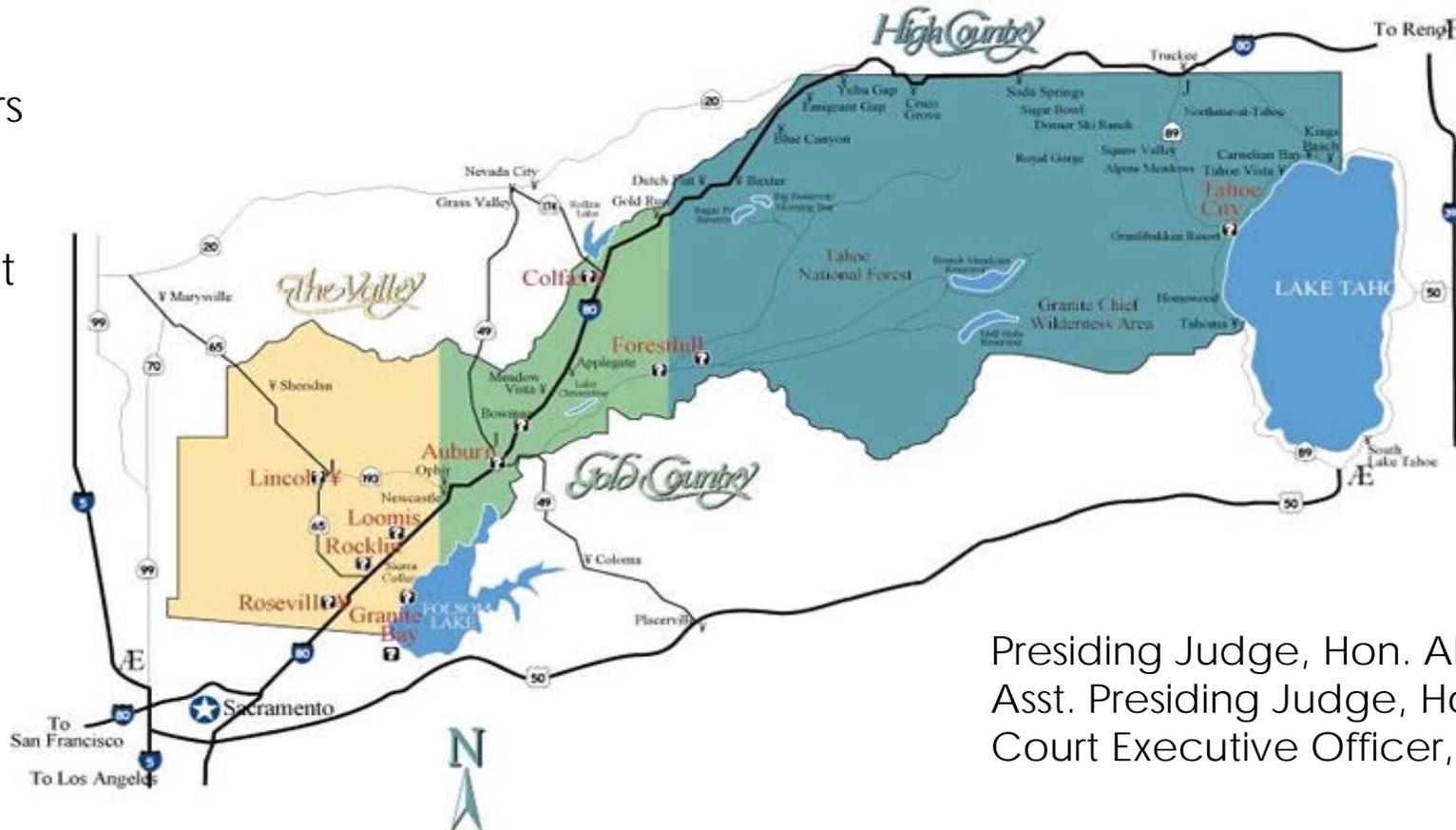


# Placer County

The Valley, The Gold Country, and the High Country

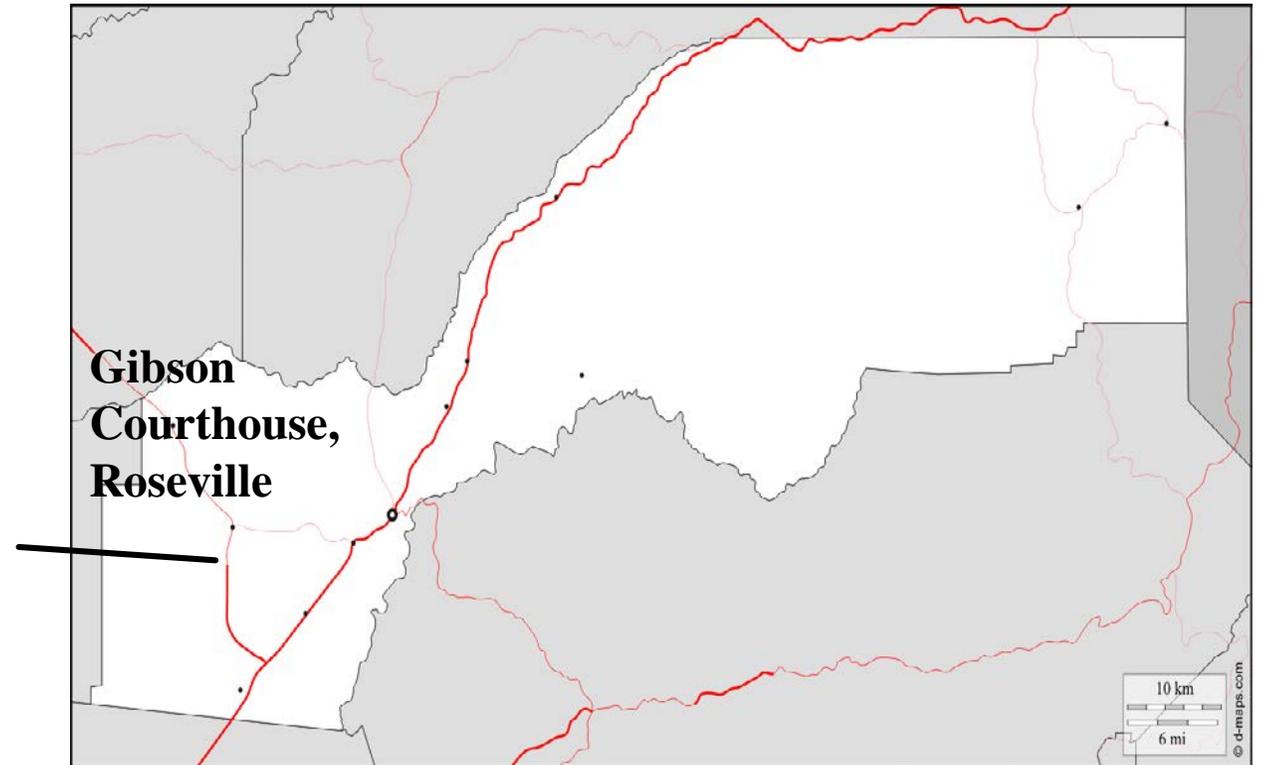
