

Current and Future Caseload: The  
Need for Additional County Courts  
at Law in Collin County, Texas

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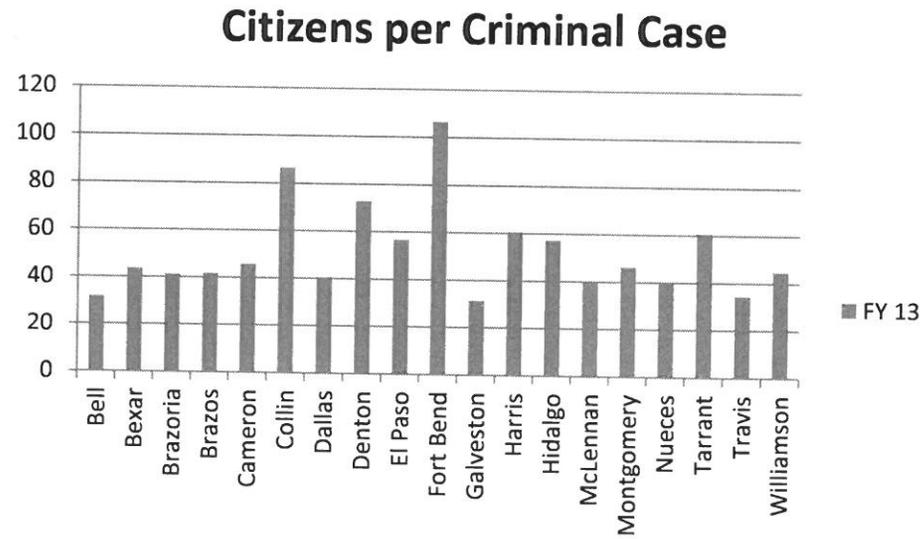
# Roadmap

- Population Trend
- Civil Case Trend
- Criminal Case Trend
- Total Case Trend
- Additional Courts
  - Why/When do we need one
  - 1 additional court now
  - 1 additional court later
  - 2 additional courts later
- Unknown Effects

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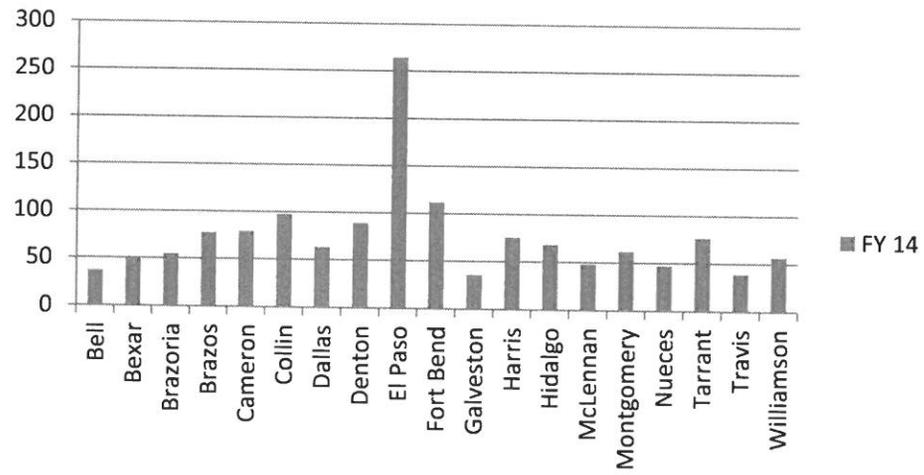
# Population Trend

# Collin County Population Trend



FY 13 - 1:86

### Citizens per Criminal Case



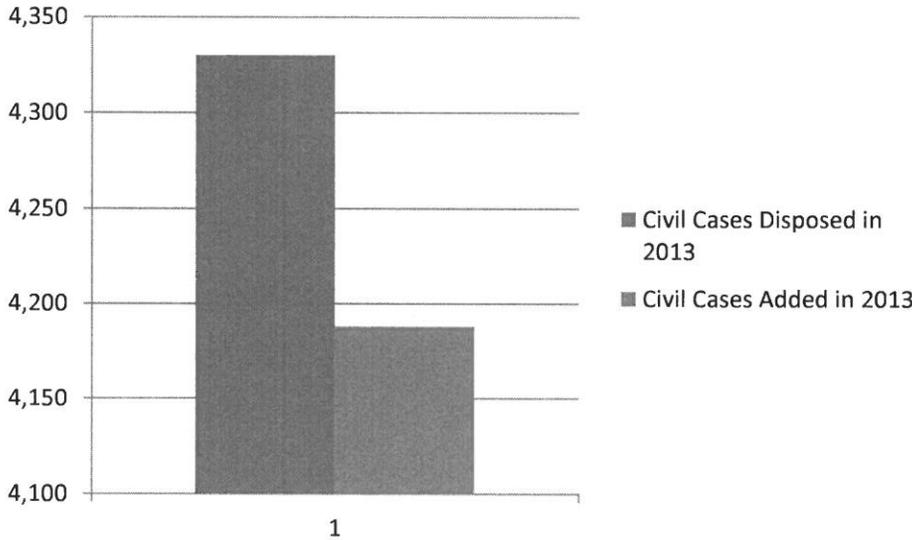
FY 14 - 1:98

# Collin County Population Trend

- In FY 13 we added 1 criminal case for every 86 people who moved to Collin County
  - 1:86
- In FY14 we added 1 criminal case for every 98 people who moved to Collin County
  - 1:98
- Our citizens are generally law abiding.

# Civil Case Trend

# Civil Caseload Trend



4330 v 4188

# Civil Caseload Trend

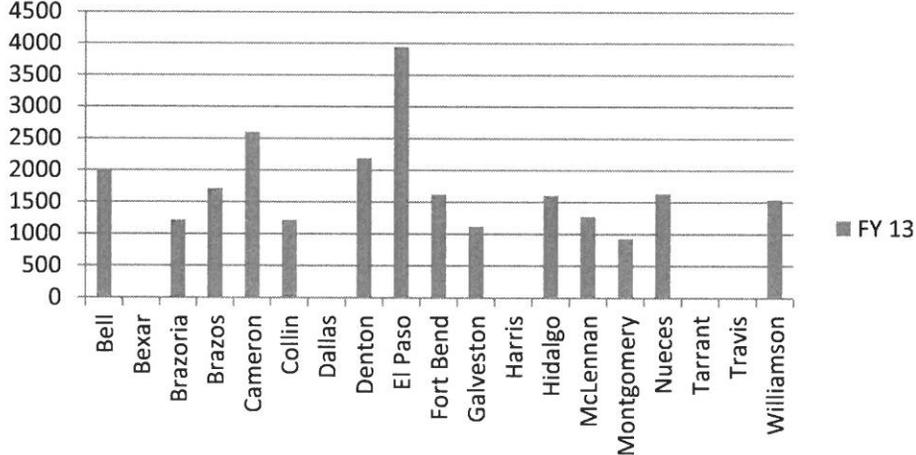
- In FY 2013, we disposed of 4330 civil cases
- So far in FY 2014, we have already disposed of 3040; therefore, projected to dispose of 4050 cases.
  - FY 13 = 4330
  - FY 14 = 4050
- We are disposing of more civil cases than are being filed.
- We are able to handle our civil caseload.
  - We spend less time on civil than criminal!

