

## Background on Workload Allocation Funding Methodology (WAFM)

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***WAFM Developed in 2013 to Allocate Trial Court Funding.***

In April 2013, the Judicial Council approved a methodology—known as WAFM—to (1) identify trial court funding needs and (2) distribute funding to trial courts. WAFM, which distributes funding based on workload, is intended to replace the historic approach, which distributed funds based on each court's share of the statewide budget for the trial courts.



***Allocation of Funding Under WAFM.*** Under WAFM, new general purpose funding provided for trial court operations is first allocated to the 15 smallest courts to fully fund their WAFM-identified costs. Up to 50 percent of any remaining new funds is allocated to courts with below average funding levels. The remaining amount is then allocated to all trial courts based on workload. We note that this allocation process reflects changes to WAFM that were adopted by the Judicial Council in January 2018. (Previously, WAFM redistributed funding among trial courts.)

# Major General Fund Proposals for Trial Court Operations

## 2018-19 (In Millions)

	Governor	Senate	Assembly	LAO Compromise
Equalization of trial court funding levels	\$47.8	\$47.8	\$47.8	\$47.8
Discretionary funding for Judicial Council priorities	75.0	—	30.0	—
Funding allocated based on WAFM	—	75.0	30.0	60.0
Court reporters in family law proceedings	—	10.0 <sup>a</sup>	15.0	15.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$122.8</b>	<b>\$132.8</b>	<b>\$122.8</b>	<b>\$122.8</b>

<sup>a</sup> Provides \$10 million in 2018-19, \$20 million in 2019-20, and \$30 million in 2020-21 and ongoing.  
WAFM = Workload Allocation Funding Methodology.

- Senate approved trailer bill language generally requiring court reporters in family law proceedings and specifying what types of cases have priority if insufficient funds are provided to the judicial branch.
- Senate also approved budget bill language requiring the Legislative Analyst’s Office and the Department of Finance to evaluate WAFM.

- Provides \$122.8 million in total ongoing funding—the same level proposed by the Assembly and Governor.
- Specifies funding for legislative priorities, rather than giving Judicial Council complete discretion.
- Includes Senate's budget bill and trailer bill language, which would increase legislative oversight over trial court funding. For example, the required evaluation would help the Legislature determine whether WAFM accurately identifies trial court funding needs.