
THIRTEENTH
JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT

CIBOLA, SANDOVAL, AND VALENCIA COUNTIES



Thirteenth Judicial District Court

- 133 FTEs including:
 - 8 District Court Judges
 - 8 Magistrate Court Judges
 - 117 employees
- Eight courthouses in five cities:
 - Cuba, Bernalillo (2), Grants (2), Los Lunas (2), and Belen



Structural challenges

- Growing population
 - District Population: 250,111 (Census Bureau 2019 pop. est.)
 - Second most populous judicial district
 - Population grew 6.3% from 2010 to 2019
- Geographically large
 - Land area of the district is the size of New Hampshire
- High Judge and staff need:
 - 3.5 more district court judges needed
 - 18.73 additional judicial specialists needed

Fiscal Challenges

- 2020 special session cut the Thirteenth's budget 104.3 *below* FY20 funding levels.
- Sandoval County cut Pretrial Funding 50% from 100.0 to 50.0 in FY21
- Funding for pay raise for staff earning less than \$50,000/yr short 10.1
- Foreclosure Settlement Program grant ended, resulting in loss of 130.6. Was partially replaced by GF, but eliminated in special session.
- In all, FY21 funding is 295.0 below FY20 funding levels
- To meet the FY21 challenges the Thirteenth has:
 - A current vacancy rate of 7.7%
 - Reduced IT spending by 1/3rd
 - Eliminated our small travel budget

Effect of Further Reductions

- A 5% reduction in FY22 funding (which totals 826.2 below FY20) would lead to:
 - High vacancy rate of 10.1% (600.2 savings)
 - 30% reduction in treatment court participants (136.8 savings)
 - Use mediation funds to cover salaries and benefits (89.2 savings)
 - Results in the loss of 1,621 mediation hours, requiring district judges to hold more hearings when the District needs 3.5 more district court judges
- A flat budget compared to FY21 (which is 295.0 below FY20) would mean:
 - An elevated 6.2% vacancy rate (226.3 savings)
 - Use some mediation funds for PSEB (68.7)
 - Results in 1,249 lost mediation hours

FY22 Request



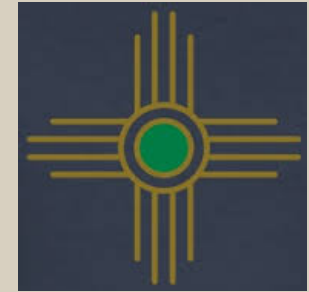
Our GF request would return the Thirteenth to funding provided by the 2020 regular session. It would provide:

- 127.1 to fill vacant judicial specialist positions
- 131.4 to replace expiring Pretrial Services grant that funds two pretrial services officers in Sandoval County
- 50.0 to replace expiring DOH grant funding for case management in adult drug court

Our special request would provide 155.7 to fund the Foreclosure Settlement Program through FY22.

- FSP brings lenders and homeowners together early in the court case to examine all settlement options.
- FSP settled 74% of cases in FY20. Of the settlements, 69% resulted in the homeowner keeping the home.
- We anticipate a steep increase in foreclosures starting in January 2021

Judges of the Thirteenth District Court



DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Cibola County

Judge Amanda Sanchez Villalobos

Valencia County

Judge James Lawrence Sanchez

Judge Allen Smith

Judge Cindy Mercer

Sandoval County

Chief Judge George Eichwald

Judge Cheryl Johnston

Judge James Noel

Judge Christopher Perez

MAGISTRATE COURT JUDGES

Cibola County

Judge Larry Diaz

Judge Vicente “Johnny” Valdez

Valencia County

Judge John “Buddy” Sanchez

Judge John Chavez

Judge Heather Benavidez

Sandoval County

Judge Delilah Montano-Baca

Judge William “Bill” Mast

Judge Ann Maxwell-Chavez