10 Judges  
4 Commissioners  
116 Staff

FY 16/17 Budget  
\$21.6 million

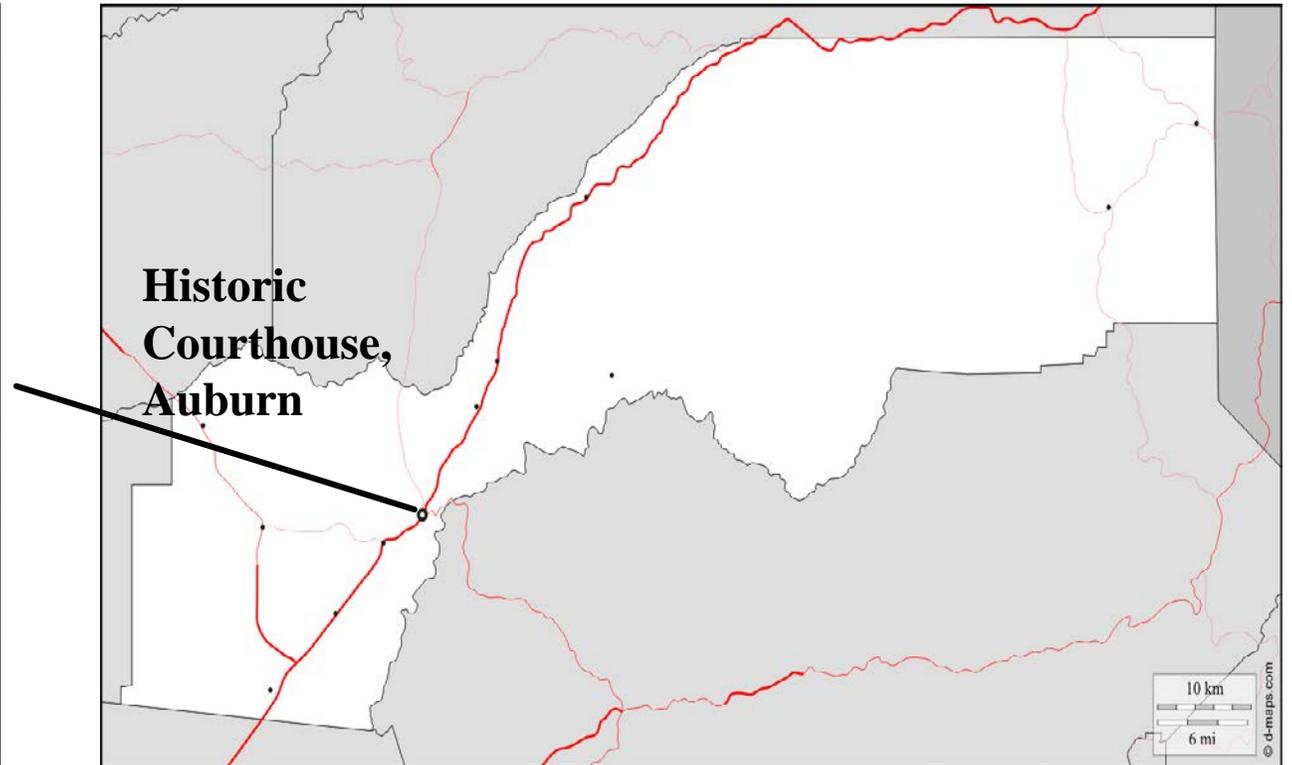


Presiding Judge, Hon. Alan V. Pineschi  
Asst. Presiding Judge, Hon. Charles D. Wachob  
Court Executive Officer, Jake Chatters

