



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.
C5

For the meeting of: December 12, 2017

Date: December 6, 2017
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Virginia Bass
Subject: Letter of Support for the State Budget Appropriations for County Law Libraries

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign the letter of support.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: The Public Law Library of Humboldt County is asking the Board of Supervisors to send a letter of support for State Budget Appropriations to be distributed to County Law Libraries across the state. County Law Libraries are asking for 16.5 million dollars in California's final state budget to be submitted in mid-June. County Law Libraries play a critical role in providing the public with access to California's legal system and without funding allocation for County Law Libraries, that access will be severely diminished. The Law Library serves the bench, the bar and the public.

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors join efforts of Senators McGuire, Wieckowski, Skinner, Berryhill and Dodd; along with Assembly Members Lackey, Bonta, Levine, Rubio, Burke, Gallagher and Mathis; and the County Boards of Supervisors in Butte, Glenn, Marin, and Nevada as well as Law Library Boards of Trustees throughout California, to help end the chronic underfunding of California Law Libraries.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

Prepared by Tracy Damico

Signature Virginia Bass

REVIEW: Auditor _____ County Counsel _____ Personnel _____ Risk Manager _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:
 Consent
 Departmental
 Public Hearing
 Other _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Upon motion of Supervisor Wilson Seconded by Supervisor Sundberg
Ayes Sundberg, Fennell, Bass, Bohn, Wilson
Nays _____
Abstain _____
Absent _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. _____

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Meeting of: _____

Dated: 12/12/17
By: [Signature]
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

ATTACHMENTS: Letter of Support and Letter from the Humboldt County Law Library Board of Trustees dated November 30, 2017.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

December 12, 2017

Honorable Edmund G. Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Re: Support for California Law Libraries

Honorable Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, we are writing to ask that you include supplemental funding for California County Law Libraries in the upcoming 2018 budget.

County Law Libraries serve an important public service for all California residents. County Law Libraries provide needed and necessary access to legal information for Californians who are without the means to hire a lawyer and would be without help but for their local public law library. More than 80% of litigants in matters of eviction, foreclosure, child custody and support proceedings, and debt collection cases are without benefit of paid counsel. These libraries are funded almost exclusively from civil court filing fees and because of that, the funding has decreased nearly below 40% of the amount received in 2009. This is making this valuable service difficult to maintain.

Therefore, without County Law Libraries, most people have no access to legal information and therefore no access to justice. We respectfully encourage you to support this important fund appropriation in the January 2018 budget proposal.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

VB:td

HUMBOLDT COUNTY PUBLIC LAW LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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NOVEMBER 30, 2017

Virginia Bass, Chairperson
HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
825 5th Street, Room 111
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: **County Law Libraries' Request for Funding in the Governor's 2018 Proposed Budget and in Successive State Budgets**
A Butte County Board of Supervisors Resolution (10/10/2017) Was Adopted
A Glenn County Board of Supervisors (11/07/2017) Was Adopted
A Humboldt County Board of Supervisors Resolution is Urged

Dear Ms. Bass:

Pending before Governor Brown is a Request that a line-item include County Law Libraries in the State Budget. By Statute, every California County has a law library fund, the size of which depends upon the number of local filings in its Superior Court.

*"It is the intent of the Legislature for California to continue its century old tradition of making legal materials available to all its citizens via adequately funded, staffed, and maintained county law libraries. ...County boards of supervisors are charged with the responsibility of monitoring the needs of the county law library within their respective jurisdictions and adjusting filing fees as permitted by the provisions of that chapter to enable the county law library to fulfill its defined mission."
(Stats. 1990, Ch. 56, Sec. 7)*

Until 2008, County Boards of Supervisors had authority to adjust filing fees as permitted by Business and Professions Code sections 6321, 6322 and 6322.1. Prior to 2005, counties were empowered to allocate local fees to defray the expenses of the law library. (Stats. 1990, Ch. 56, Sec. 1) These fees would be in addition to the standard court fees established by State Law. The Uniform Civil Fee and Standard Fee Schedule Act of 2005 eliminated this local power, but

preserved County Boards of Supervisors' authority to direct the Administrative Office of the Courts to reallocate distribution of the standard fees each year by an additional three dollars (\$3) per filing to the Law Library Fund. The board of supervisors' authority was terminated by a legislative moratorium of January 1, 2008, which remains in effect.

Funds Receipts Declined

Distributions to the Law Library Fund *Statewide* have dropped by approximately 35 to 40 percent in the past eight years, limited as they are by the single source of those distributions (court fees), and by mandatory arbitration provisions and other factors that have also reduced this single-source of revenue. This is a loss of important local money. Law Libraries in all counties have lost funding, but it is worse in the smaller counties.

