

NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



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SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR MANDATED AND EMERGENCY SERVICES IF SEIU STRIKES ON THURSDAY

The Court will be open for mandated essential and emergency services if a strike by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 1021 proceeds on Thursday, Court Executive Officer Brandon E. Riley emphasized today. The threatened strike is of unknown duration.

“Mandated services will proceed with the help of management employees who will triage and prioritize emergency matters for people who need help today,” Riley said. “It is unfortunate that SEIU has decided to disrupt court services after more than 28 bargaining sessions and two mediation sessions to reach a fair 3-year contract that reflects the economic realities of state funding for the judicial branch. Despite bargaining in good faith to reach a fair labor contract, the Court and the union have been at impasse since December. The Court has bargained fairly, and we are hopeful that we can reach a deal during today’s bargaining session to avert any disruption to access to justice.”

In the past four months, the Court has ratified contracts with its three other labor unions.

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To meet its obligations and duty to the public, court resources will be shifted to prioritize those cases with statutory deadlines such as criminal cases, custody arraignments, unlawful detainers, and civil harassment and domestic violence matters. Drop boxes will be placed in clerks' offices in the Civic Center Courthouse (CCC), Hall of Justice (HOJ) and Juvenile Justice Center (JJC). Matters without pressing statutory deadlines will be recessed.

Court Operations for Thursday, February 26, are as follows:

ACCESS CENTER: The Court's self-help center, known as the ACCESS Center, will be open only for Unlawful Detainers. For other available self-help online services, visit the ACCESS Webpage at <https://sf.courts.ca.gov/access-legal-self-help-center>.

CLERK'S OFFICES: Clerk's Offices may be closed to the public. In the event they are closed, drop boxes will be placed outside each office located at:

- Civil Clerk's Office, 400 McAllister St., Civic Center Courthouse (CCC), Room 103
- Unified Family Court Clerk's Office, 400 McAllister St., CCC, Room 402
- Criminal Clerk's Office, 850 Bryant St., Hall of Justice (HOJ), Room 101
- Traffic Court Clerk's Office, 850 Bryant St., HOJ, Room 145
- Juvenile Delinquency Clerk's Office, 375 Woodside Ave., Juvenile Justice Center, (JJC), Room 101.

The following departments will remain open today to ensure that defendants' constitutional rights are protected and all statutory deadlines are met:

Civic Center Courthouse Courtrooms:

- Department 204 Mental Health LPS Conservatorship Calendar – Hybrid/Virtual
- Department 622 Mental Health
- Department 206 Presiding Judge & Civil Master Calendar
- Department 403 Unified Family Court
- Department 406 Juvenile Dependency
- Department 501 Real Property
- Department 505 Civil Harassment
- Two (2) Civil courtrooms will be open for last-day criminal trials

Hall of Justice Courtrooms:

- Department 8 Return of Property/Veterans Justice Court/Drug Court
- Department 9 Preliminary Hearings
- Department 11 Preliminary Hearings
- Department 12 Preliminary Hearings
- Department 14 DV and Felony Arraignments
- Department 15 Mental Health Court

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- Department 17 Misdemeanor Master Calendar
- Department 22 Criminal Master Calendar

Juvenile Justice Center Courtrooms:

- Department 3 – Juvenile Delinquency

BACKGROUND

The Court and the union had reached a tentative agreement on October 28, 2025 – which averted an announced 3-day strike. However, SEIU members failed to ratify it on November 5, 2025.

On February 13, 2026, the Court filed an Unfair Practice charge with the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). The Court’s complaint is related to the union’s failure to bargain in good faith, resulting in a failed tentative agreement.

During subsequent bargaining sessions after members rejected the tentative agreement, bargaining resumed on November 17. The next day, the union’s bargaining team presented a new package with higher wages and additional terms. The new proposals demonstrate regressive bad faith bargaining and caused the parties to be further away from an agreement.

The Court’s 3-year contract proposal offered up to a 6.5% increase in wages over three years including 2% each year and a possible additional 0.5% increase in October of 2026 if the Court receives additional allocations. In addition, the Court offered bi-weekly increases to its health benefit as follows:

1/1/27:	\$1,643
1/1/28:	\$1,725
1/1/29:	\$1,811

The Court will continue to provide updates as necessary and remains committed to reaching a fair contract with its valued employees that reflects the current fiscal outlook imposed by ongoing reduced state funding.

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