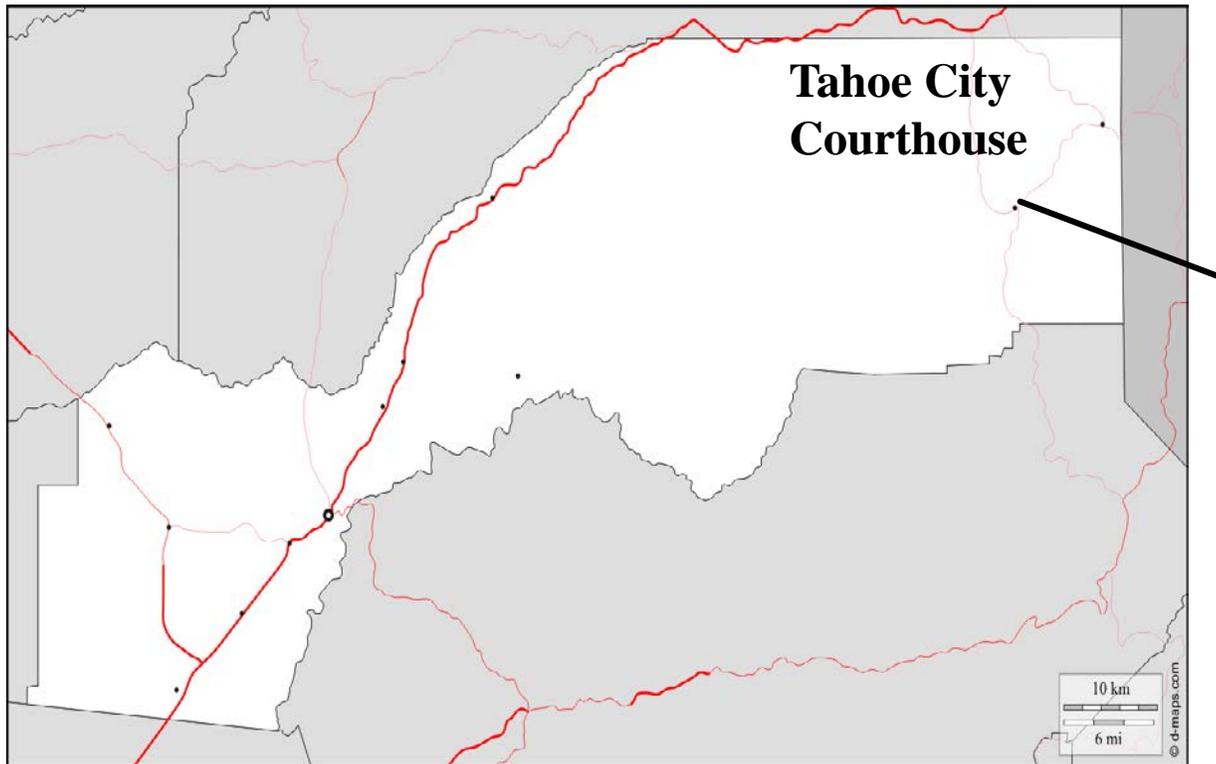
# Focus on Modernity & Digital Access Needs of High Suburban Population