# Criminal Case Trend

# Criminal Caseload

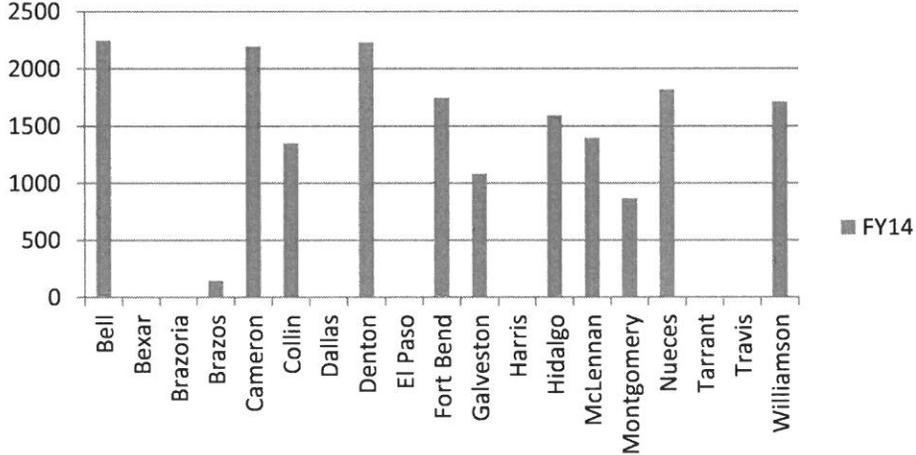
- Criminal Cases are the majority of our dockets
  - 1300 criminal v 200 civil
- Criminal Cases are driving our dockets
- Many Civil Cases are Quasi-Criminal
  - ODL
  - NISI

### Criminal Cases per Court



FY 13 - 1212

### Criminal Cases per Court

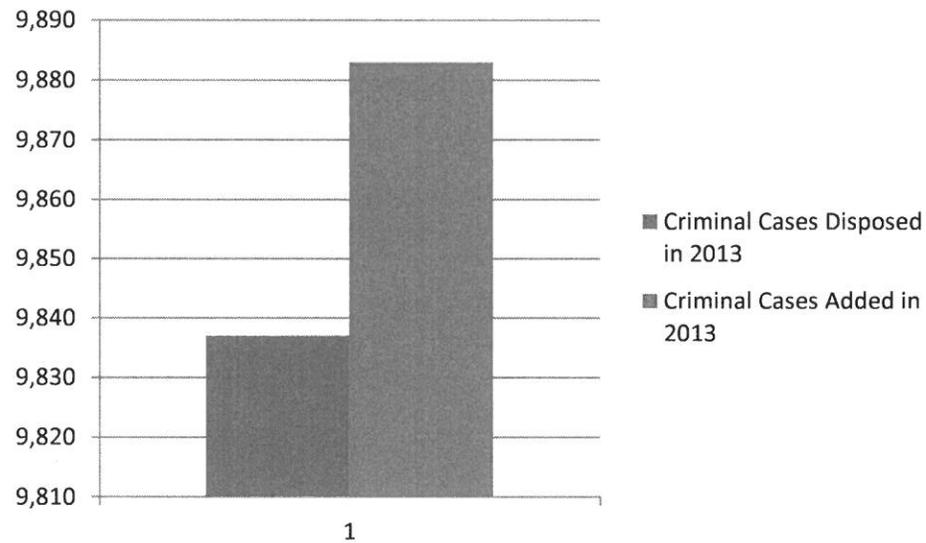


FY 14 - 1349

# Criminal Caseload Trend

- We increased the number of criminal cases per court from 1212 in FY 13 to 1349 so far in FY 14.
  - FY 13 = 1212
  - FY 14 = 1349
- Even though our additional citizens are statistically more law abiding we are increasing in criminal cases at an increasing rate.

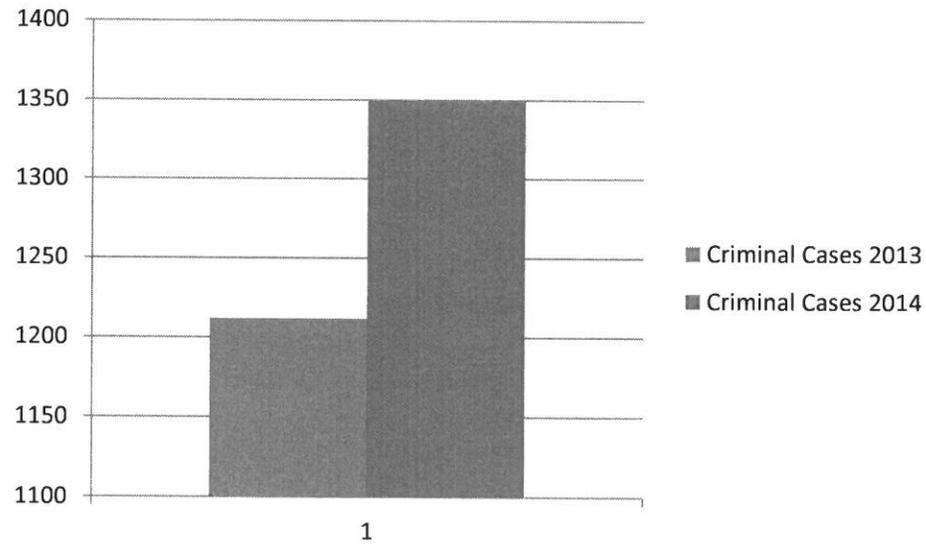
# Criminal Caseload Trend



9837 v 9883

Carried over 46 cases or  
7.6 cases per court

# Criminal Caseload Trend



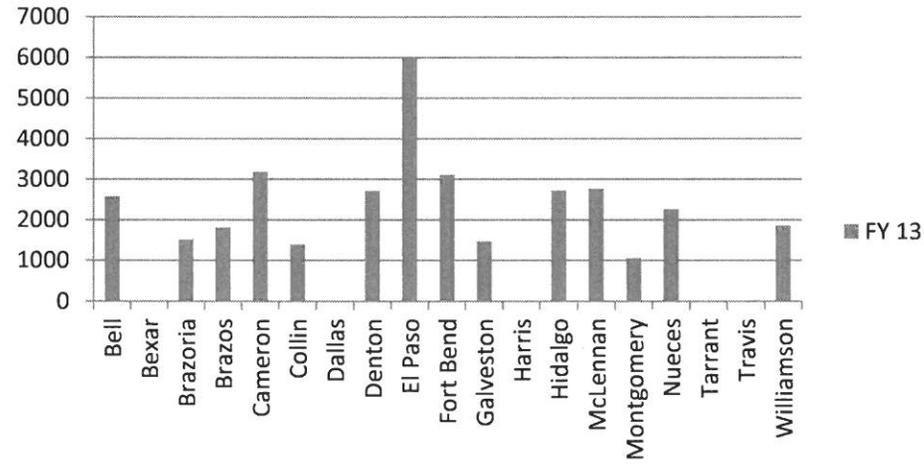
1212 v 1349  
Projected carry over of 145  
cases (137+8) cases per court

# Criminal Caseload Trend

- In FY 2013, we disposed of 9837 criminal cases
- So far in FY 2014, we have already disposed of 7934; therefore, projected to dispose of 10,500 cases.
  - FY 13 = 9837
  - FY 14 = 10500
- We have peaked out!
  - We are getting more criminal cases filed than we can dispose.
  - We are able to allocate more time to criminal cases because of fewer civil cases.