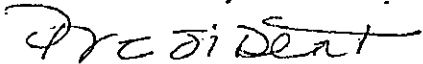
To restore adequate receipts and reestablish diversified resources, a Statewide effort is under way. Law Library governing boards and concerned professional patrons are urging Boards of Supervisors to adopt Resolutions supporting legislation for a line-item allocation in the State Budget from the General Fund for county law libraries; supporters urge Legislators to sign-on to a petition to the Governor to add the line-item in his 2018 Proposed Budget this January. It is an all-counties effort: The funding requested of Governor Brown is \$16.5 million. It would give each county law library supplemental funding beginning in Fiscal Year 2018 equal to court fees received in 2009. Assemblyman Jim Wood will be urged to sign the petition – with the backing of the Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba County Boards of Supervisors – in November.

Butte and Glenn counties have acted – and Humboldt is urged to join forces. County law libraries and citizens of each county are dependent on funds. –Law libraries of the North State – as a region – have among the fewest funding resources of any region in the State. It is critical that Humboldt join with this statewide effort to adopt Resolutions urging Governor Brown to provide for county law libraries in the Budget.

Sincerely,



Humboldt County Law Library Board of Trustees



Council of California County Law Libraries

Statewide Filing Fee Income

	Filing Fee Allocation	FY 08-09	FY 09-10	FY 10-11	FY 11-12	FY 12-13	FY 13-14	FY 14-15	6-Year Decrease
Alameda	37	\$1,912,668	\$1,878,101	\$1,772,623	\$1,556,938	\$1,441,323	\$1,285,063	\$1,219,628	36.23%
Alpine	4	\$235	\$138	\$131	\$193	\$205	\$100	\$80	65.96%
Amador	20	\$19,936	\$19,818	\$21,966	\$16,171	\$15,318	\$13,728	\$12,108	39.26%
Butte	35	\$218,046	\$197,336	\$210,547	\$182,473	\$172,711	\$157,266	\$141,619	35.05%
Calaveras	32	\$38,317	\$42,091	\$43,740	\$37,980	\$30,337	\$27,269	\$24,955	34.87%
Colusa	17	\$7,813	\$6,991	\$6,116	\$5,983	\$6,379	\$5,638	\$4,923	36.99%
Contra Costa	35	\$1,245,592	\$1,204,408	\$1,253,600	\$1,006,051	\$898,482	\$851,567	\$727,388	41.60%
Del Norte	20	\$11,971	\$11,554	\$11,680	\$9,429	\$10,753	\$9,169	\$8,764	26.79%
El Dorado	29	\$152,912	\$162,847	\$161,275	\$133,361	\$120,110	\$114,180	\$99,672	34.82%
Fresno	37	\$1,080,317	\$1,021,821	\$971,442	\$835,964	\$780,633	\$719,864	\$687,258	36.38%
Glenn	20	\$12,317	\$11,622	\$12,031	\$9,594	\$10,607	\$11,326	\$9,975	19.01%
Humboldt	40	\$125,171	\$120,782	\$120,835	\$111,259	\$108,056	\$101,394	\$94,352	24.62%
Imperial	20	\$102,478	\$88,969	\$84,708	\$72,708	\$72,332	\$56,485	\$50,395	50.82%
Inyo	29	\$11,696	\$9,253	\$11,256	\$8,580	\$7,686	\$7,266	\$7,512	35.77%
Kern	27	\$706,172	\$658,716	\$644,768	\$592,185	\$536,248	\$497,399	\$463,061	34.43%
Kings	29	\$98,571	\$98,271	\$99,667	\$77,745	\$71,758	\$75,382	\$67,046	31.98%
Lake	23	\$41,095	\$41,159	\$43,919	\$36,484	\$35,184	\$30,457	\$29,249	28.82%
Lassen	28	\$18,741	\$19,125	\$19,775	\$15,973	\$13,840	\$13,528	\$11,963	36.17%
Los Angeles	24	\$10,027,252	\$9,669,603	\$9,411,440	\$8,388,148	\$7,797,818	\$7,168,466	\$6,553,659	34.64%
Madera	32	\$125,589	\$125,436	\$112,930	\$97,008	\$86,599	\$80,031	\$73,935	41.13%
Marin	32	\$235,473	\$250,064	\$260,297	\$230,611	\$204,385	\$182,611	\$171,628	27.11%