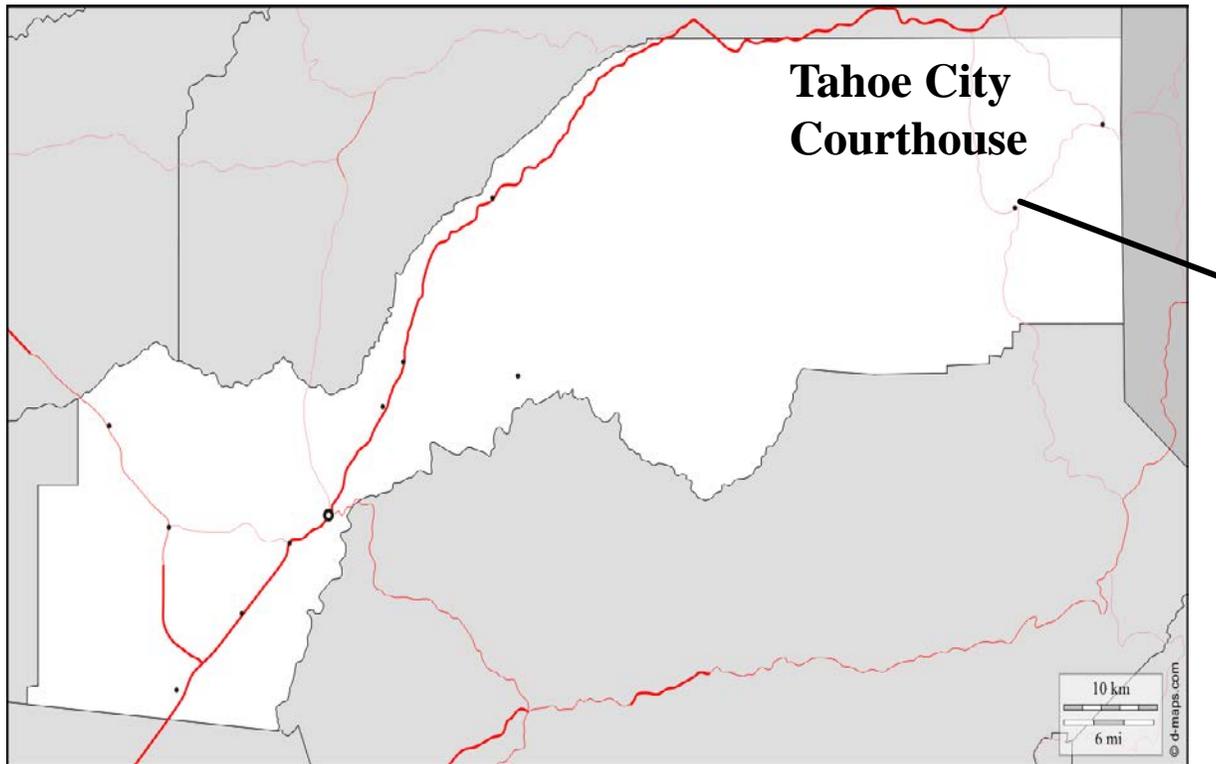
# Maintaining History and Connection “Small Town” Neighborly Culture



