

Superior Court of California
COUNTY OF
SAN LUIS OBISPO



Rita Federman, Presiding Judge

Michael Powell, Executive Officer

Courthouse Annex
1035 Palm St., Rm 385
San Luis Obispo, California 93408
www.slo.courts.ca.gov

**For more information about this news
release, please contact:**

Administrative Office
805-706-3615

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday November 21, 2024

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA: The Superior Court of San Luis Obispo County announces service level reductions in response to state budget cuts...

SAN LUIS OBISPO— In response to the cuts required by the fiscal year 2024-2025 state budget, the San Luis Obispo Superior Court has identified several necessary measures in response to this year's permanent budget deficit of approximately \$1,000,000 for the local court system. The significant service adjustments noted below will also allow us to prepare for expected reductions in fiscal year 2025-2026.

Phone Hour Reductions

Effective Monday December 9th, 2024, the San Luis Obispo Superior Court is reducing its public phone hours. The public phone hours will change as follows:

Branch	Public Phone Hours (Effective December 9, 2024)
San Luis Obispo	Monday through Friday 8:30am to 12:00pm
Paso Robles	Monday through Friday 8:30am to 12:00pm
Grover Beach	Monday through Thursday 9:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

Effective Monday December 9th, 2024, the Court will eliminate the Civil Attorney line and consolidate the Civil/Family Law line for the Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo Courthouses, creating one centralized line for all Civil/Family Law related Clerk's Office questions.

Clerk's Office Counter Hour Reductions

Effective Monday February 3rd, 2025, the San Luis Obispo Superior Court is reducing its public counter hours. The public counter hours will change as follows:

Branch	Clerk Window Hours (Effective February 3, 2025)
San Luis Obispo	Monday through Thursday 8:30am to 12:00pm
Paso Robles	Wednesday and Friday 8:30am to 12:00pm
Grover Beach	Monday through Thursday 8:30am-12:00pm

Pursuant to California Government Code, section 68106(b), the Court is seeking input from the public regarding the reduction of the counter hours for the Clerk's Office. Those interested in submitting comments electronically should e-mail them to admin@slo.courts.ca.gov. Written comments should be directed to the Court at:

1035 Palm Street, Room 385
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408.

To be considered, comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 31st, 2025.

Since the beginning of this fiscal year, July 1, 2024, the Court has held open new employee vacancies and not filled the existing vacancies. Positions critical to ongoing operations or backed by grant funds may be filled. These vacancies will likely result in delays and backlogs throughout the Court system as fewer employees will be available to file and process Court workloads. The reduction in phone and counter hours will permit Court staff to devote more time to the filing and processing of documents to minimize the impact of the budget cutbacks.

There will be a noticeable budget-saving measure during the holidays, when the Court will offer limited services due to a Voluntary Time Off (VTO) program offered to Court employees. The Court's VTO program allows employees to elect to take unpaid leave. For the week of Thanksgiving (November 25, 2024) and from December 23, 2024, through January 3, 2025, the Court will operate with significantly reduced staffing levels. Restraining orders and other urgent matters with statutory deadlines will be scheduled as usual, but other judicial calendars will be reduced.

Several technological improvements implemented over the past few years have made many Court services available online including the ability to file and view cases. Utilizing these services will help mitigate the impact of reduced staffing. Please visit slo.courts.ca.gov and click "Online Services" for more information on different services available.

The Court is leveraging every tool available to minimize impacts on core services; however, reduced staffing from vacancies and the Court's VTO program will result in delays and backlogs throughout the court system as fewer employees will be available to file and process court workloads.

Through these efforts, the Court hopes to avoid layoffs and mandatory furloughs that would further impact service levels, while closing the budget deficit for the current fiscal year.

For more information, please contact Court Administration at admin@slo.courts.ca.gov or by calling (805)706-3615.

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