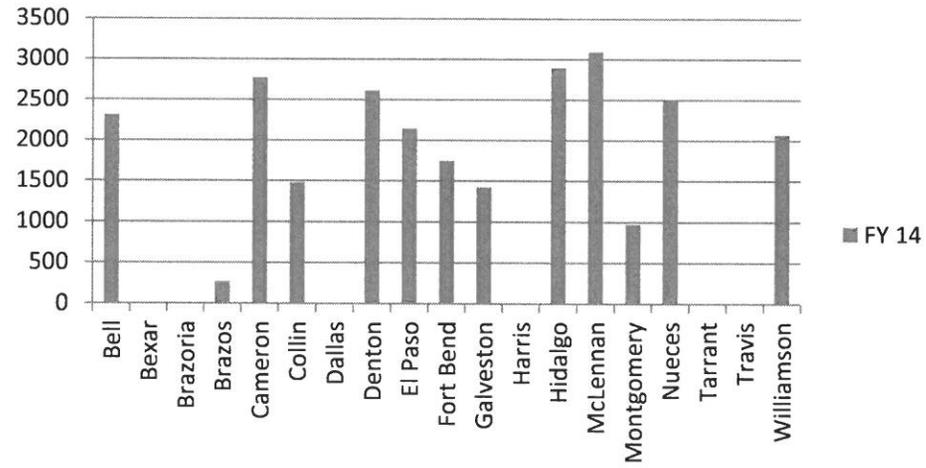
# Total Case Trend

### Total Cases per Court



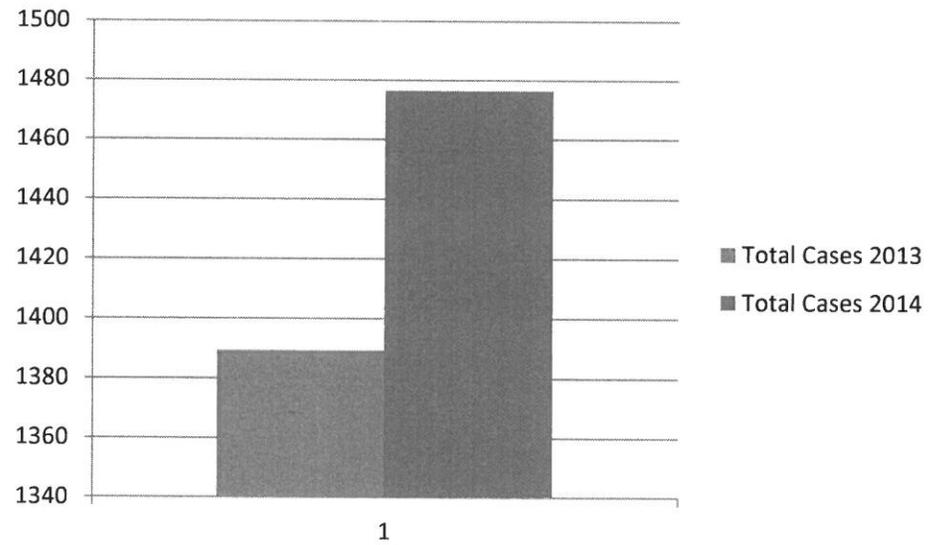
FY 13 - 1389

### Total Cases per Court



FY 14 - 1477

# Total Caseload Trend



1389 v 1477

# Total Caseload Trend

- We increased the number of total cases per court from 1389 to 1477.
  - FY 13 = 1389
  - FY 14 = 1477
- At 1389 we could dispose what was added.
- At 1477 we cannot dispose what was added.
- Sweet spot per court is somewhere between 1389 and 1477.

# Total Case Trend

2013 levels were sustainable

2014 levels are not sustainable

2013	ADDED	DISPOSED	DELTA
CIVIL	4188	4330	-142
CRIMINAL	9883	9837	46
TOTAL	14071	14167	-96
2014	ADDED	DISPOSED	DELTA
CIVIL	2749	3040	-291
CRIMINAL	8747	7934	813
TOTAL	11496	10974	522

{ Carried over 46 criminal cases to 2014

{ Projected to carry over more than 500 cases and 800 criminal cases into 2015

Civil Cases are trending downward but will level out at sometime, but Criminal Cases are trending upward at an increasing rate.

# Additional Courts

## Why/When do we need one

**IF** FY 13 levels at 1389 criminal cases per court is **sustainable**

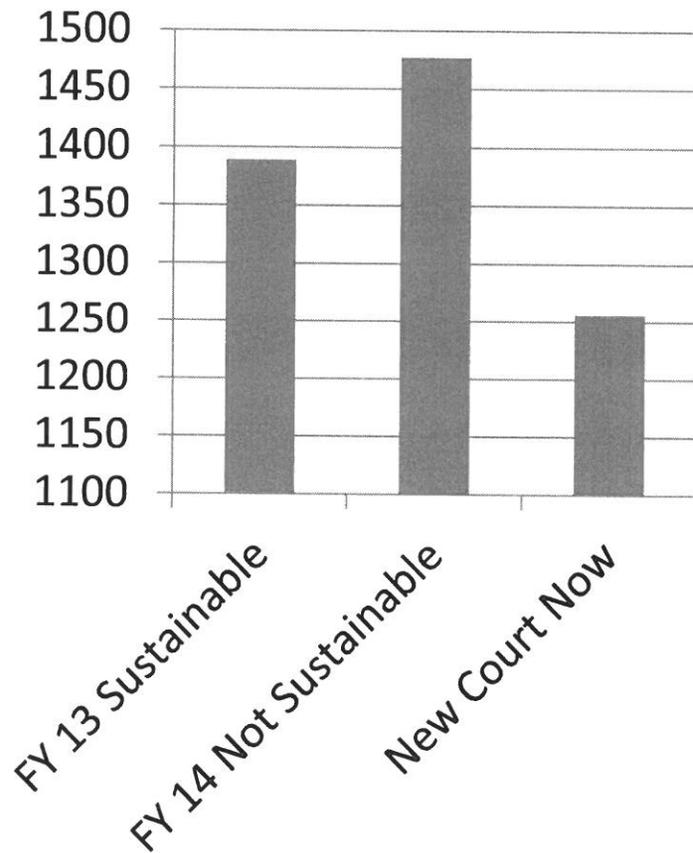
**AND** FY 14 levels of 1477 criminal cases per court is **not sustainable**

**THEN** the an additional County Court at Law is needed when the current courts, however many that may be, pending criminal case load is greater than 1389 but less than 1477

## Add 1 Court Now

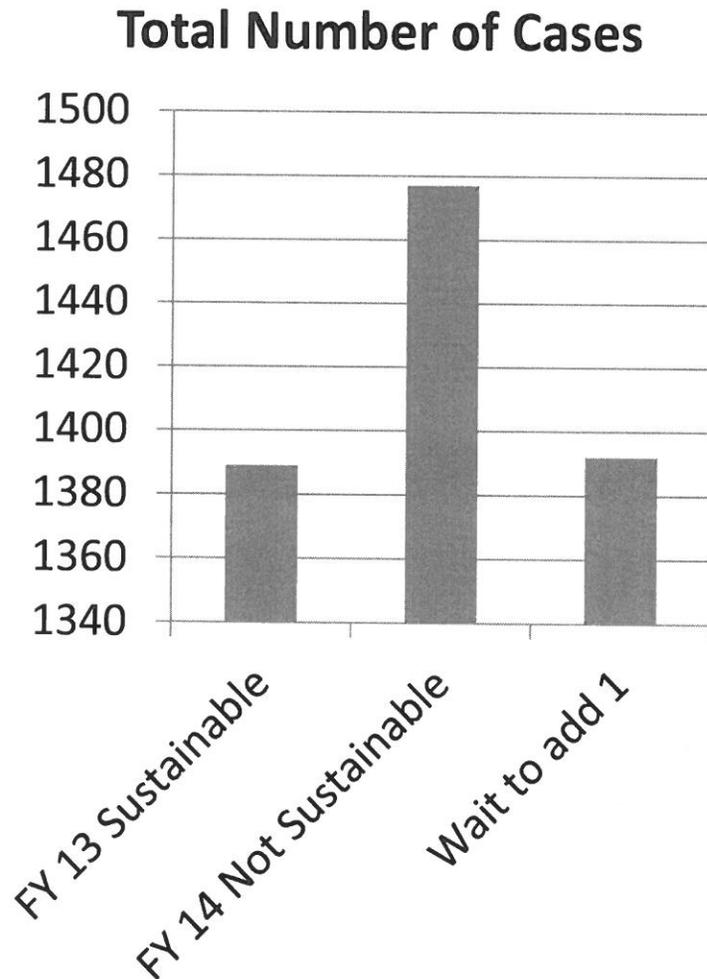
- Total caseload per 7 courts would be 1265.

