SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

News Release
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New Poll Reveals Increased Confidence in the Superior Court of Los Angeles County by Los Angeles County Residents

Court-Commissioned Poll Reveals Improvements in Measures of Trust, Innovation, Transparency, and Impartiality in the Court, Alongside Concerns About Immigration Enforcement and Artificial Intelligence

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Public confidence in the Superior Court of Los Angeles County is rising. In a 2026 poll commissioned by the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, 67% of respondents expressed "a great deal" or "some" trust in the Court — up from 64% in 2025, and once again serving as the highest rating among the government institutions surveyed. The poll also showed gains in perceptions of the Court's innovation, transparency and impartiality.

Key findings include:

- 61% of respondents (up from 60%) indicated agreement that the Court is committed to protecting individual and civil rights.
- 55% of respondents (up from 53%) agree that the Court serves as an appropriate check on other branches of government.
- 70% of respondents (up from 69%) who have had first-hand experience with the Court expressed that they were satisfied with the fairness of the process regardless of outcome.
- 50% of respondents (up from 47%) indicated "excellent" or "good" job performance ratings of the Court.

Though each improvement was modest, taken together, collectively they mark a consistent upward trend in key indicators of the Court's operational performance since 2025.

"A cornerstone of the Court's 2025-2028 Strategic Plan is building public trust and confidence in the judiciary, which includes demonstrating transparency and accountability to the communities we serve," Presiding Judge Sergio C. Tapia II said. "Last year, the Court commissioned its first-ever poll to understand how the community perceived the Court, highlighting our strengths and identifying areas for improvement. This year, we benefit from a comparative perspective that allows us to measure the impact of our work and to identify and address barriers to justice. Our priority remains singular and clear: ensuring equal access to justice through the fair, timely, and effective resolution of all cases for the residents of Los Angeles County."

The 2026 poll also signaled continued areas of improvement for the Court, including:

- 47% (down from 49%) of respondents agree that the Court needs to do a better job of adopting new technologies and breaking down barriers between the public and the courts.
- A 7-point net positive gain in perceptions of inefficiency when compared to 2025.

Other major trends noted in the poll include:

- 68% of residents indicate that rising gas prices have made them less likely to travel to a courthouse.
- 57% of respondents indicated that they are less likely to make an in-person appearance in Court when federal immigration enforcement is near courthouses.
- A majority of respondents (61%) prefer in-person courthouse visits to access court services. Still, a substantial number of respondents expressed interest in remote access through the Court's website (54%), phone services (40%) and local offices/kiosks (33%).

The poll also measured the public's perception of the Court's use of artificial intelligence (AI), with 46% of respondents expressing general concern about its increased use in daily life. In addition:

- 57% of respondents support the use of AI-powered tools that help court users interact with the Court (such as finding information, completing forms or accessing court services outside of normal business hours).
- 58% of respondents indicated that they would be more willing to support AI if judicial officers were prohibited from entering confidential or personally identifiable information into public AI systems. Court policy already addresses the entering of confidential or personally identifiable information into AI systems, and the public can learn more about the Court's approach to AI here.

"The Court's work continues to garner strong ratings for accessibility, a commitment to individual and civil rights, and ensuring individuals are heard and respected," Court Executive Officer/Clerk of Court David W. Slayton said. "However, we remain clear-eyed on the challenges that remain. Fostering innovation and improving efficiency remain key priorities of the Court, and, though outside the Court's control, the rising cost of living, political rhetoric, and federal immigration enforcement have affected how residents access our services. The Court is working diligently to address these barriers, including expanding remote services, exploring a more localized service model and carefully examining emerging technologies to supplement the hard work of judicial officers and court staff."

Data from the 2026 poll will be used to refine the Court's approach to its 2025-2028 Strategic Plan, which has introduced the following new developments:

- A new platform to automate firearm relinquishment restraining order violation notifications to law enforcement agencies, strengthening public safety and enhancing efficiency and coordination among justice partners.
- The expansion of remote American Sign Language interpreting for jurors, ensuring jurors who are deaf and hard of hearing can fully participate in the judicial process.
- A new wayfinding and navigation system at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, making it easier for court users to locate departments within the courthouse intuitively.

- A new information center clarifying the role of artificial intelligence at the Court, including the commitment that AI will never supplant or compromise the integrity, independence, impartiality or authority of judicial decision-making.

The poll, available here, is based on a survey of 1,000 adults in Los Angeles County, representative of the population, conducted between May 7 and May 18, 2026, via online and text-to-web interviews conducted in English and Spanish.

About the Superior Court of Los Angeles County

The largest trial court in the nation, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, serves a population of almost 10 million in 36 courthouses with a jurisdiction covering over 4,000 square miles that includes 88 cities, 140 unincorporated areas, and dozens of law enforcement agencies. The Court is steadfast in its mission to serve our community by providing equal access to justice through the fair, timely, and effective resolution of all cases.

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