

The Recorder

Judiciary Gets \$150M Boost in California's New Budget

"With this proposed budget, the courts will be better equipped to truly provide access to justice for all," Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye said.

In his [final state budget proposal](#), Gov. Jerry Brown on Wednesday delivered good news to California's judicial branch—an extra \$150 million in funding and a pledge to help underfunded trial courts.

The budget infusion for the courts is the largest proposed by the governor since the recession, and it reflects the state's rosy economic status. Brown's overall \$131.7 billion general fund spending plan marks a 4.1 percent increase over the current fiscal year and includes a \$13.5 billion rainy-day reserve.

Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye said the governor's proposal was "strong" for the judiciary.

"With this proposed budget, the courts will be better equipped to truly provide access to justice for all," she said in a prepared statement.

The additional court funding comes with strings attached, a condition common in Brown's annual budget proposals for the judicial branch.

Here's how the \$150 million breaks down:

—\$47.8 million for the most underfunded trial courts in the state.

The judicial branch determines how much money a particular court needs based on a formula tied to caseloads and county population. It's a controversial practice.

Critics say the formula doesn't always accurately reflect how busy a particular court or judge is. The formula has boosted funding for a number of historically underfunded courts, particularly those in the Central Valley. But it has also cut funding for others, [including San Francisco Superior Court](#), which furloughed staff, cut clerk hours and asked judges to give up a day's pay each month last year to cover a \$5.3 budget deficit.

Initial estimates suggest that 30 courts will each get a share of the money. The Judicial Council [will consider changes to the formula](#) at its meeting Friday.

—\$75 million in funding for Judicial Council priorities.

Although the proposal calls this money discretionary, it says the administration "anticipates" the funding will be spent on recommendations made by the [Commission on the Future of California's Court System](#). The commission, led by Associate Justice Carol Corrigan, issued a [report](#) last year that recommended, among other things, expanding the use of technology, reallocating vacant judgeships and reducing certain misdemeanors to infractions.

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Courthouse News

California Courts See Substantial Funding Boost in 2018 Budget

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CN) – California Gov. Jerry Brown’s \$131.7 billion budget proposed Wednesday invests \$150 million to support trial court operations and commits \$32 million to build new courthouses.

In a statement, California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye seemed much happier with this year’s funding boost over last year’s modest \$35 million raise.

“I thank Gov. Brown for this very strong budget proposal for the Judicial Branch. The laws promise liberty and protection for all Californians, and our courts ensure that the promise of the law is fulfilled,” she said. “With this proposed budget, the courts will be better equipped to truly provide access to justice for all.”

Brown’s proposal directs the Judicial Council to allocate \$75 million in discretionary dollars to the courts based on recommendations made by the Commission on the Future of California’s Court System, a group assembled by Cantil-Sakauye in 2015 to set priorities for the courts.

Last year, Cantil-Sakauye said those priorities include improving resources for self-represented litigants, making some court services technology-based, and moving traffic cases out of criminal court over the next 10 years.

Full Article Here: <https://www.courthousenews.com/california-courts-see-substantial-funding-boost-in-2018-budget/>