Total Number of Cases



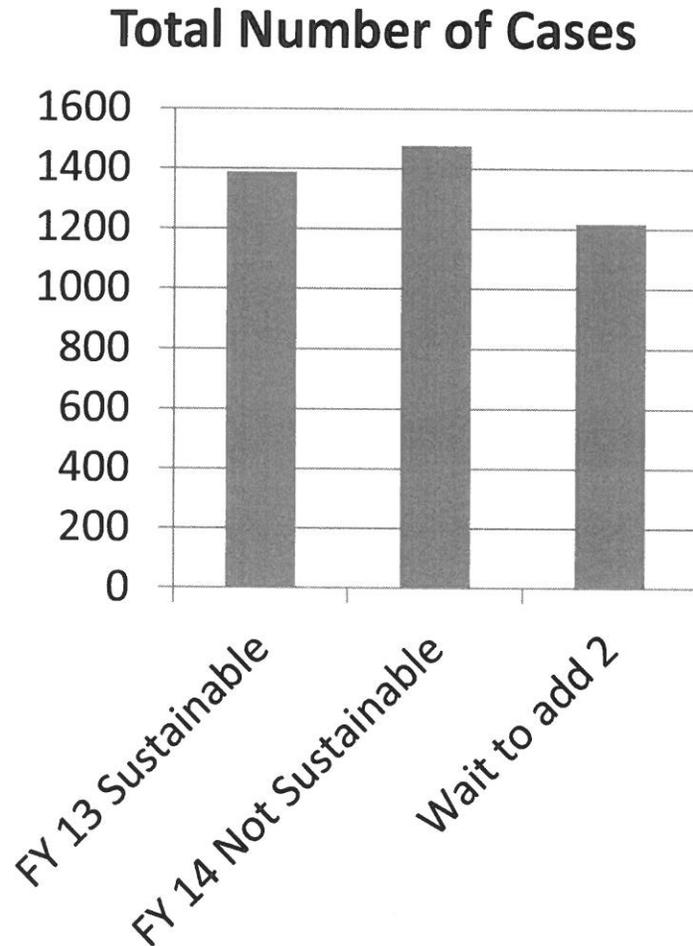
- 1389 cases per court
- 1477 cases per court

## Add 1 Court Later



- If we increase caseload 10% (from 1476 per court to 1624) then add 1 additional court, the total caseload per 7 courts would be 1392.
  - 1389 cases per court
  - 1477 cases per court
- FY 13 to FY 14 increase was 88 cases per court.
- At current case rate increase, we should expect to reach the 10% increase in 1 year and 8 months

## Add 2 Courts Later



- If we increase caseload 10% (from 1476 per court to 1624) then add 2 additional courts, the total caseload per 8 courts would be 1218.
  - 1389 cases per court
  - 1477 cases per court
- FY 13 to FY 14 increase was 88 cases per court.
- At current case rate increase, we should expect to reach the 10% increase in 1 year and 8 months

# Unknown Effects

# Unknown Effects

- Previous Efficiencies:
  - Presiding vs. Visiting Judges
  - Policy Changes
    - Pre-Trial Diversion
    - Blood Draw Warrants
    - Specialty Courts (DWI, Mental Health)
    - DA Policies
  - Changes in Technology
    - Odyssey
    - Judges Edition
    - iPad

# Unknown Effects

- Future Efficiencies:
  - Paperless Criminal Cases
  - Judges Edition
  - Other changes in technology

## Court Notes

1. New District and County Courts must be specifically created by the legislature.
2. When the legislature approves new courts, they are created effective at a specific date. If multiple courts are created, they are typically staggered over two fiscal years.
3. As long as a Judge has not been appointed or duly elected, a newly created County Court at Law can be staffed and funded at a time to be determined by the Commissioners Court. For example, if a new County Court at Law is created effective September 1, 2015, the Commissioners Court could wait until the election results are canvassed in November 2016 to provide the budget for operations.
4. The Commissioners Court must provide a budget for a new District Court at the time the Governor makes the appointment to fill the vacancy. In the past, the Governor has been willing to delay making appointments to meet County budget requirements.
5. Although there is no fiscal impact to the State for a new County Court at Law Judge, the State pays the majority of the salary and benefits costs for District Judges.
6. County Court at Law vacancies are filled by a majority vote of Commissioners Court. The Court is under no time limit to make an appointment.
7. District Court vacancies are filled by the Governor. The Governor is under no time limit to make an appointment.
8. There are 6 unassigned standard courtrooms. None of the 6 courtrooms have technology installed or office furniture.
9. In addition to the 6 unassigned courtrooms, there are 2 smaller auxiliary hearing rooms and 1 large ceremonial larger gallery courtroom.
10. Collin County currently has 6 County Courts at Law, 1 Probate, and 9 District Courts.
11. The 429<sup>th</sup> was the last District Court created effective January 1, 2009.
12. County Court at Law No. 6 was created effective January 1, 2005.
13. All District Courts and County Courts at Law in Collin County have general jurisdiction over their respective jurisdictions. The 417<sup>th</sup> District Court does have the additional requirement to give "preference to juvenile matters". Since 2007, one district court has voluntarily recused hearing criminal cases to avoid any perceived conflicts of interest.

14. The first year startup cost of \$1.34 million includes the purchase and installation of technology in a courtroom, furniture for the chambers and new employees, and employee salaries and benefits.

15. The ongoing cost to operate a new County Court at Law, after the first year, (in FY15 dollars) is approximately \$940,000.