Mariposa	27	\$9,446	\$9,220	\$10,490	\$9,796	\$9,553	\$7,155	\$7,452	21.11%
Mendocino	35	\$75,220	\$67,221	\$72,953	\$61,964	\$60,219	\$57,172	\$55,235	26.57%
Merced	29	\$215,373	\$204,510	\$185,689	\$160,321	\$137,391	\$127,048	\$117,726	45.34%
Modoc	20	\$4,023	\$4,172	\$3,970	\$3,020	\$3,578	\$2,926	\$2,400	40.34%
Mono	20	\$5,006	\$5,738	\$5,601	\$6,210	\$6,796	\$4,580	\$4,288	14.35%
Monterey	31	\$343,440	\$329,128	\$303,919	\$262,486	\$245,835	\$222,232	\$201,681	41.28%
Napa	23	\$95,249	\$96,783	\$92,660	\$82,145	\$75,168	\$67,556	\$54,706	42.57%
Nevada	29	\$80,932	\$85,599	\$86,041	\$77,501	\$66,367	\$56,706	\$44,383	45.16%
Orange	35	\$4,057,738	\$4,075,807	\$3,974,106	\$3,449,654	\$3,186,019	\$2,862,586	\$2,589,451	36.18%
Placer	35	\$392,815	\$408,739	\$399,306	\$330,602	\$312,506	\$278,137	\$251,361	36.01%
Plumas	23	\$11,539	\$12,197	\$14,214	\$8,606	\$8,721	\$7,831	\$8,469	26.61%
Riverside	32	\$2,886,726	\$2,799,974	\$2,692,205	\$2,202,900	\$2,025,156	\$1,775,513	\$1,593,795	44.79%
Sacramento	50	\$3,738,680	\$3,384,285	\$3,260,079	\$2,914,049	\$2,995,965	\$2,744,085	\$2,379,062	36.37%
San Benito	26	\$39,641	\$45,371	\$44,015	\$31,149	\$29,095	\$25,926	\$24,146	39.09%
San Bernardino	29	\$2,493,027	\$2,353,664	\$2,199,035	\$1,826,602	\$1,744,074	\$1,471,564	\$1,354,823	45.66%
San Diego	38	\$4,172,438	\$3,968,682	\$3,952,779	\$3,363,143	\$3,107,707	\$2,815,901	\$2,631,919	36.92%
San Francisco	42	\$1,828,707	\$1,646,163	\$1,475,768	\$1,336,359	\$1,286,437	\$1,134,247	\$997,258	45.47%
San Joaquin	29	\$743,767	\$706,755	\$666,775	\$525,259	\$490,872	\$436,918	\$419,024	43.66%
San Luis Obispo	34	\$238,179	\$243,253	\$248,666	\$205,614	\$204,993	\$174,993	\$165,733	30.42%
San Mateo	38.5	\$809,013	\$811,443	\$802,745	\$674,419	\$614,104	\$576,497	\$506,782	37.36%
Santa Barbara	41	\$468,147	\$461,499	\$443,941	\$394,510	\$381,116	\$333,836	\$311,212	33.52%
Santa Clara	26	\$1,261,175	\$1,286,214	\$1,273,450	\$1,062,837	\$984,866	\$895,118	\$795,708	36.91%
Santa Cruz	35	\$221,915	\$219,805	\$223,399	\$189,871	\$176,754	\$150,290	\$142,430	35.82%
Shasta	26	\$153,831	\$150,423	\$145,031	\$119,579	\$114,828	\$105,895	\$92,189	40.07%
Sierra	20	\$2,093	\$1,318	\$1,031	\$934	\$1,449	\$849	\$860	58.91%
Siskiyou	26	\$30,886	\$30,004	\$28,097	\$24,551	\$23,894	\$23,384	\$21,021	31.94%
Solano	29	\$470,444	\$469,230	\$446,191	\$358,389	\$327,872	\$317,225	\$297,610	36.74%
Sonoma	35	\$524,270	\$495,772	\$531,759	\$430,218	\$420,824	\$359,721	\$332,738	36.53%
Stanislaus	24	\$439,562	\$400,744	\$375,016	\$310,970	\$285,523	\$271,582	\$247,247	43.75%
Sutter	7	\$21,492	\$19,164	\$18,841	\$16,160	\$15,248	\$14,301	\$12,504	41.82%
Tehama	23	\$42,291	\$36,387	\$38,096	\$31,256	\$31,208	\$24,177	\$27,901	34.03%
Trinity	20	\$4,224	\$4,812	\$4,312	\$4,074	\$4,176	\$3,656	\$4,444	-5.21%
Tulare	35	\$393,096	\$366,671	\$343,633	\$304,677	\$288,625	\$291,894	\$274,754	30.11%
Tuolumne	20	\$29,136	\$29,383	\$27,562	\$23,695	\$20,769	\$19,369	\$18,641	36.02%
Ventura	32	\$859,335	\$849,006	\$798,952	\$687,035	\$654,994	\$571,650	\$524,881	38.92%
Yolo	35	\$171,374	\$170,781	\$157,713	\$144,663	\$130,109	\$117,282	\$100,663	41.26%
Yuba	10	\$22,898	\$22,280	\$25,736	\$22,982	\$22,276	\$19,958	\$18,959	17.20%
Total		\$43,549,491	\$41,910,802	\$40,648,521	\$35,083,032	\$32,915,850	\$29,777,946	\$27,092,626	37.79%