



CITY OF MURRIETA

August 1, 2023

The Honorable Richard Roth
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7510
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Senate Bill 75 (Roth): Courts: Judgeships
City of Murrieta – Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Roth:

On behalf of the City of Murrieta, I would like to express our support for Senate Bill 75, which provides 26 new judicial positions to be allocated across California's superior courts in accordance with the Judicial Council's Judicial Needs Study.

Due to the significant budget constraints in California for much of the early-2010s, the appointment of new judges to California courts did not keep pace with the state's growing population. This problem has been especially acute in the faster-growing inland areas of California. To begin to address the issue, in 2019, the Legislature funded 25 new judgeships. Last year, the Legislature approved an additional 23 new positions in the budget. Although caseloads have decreased across many courts, the author believes additional judges are still needed, especially in the Inland Empire.

SB 75 allocates 26 new judicial positions in accordance with Judicial Council's Judicial Needs Survey. The 2020 survey noted that San Bernardino County needs 43 new judges and Riverside County needs 30. The county with the next highest needs is Sacramento County with a deficit of 13 judges. Accordingly, while the 26 positions authorized by this measure would be spread around the state, it's clear that the overwhelming majority of the new positions will be allocated to the Inland Empire counties with the greatest need.

SB 75 would take another necessary and appropriate step in addressing the clearly demonstrated shortfall in judicial resources across the state. For these reasons, the City of Murrieta supports SB 75.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa DeForest".

Lisa DeForest

Mayor