16. The addition of each new County Court at Law results in 12 new employees.

<b><u>Personnel</u></b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b><u>County Court at Law Court</u></b>				
Judge	\$158,303.79	\$36,502.52	\$194,806.31	
Court Coordinator	\$42,524.00	\$17,676.72	\$60,200.72	Grade 511, Min Starting Salary
Bailiff	\$44,399.00	\$17,981.60	\$62,380.60	Grade 554, Min Starting Salary
Court Reporter	\$96,214.00	\$26,406.72	\$122,620.72	add funds if "instant reporting certification"
<b><u>District Attorney</u></b>				
Chief Misdemeanor Prosecutor	\$67,543.00	\$21,744.81	\$89,287.81	Grade 583, Min Starting Salary
Misdemeanor Prosecutor	\$57,740.00	\$20,150.84	\$77,890.84	Grade 581, Min Starting Salary
Misdemeanor Prosecutor	\$57,740.00	\$20,150.84	\$77,890.84	Grade 581, Min Starting Salary
Misdemeanor Investigator	\$51,231.00	\$19,092.48	\$70,323.48	Grade 556, Min Starting Salary
Legal Secretary II	\$35,732.00	\$16,572.34	\$52,304.34	Grade 534, Min Starting Salary
<b><u>County Court at Law Clerk</u></b>				
Clerk II / Civil Family	\$32,966.00	\$16,122.59	\$49,088.59	Grade 533, Min Starting Salary
Clerk II / Civil Family	\$32,966.00	\$16,122.59	\$49,088.59	Grade 533, Min Starting Salary
Criminal Clerk II	\$32,966.00	\$16,122.59	\$49,088.59	Grade 533, Min Starting Salary
			\$905,882.85	

## Important Dates Related to the Creation of Courts

January 13, 2015      Session begins

June 1, 2015          Session ends

### Option A:

September 1, 2015      Possible creation date of new court

District Judge appointed by Governor

CC at Law Judge appointed by Commissioners Court

December 2015          Primary candidate filing

March 2016              Primary election

May 2016                Possible runoff election

November 8, 2016      Election date for unexpired term

Mid-November 2016    Results are canvassed and winner takes office

### Option B:

September 1, 2016      Possible creation of a new court(s)

District Judge appointed by Governor

CC at Law Judge appointed by Commissioners Court

September 2016          County party executive committee nominates candidate for

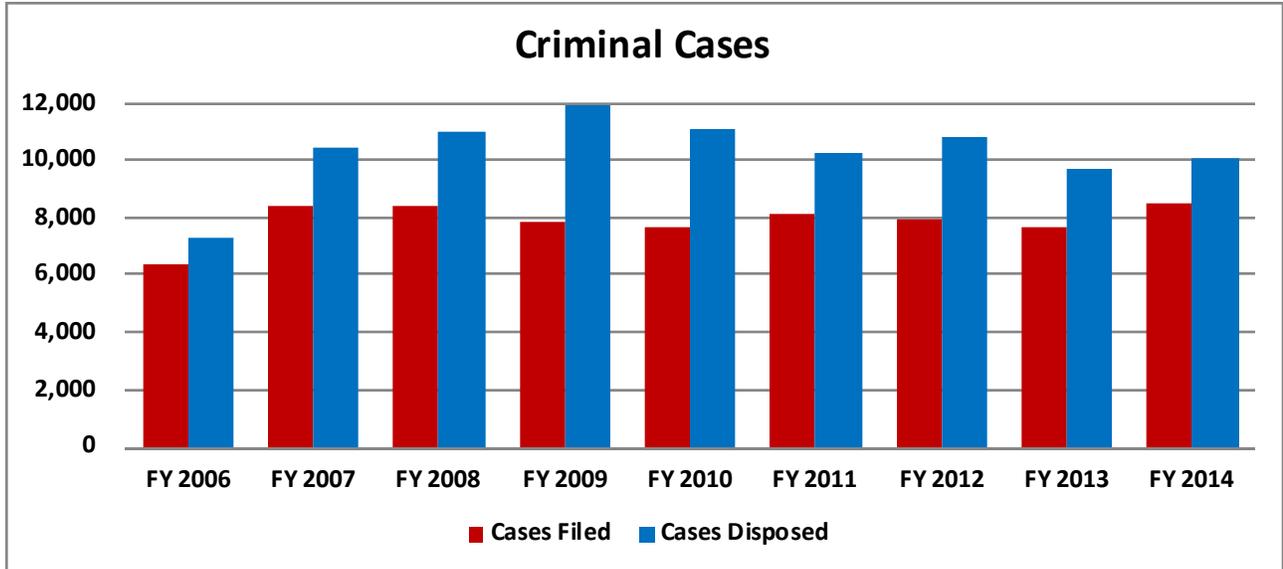
November 8, 2016      Election date for unexpired terms