# Supporting Rural Communities Find a Way By Using What We Have

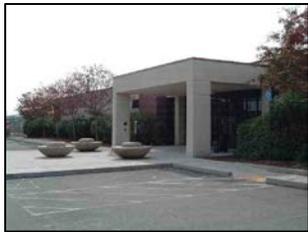


# Supporting Rural Communities Find a Way By Using What We Have



# Superior Court of Placer County

A little of everything –  
the modern, historic, and rural



**Juvenile Court**



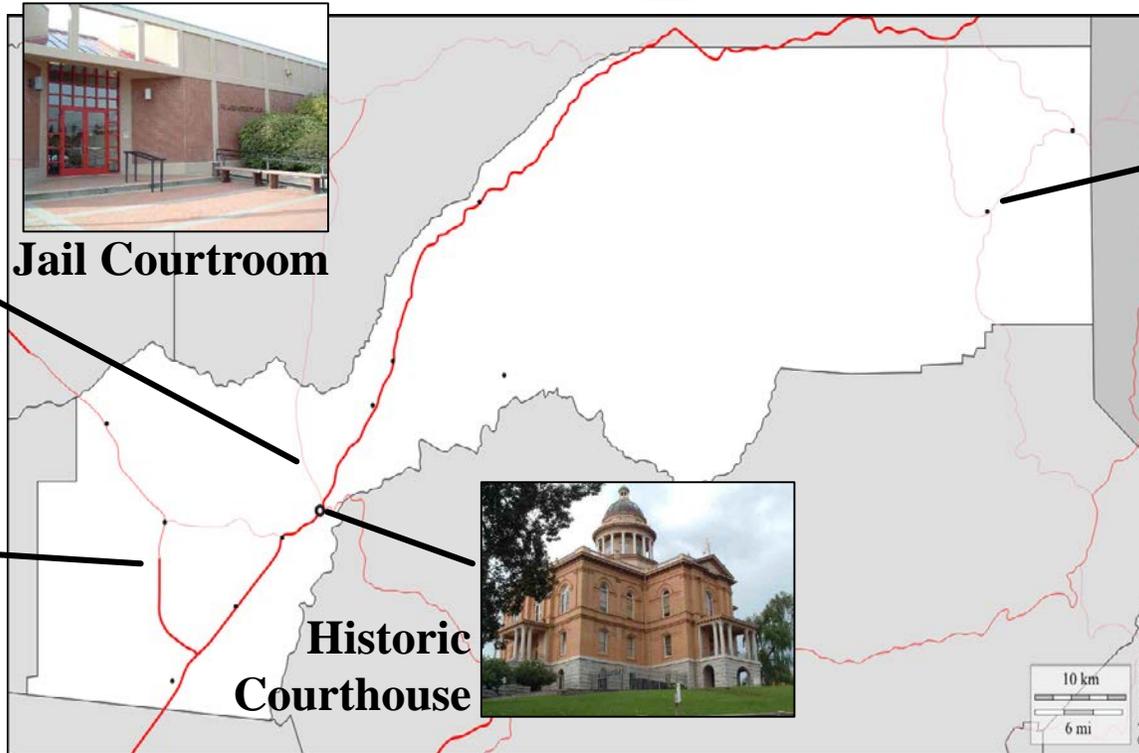
**Jail Courtroom**



**Tahoe City  
Courthouse**



**Gibson Courthouse**



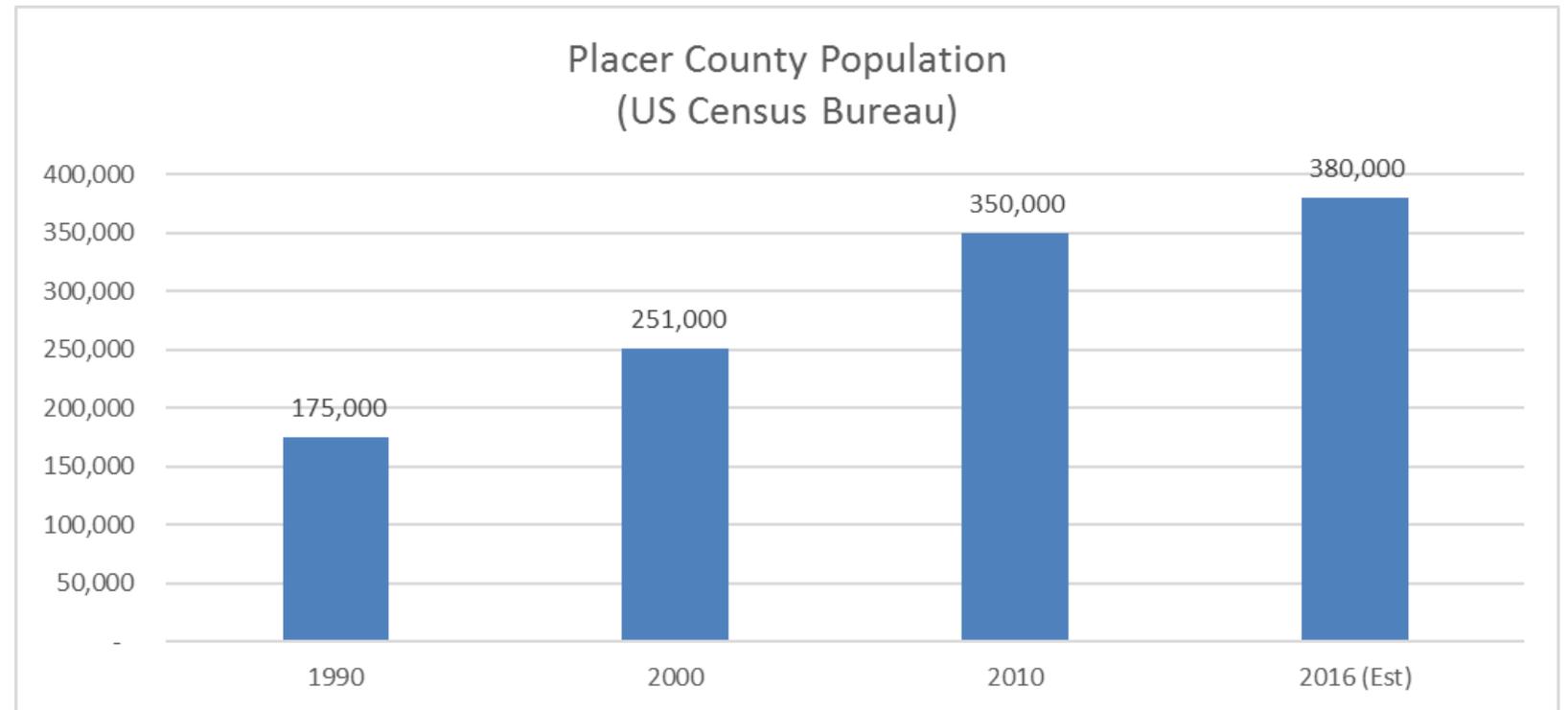
**Historic  
Courthouse**

# Superior Court of Placer County Major Growth in Population and Need

## Population Growth

117% increase from 1990

52% increase form 2000

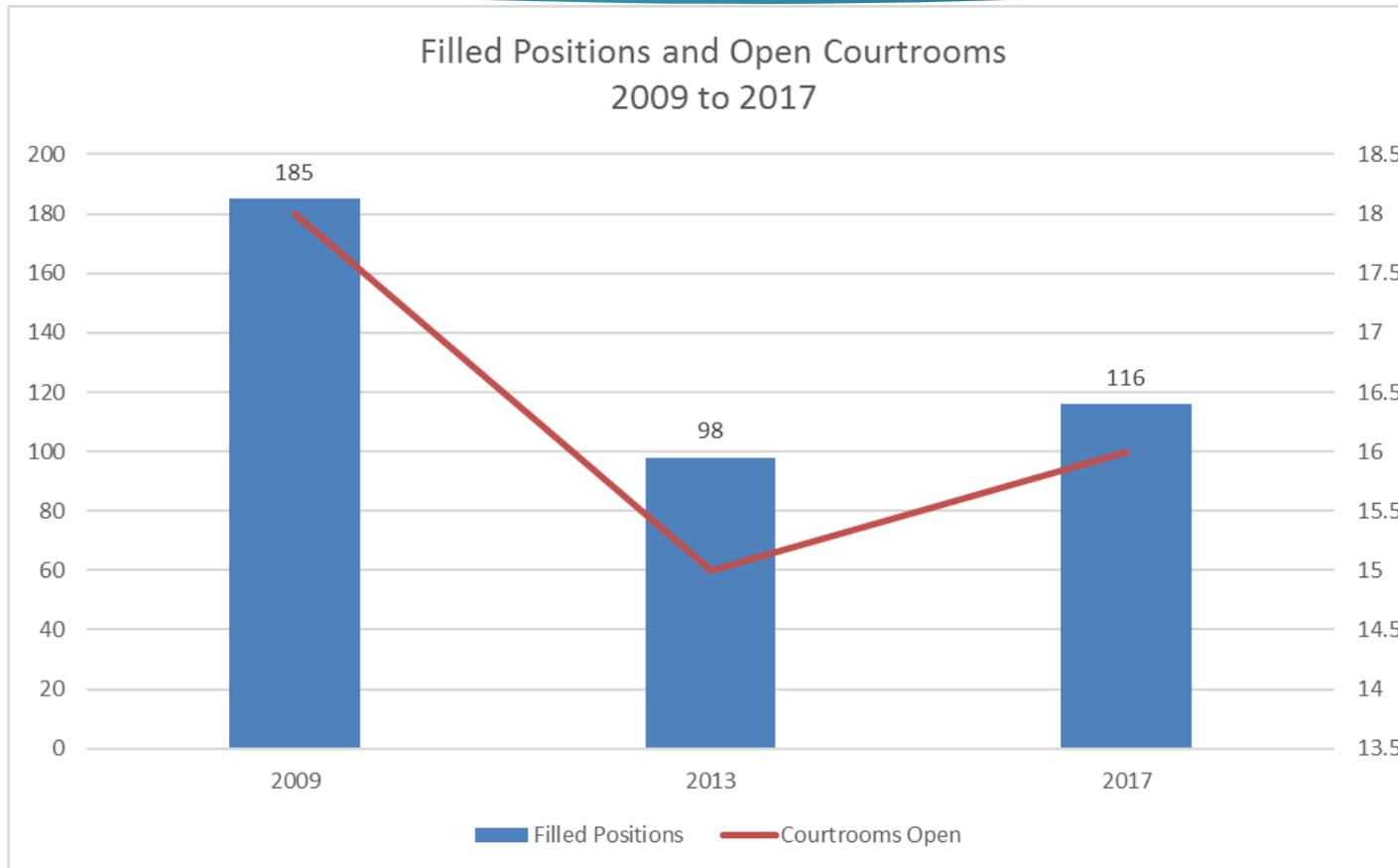


# Rebounding from Recession

Peak of Recession:

47% decline in staff

3 of 18 (16%) courtrooms closed, and often a 4<sup>th</sup>.



Today, reinvestment in the Branch and WAFM have helped but:

37% fewer staff

2 to 3 courtrooms remain closed.

# Rebounding From Recession

Impact of New  
Funding and WAFM

- ▶ FY 2013/2014 – Funded at 51.2% of Need
- ▶ FY 2016/2017 – Funded at 70.8% of Need
- ▶ Shift from dismantling of the organization  
