



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Board of Supervisors

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| District 1 | Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010 |
| District 2 | John F. Tavaglione 951-955-1020 |
| District 3 <i>Chairman</i> | Chuck Washington 951-955-1030 |
| District 4 | V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040 |
| District 5 | Marion Ashley 951-955-1050 |

March 21, 2018

The Honorable Jay Obernolte
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4116
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2446 (Obernolte) – Courts; judgeships
As introduced 2/14/2018 – Awaiting hearing in Assembly Judiciary Committee
County of Riverside: SUPPORT – County Platform

Dear Assembly Member Obernolte:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of AB 2446, your measure that would authorize and fund one appellate court justice as well as provide funding for ten superior court judgeships statewide in an effort to address judicial branch workload needs.

The County of Riverside is acutely aware of the judgeship needs in the Inland Empire. The Judicial Council, in its biennial Judicial Needs Assessment most recently published in Fall 2016, identifies overall statewide judicial officer needs and then prioritizes placement of those positions on the basis of workload across 31 courts. The 2016 assessment identifies a need for 188.5 additional judicial officers to meet statewide workload and caseload demands. Further, the assessment compares each local court's assessed judicial need against its authorized judicial positions. Riverside County, regrettably, stands above all others in terms of overall need – the superior court's workload warrants an additional 46.8 judicial officers (a figure that is 62 percent greater than the level of judicial positions presently authorized). Steep population growth in Riverside County over the last several decades has greatly outpaced the trial court's ability to keep up with the attendant demand on judicial resources.

AB 2446 would fund for the first time a portion (one-fifth) of the superior court judgeships authorized a decade ago (AB 159 – Chapter 22, Statutes of 2007). The County previously supported the effort to re-distribute existing judicial positions as a first step in addressing the critical need for additional resources statewide (AB 103 – Chapter 17, 2017). AB 2446 takes the next necessary step in improving access to justice and assisting our county criminal justice partners in fulfilling core county responsibilities related to matters before the court. It would go a long way toward improving access to justice in our County.

The Honorable Jay Obernolte
March 21, 2018
Page 2

For these reasons, Riverside County is pleased to support AB 2446. We stand ready to assist you as the measure makes its way through the legislative process. If you have any questions about the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Deputy County Executive Officer, Brian Nestande at (951) 955-1110 or bnestande@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Washington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chuck" being more prominent than the last name "Washington".

Chuck Washington
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Riverside County Delegation