Mid-November 2016    Results are canvassed and winner takes office

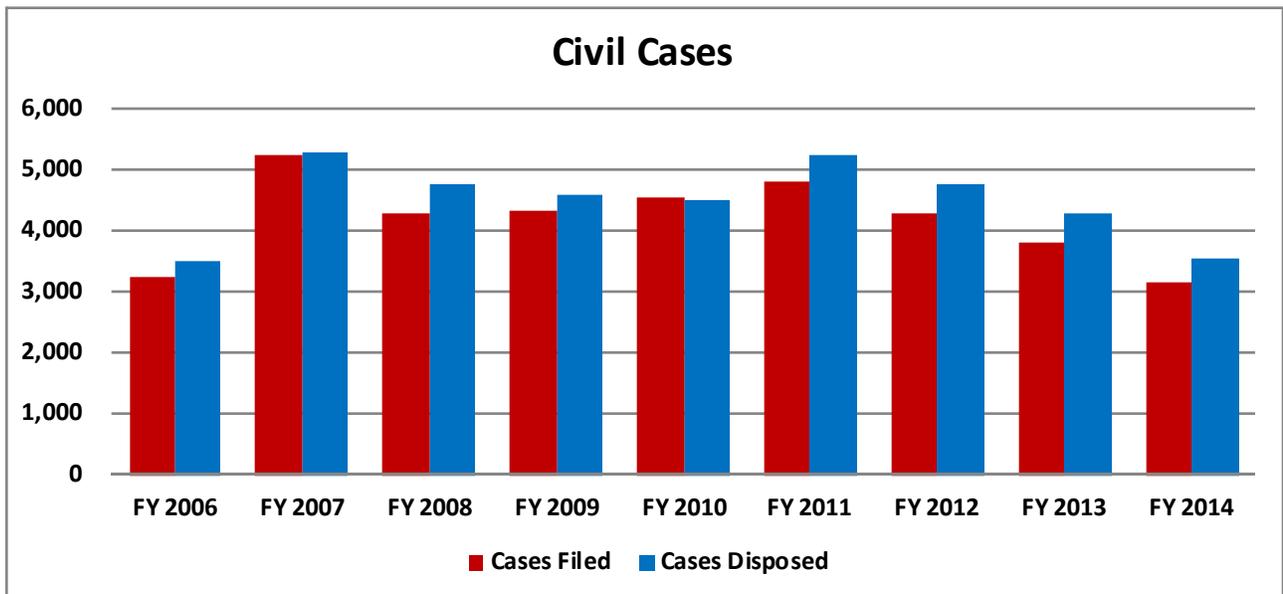
# County Court

## Cases Filed & Disposed

2006 - 2014



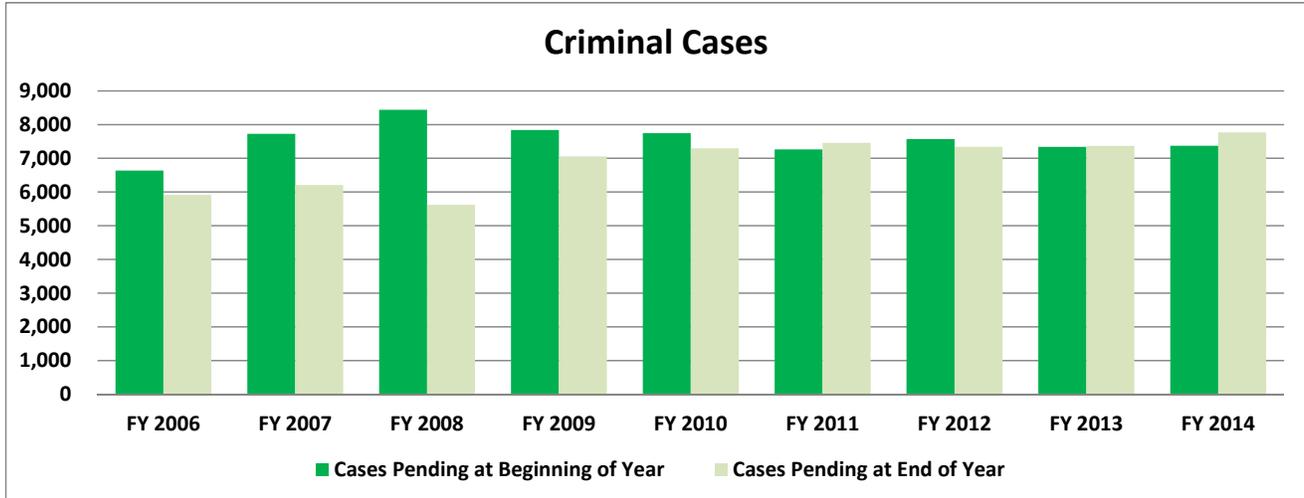
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Cases Filed	6,361	8,422	8,440	7,916	7,684	8,130	7,974	7,668	8,498
Cases Disposed	7,319	10,521	11,068	11,949	11,133	10,283	10,804	9,709	10,126
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>(958)</b>	<b>(2,099)</b>	<b>(2,628)</b>	<b>(4,033)</b>	<b>(3,449)</b>	<b>(2,153)</b>	<b>(2,830)</b>	<b>(2,041)</b>	<b>(1,628)</b>



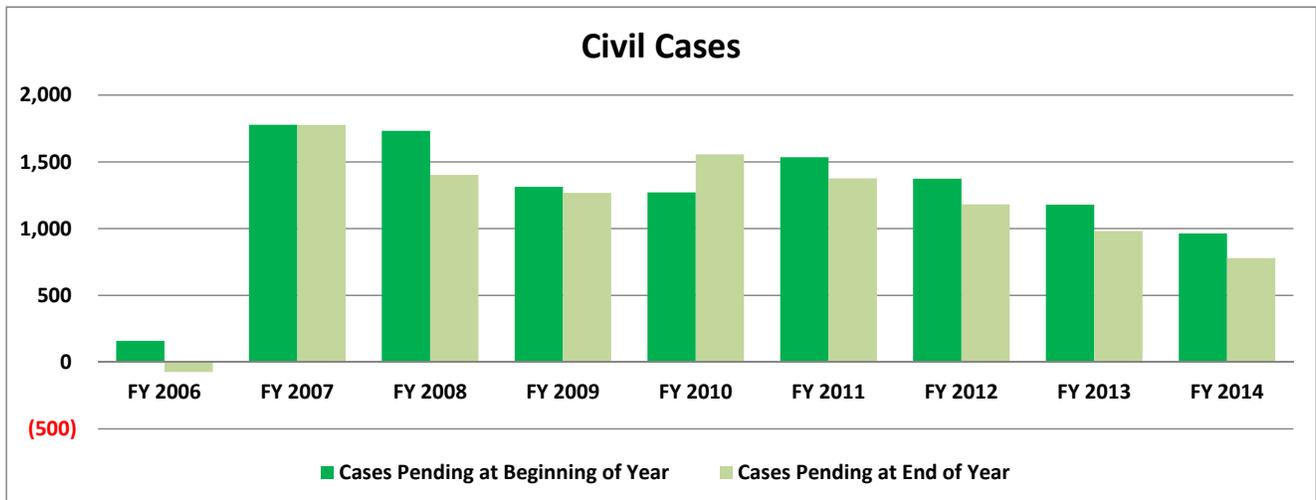
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Cases Filed	3,242	5,229	4,273	4,340	4,556	4,798	4,289	3,820	3,169
Cases Disposed	3,522	5,287	4,751	4,595	4,501	5,236	4,771	4,283	3,561
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>(280)</b>	<b>(58)</b>	<b>(478)</b>	<b>(255)</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>(438)</b>	<b>(482)</b>	<b>(463)</b>	<b>(392)</b>

# County Court

Case Loads  
2006 - 2014



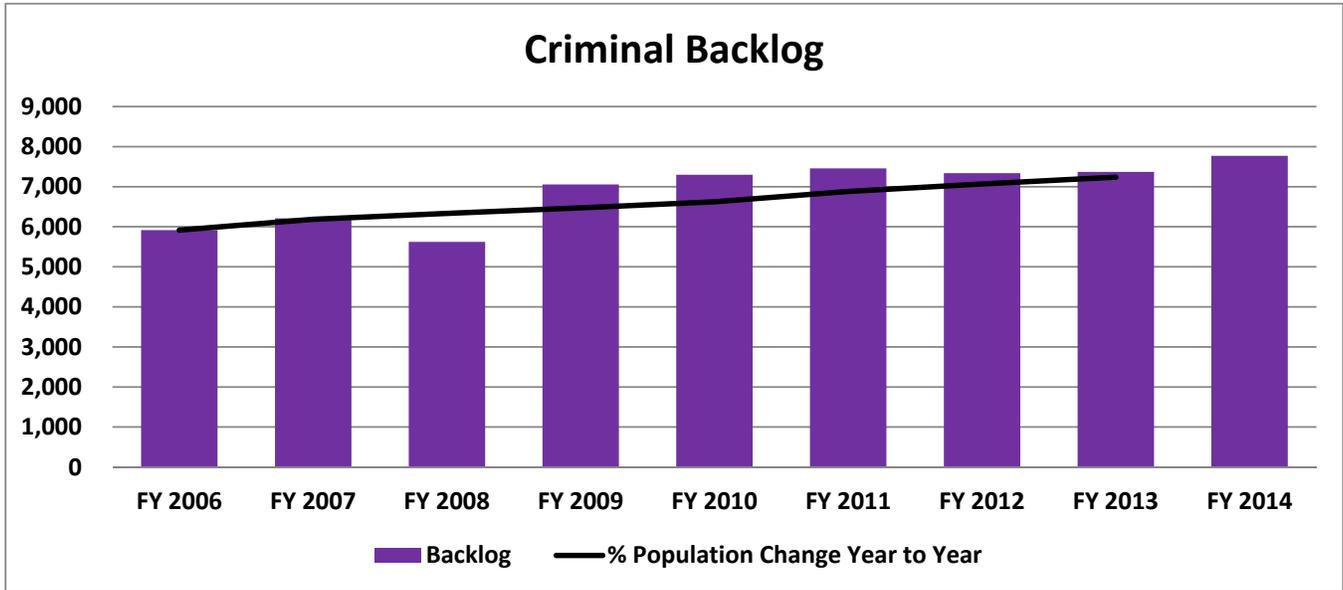
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Cases Pending at Beginning of Year	6,639	7,729	8,440	7,843	7,750	7,268	7,573	7,342	7,375
Cases Pending at End of Year	5,919	6,210	5,624	7,057	7,299	7,459	7,341	7,370	7,772
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>(720)</b>	<b>(1,519)</b>	<b>(2,816)</b>	<b>(786)</b>	<b>(451)</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>(232)</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>397</b>