→  
to rebuilding and finding creative,  
collaborative, and collegial ways to help  
and provide access.

# Focus on: Improving Access

- ▶ Expanded Telephonic Appearance Tools
- ▶ Language Access Expansion – All Case Types – And Community Engagement
- ▶ New High Volume In-Custody Courtroom (\*Opening Soon\*)
  - ▶ Only possible through creative problem solving by Judicial Council, County, and Court.
- ▶ Online Scheduling System for Appointments with Clerk's Office and Self Help
- ▶ *Innovations Grant:*  
Video Appearances Using Commercially Available Technology

# Focus On: Reducing Conflict & Increasing Case Resolution

- ▶ Expanded Self Help Staffing and Available Appointments
- ▶ Family Law Same Day Orders After Hearing
- ▶ Family Law Case Management Conferences Reinstated
  - ▶ (Discontinued in Recession)
- ▶ Reduced Civil Trial Reset List to ZERO
  - ▶ List of cases that had declared ready but were reset due to lack of courtroom.
- ▶ Collaborative Court Program Reviews
- ▶ Tiered Child Custody Mediation Model (\*\*Starting July 1, 2017\*\*)

# Focus On: Digital Age

- ▶ Jury Management System Replacement
  - ▶ Jury Improvement Grants will expand text and email reminders in 2017.
- ▶ Case Management System Replacement and Digital Case Files
  - ▶ Traffic and Criminal Implemented
  - ▶ Civil, Family, and Juvenile in 2017.
- ▶ Placer Court Hosting Center
  - ▶ Judicial Council funded multi-court initiative; courts begin moving in fall 2017.
- ▶ Judges Electronic Case File Review (\*\*In Procurement\*\*)
- ▶ Staff Online Learning Management System
- ▶ eFiling (\*\*Pending Statewide EFM\*\*)

# Unmet Needs; Creative Solutions Wanted!

- ▶ Tahoe Courthouse (Indefinitely Delayed)
- ▶ Judgeship Needs
  - ▶ Need ~30% more judicial positions according to Judicial Needs Study
- ▶ Eroding Budgets
  - ▶ Lack of funding for cost increases
  - ▶ Growing retiree costs – ~116 current employees to ~90 retirees
  - ▶ Eroding budgets cause rising backlogs and delays to access.
- ▶ Growing Failure to Appear Rates in Criminal



Lake Tahoe; Tahoe City, CA – April 19, 2017

# Superior Court of Placer County

Finding Ways to Help – Creatively, Collaboratively, and Collegially