

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 30, 2024

Jurors in Imperial County to Receive \$100 Per Day for Jury Service

One of seven counties participating in pilot program that raises juror compensation from \$15 to \$100 per day.

El Centro, California – Starting September 1, residents called into jury service in Imperial County will receive \$100 per day, starting on the second day of service – up from the current amount of \$15. In addition, the juror mileage reimbursement rate will increase from \$0.34 to \$0.67 per mile roundtrip.

Why Are Pay Rates Going Up?

A pilot program funded by <u>Assembly Bill 1981</u> and administered by the Judicial Council of California will explore whether increases in juror compensation and mileage reimbursement rates improve juror diversity and participation.

"Jurors play a critical role in our justice system by ensuring everyone can take advantage of the fundamental right to a jury of their peers," said California Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero. "Jurors help deliver that fundamental right and the promise of fair and equal access to justice for all Californians."

"The increase in juror compensation reflects a commitment to making jury service more accessible and inclusive for all members of our community. By easing the financial burden, we hope to encourage broader participation and ensure that our juries truly represent the diverse voices of Imperial County," said Superior Court Presiding Judge Marco D. Núñez.

Which Counties Are Participating in the Pilot?

Funding for the pilot program is provided for the following seven superior courts: Alameda, El Dorado, Fresno, Imperial, Monterey, San Bernardino, and Shasta. The pilot will end by early 2026 or when the funding is exhausted, whichever comes first.

At the conclusion of the pilot, the Judicial Council will provide a report to the California State Legislature describing the findings of the pilot program and information for promoting juror diversity.

For more information, contact Court Administration via email at admindept@imperial.courts.ca.gov.

For general information on jury service, visit <u>www.imperial.courts.ca.gov/divisions/jury-service</u> or www.courts.ca.gov/juryservice.htm.

Additional statewide initiatives to improve the jury system in California