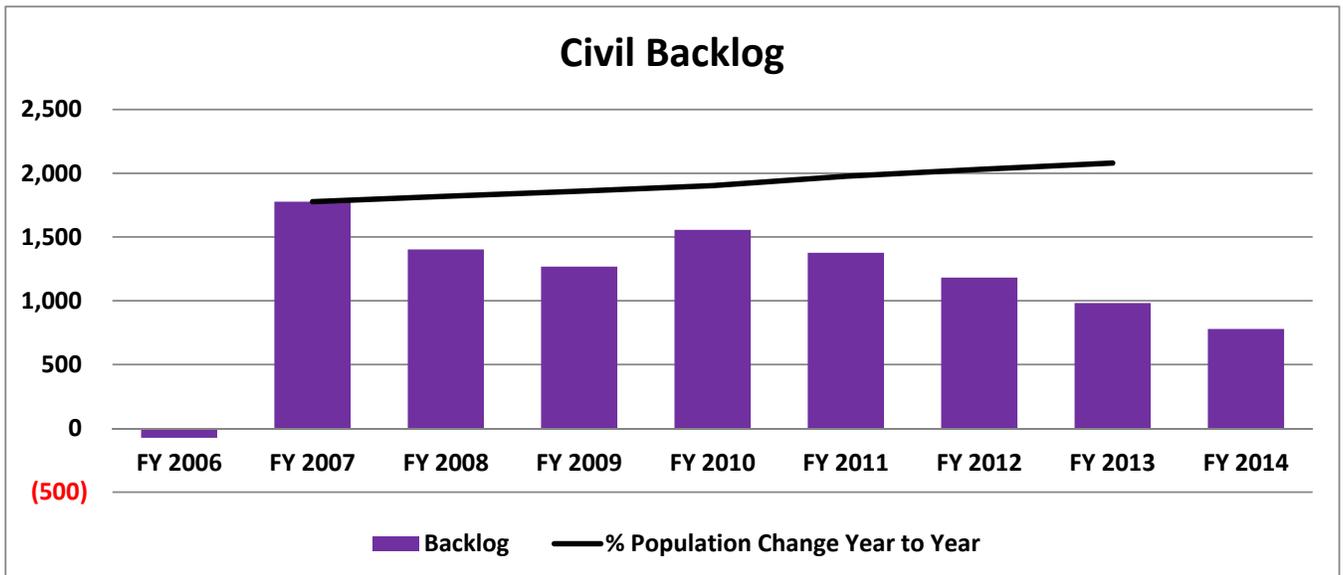
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Cases Pending at Beginning of Year	160	1,779	1,734	1,314	1,272	1,536	1,375	1,181	965
Cases Pending at End of Year	(74)	1,778	1,403	1,269	1,557	1,377	1,183	983	780
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>(234)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(331)</b>	<b>(45)</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>(159)</b>	<b>(192)</b>	<b>(198)</b>	<b>(185)</b>

# County Courts

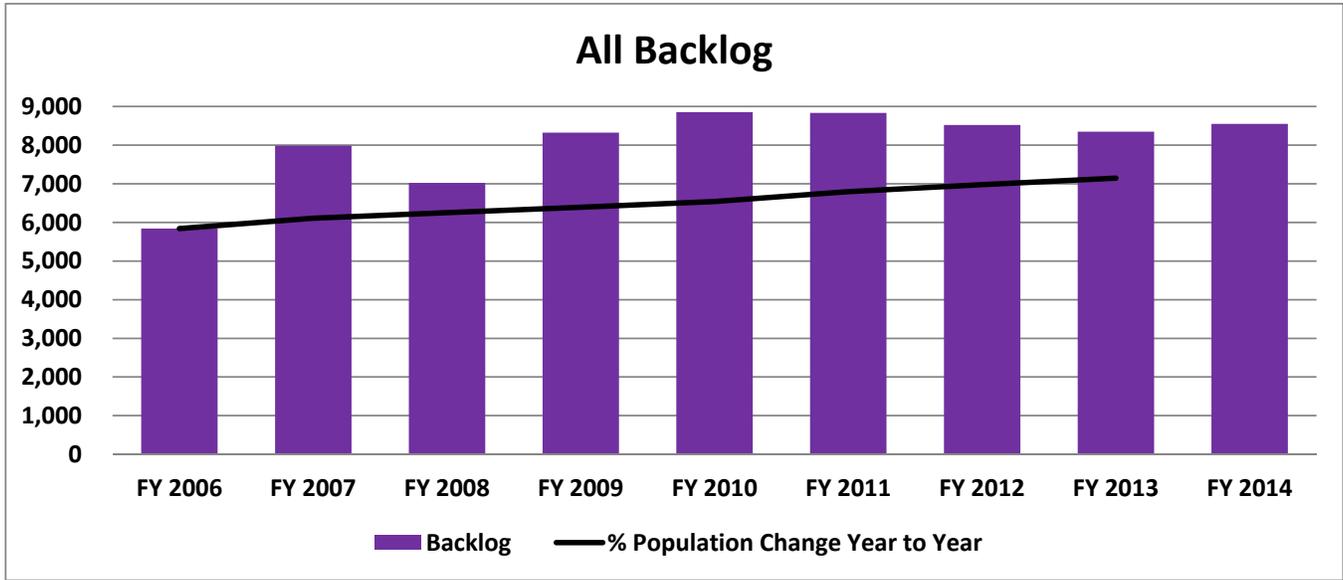
## Case Backlog from 2006 - 2014



	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>Backlog</b>	5,919	6,210	5,624	7,057	7,299	7,459	7,341	7,370	7,772
<b>Trend Year to Year</b>	N/A	4.92%	-9.44%	25.48%	3.43%	2.19%	-1.58%	0.40%	5.45%
<b>Population</b>	698,851	730,690	748,050	764,500	782,341	812,698	834,642	854,778	N/A



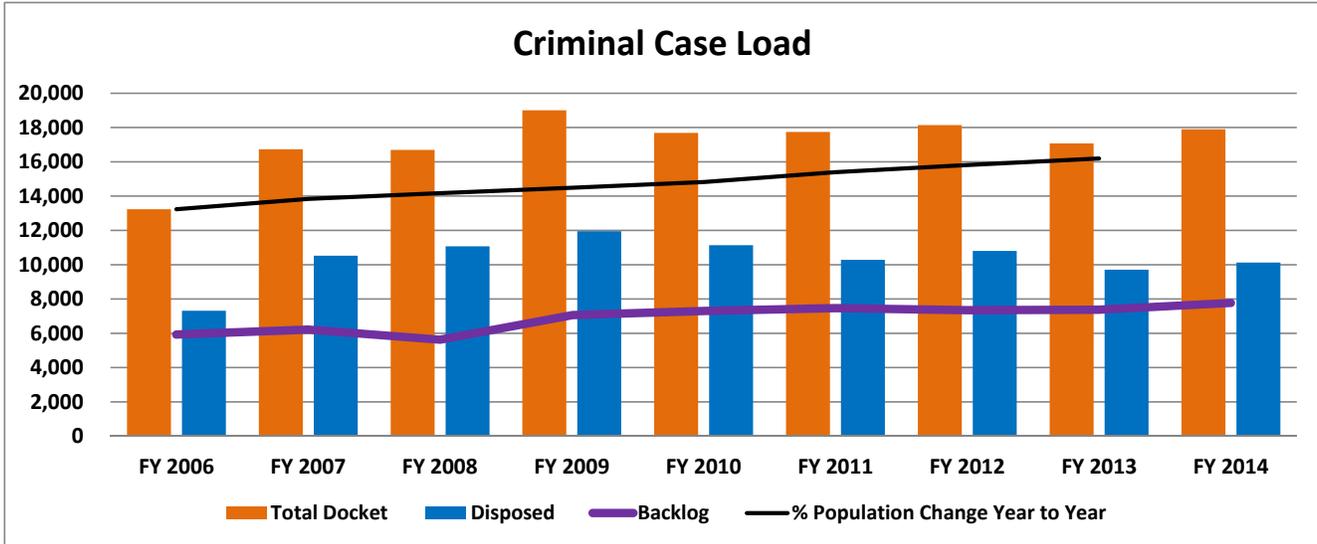
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>Backlog</b>	(74)	1,778	1,403	1,269	1,557	1,377	1,183	983	780
<b>Trend Year to Year</b>	N/A	2502.70%	-21.09%	-9.55%	22.70%	-11.56%	-14.09%	-16.91%	-23.40%
<b>Population</b>	698,851	730,690	748,050	764,500	782,341	812,698	834,642	854,778	N/A



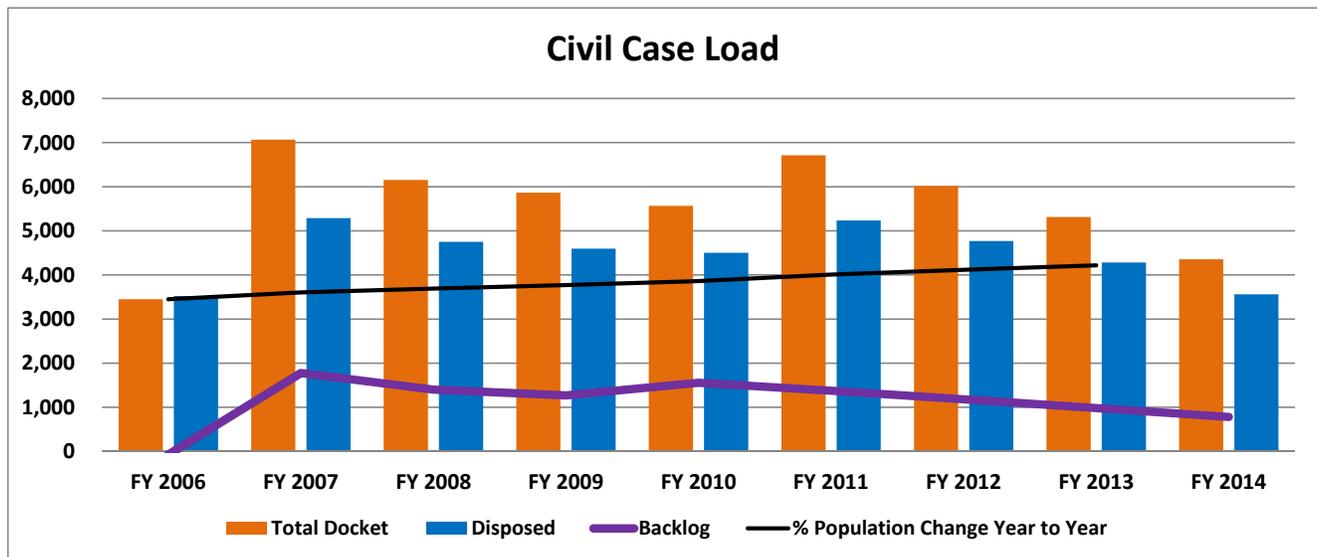
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>Backlog</b>	5,845	7,988	7,027	8,326	8,856	8,836	8,524	8,353	8,552
<b>Trend Year to Year</b>	N/A	36.66%	-12.03%	18.49%	6.37%	-0.23%	-3.53%	-2.01%	2.38%
<b>Population</b>	698,851	730,690	748,050	764,500	782,341	812,698	834,642	854,778	N/A

# County Courts

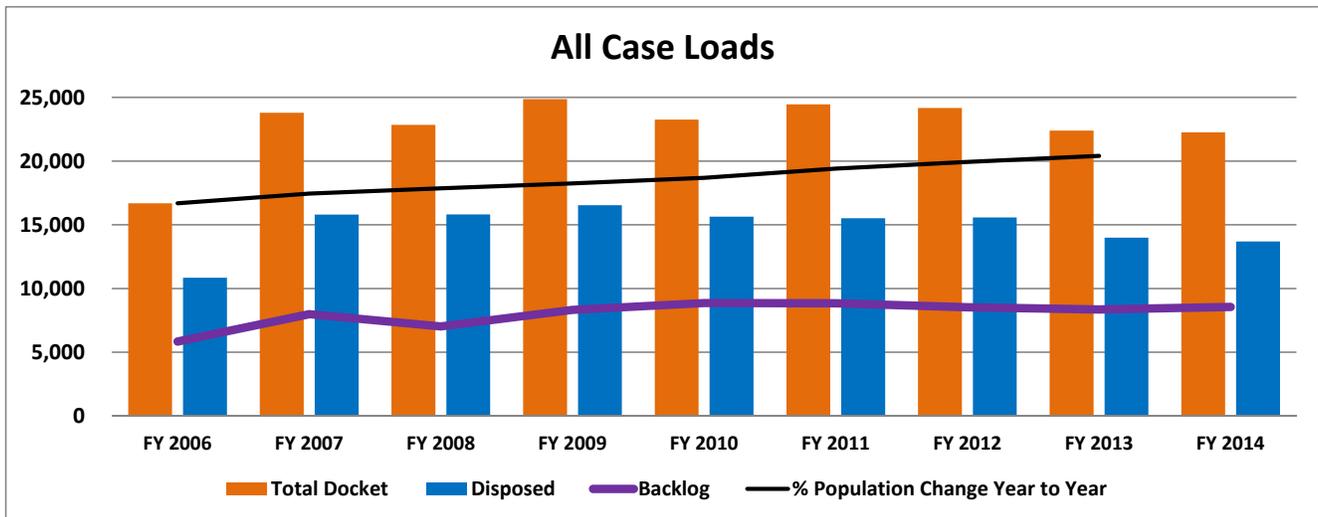
## Case Load from 2006 - 2014



	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>Total Docket</b>	13,238	16,731	16,692	19,006	17,688	17,742	18,145	17,079	17,898
<b>Disposed</b>	7,319	10,521	11,068	11,949	11,133	10,283	10,804	9,709	10,126
<b>Backlog</b>	5,919	6,210	5,624	7,057	7,299	7,459	7,341	7,370	7,772
<b>% Change in Backlog from 2006</b>	N/A	4.92%	-4.98%	19.23%	23.31%	26.02%	24.02%	24.51%	31.31%
<b>Population</b>	698,851	730,690	748,050	764,500	782,341	812,698	834,642	854,778	N/A



	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>Total Docket</b>	3,448	7,065	6,154	5,864	5,566	6,713	6,018	5,313	4,353
<b>Disposed</b>	3,522	5,287	4,751	4,595	4,501	5,236	4,771	4,283	3,561
<b>Backlog</b>	(74)	1,778	1,403	1,269	1,557	1,377	1,183	983	780
<b>% Change in Backlog from 2006</b>	N/A	N/A	-21.09%	-28.63%	-12.43%	-22.55%	-33.46%	-44.71%	-56.13%
<b>Population</b>	698,851	730,690	748,050	764,500	782,341	812,698	834,642	854,778	N/A



	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>Total Docket</b>	16,686	23,796	22,846	24,870	23,254	24,455	24,163	22,392	22,251
<b>Disposed</b>	10,841	15,808	15,819	16,544	15,634	15,519	15,575	13,992	13,687
<b>Backlog</b>	5,845	7,988	7,027	8,326	8,856	8,836	8,524	8,353	8,552
<b>% Change in Backlog from 2006</b>	N/A	4.98%	20.22%	42.45%	51.51%	51.17%	45.83%	42.91%	46.31%
<b>Population</b>	698,851	730,690	748,050	764,500	782,341	812,698	834,642	854,778	N/A