

The Supreme Court of Montana
Office of the Court Administrator

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TO Walker Hopkins, Fiscal Analyst
Sara Hess, Legislative Researcher

FROM: Beth McLaughlin 
Supreme Court Administrator

RE: HB693 Required Report

Attached is the report of open general civil cases (DV) required by 3-1-713, MCA. The report is directly generated from the Full Court case management system using the parameters of "every civil case in an open status" as of December 31, 2023. The report is broken down by Judicial District and counties within a given District. The committee should be aware of the following limitations to this report:

- Litigants filing a civil case have three years in which to serve the other party following the filing and opening of a case in the system. Cases reflected in this report may not yet be served on the responding party.
- Clerks of the District Courts are responsible for closing cases resolved either by a court decision or via other means (settlement agreements, party did not pursue the case, etc.). However, significant workloads in many county offices create administrative backlogs for clerks. You will note several more rural counties with a significant number of older open cases. It is highly likely these are *not* active cases, but cases that should be administratively closed by the Clerk of the District Court in that county.
- For context, 11,738 civil cases were filed in Montana's District Courts in 2022 and 11,426 were closed for a 95% case clearance rate.

Pending Civil Cases Q4 2023

District / Court	2 Yrs Pending	3 Yrs Pending	4 Yrs Pending	5+ Yrs Pending	Grand Total
1	155	117	80	55	407
Broadwater County District Court	8	6	12	22	48
Lewis & Clark County District Court	147	111	68	33	359
2	86	71	46	78	281
Butte-Silver Bow County District Court	86	71	46	78	281
3	32	23	11	12	78
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County District Court	16	9	10	9	44
Granite County District Court	4	7	1	2	14
Powell County District Court	12	7		1	20
4	177	87	26	32	322
Mineral County District Court	1	1	1		3
Missoula County District Court	176	86	25	32	319
5	37	19	6	6	68
Beaverhead County District Court	8	2	2	1	13
Jefferson County District Court	7	1	1	3	12
Madison County District Court	22	16	3	2	43
6	18	8		1	27
Park County District Court	16	7		1	24
Sweet Grass County District Court	2	1			3
7	30	25	12	129	196
Dawson County District Court	8	14	4	73	99
McCone County District Court	2	1	1	2	6
Prairie County District Court	1	5	2	1	9
Richland County District Court	19	3	5	46	73
Wibaux County District Court		2		7	9
8	148	145	50	42	385
Cascade County District Court	148	145	50	42	385
9	18	9	3	9	39
Glacier County District Court	1	2	1		4
Pondera County District Court	10	3	1	1	15
Teton County District Court	5			3	8
Toole County District Court	2	4	1	5	12
10	10	4	1	6	21
Fergus County District Court	6	2			8
Judith Basin County District Court	1		1	5	7
Petroleum County District Court	3	2		1	6
11	103	50	15	6	174
Flathead County District Court	103	50	15	6	174
12	14	5	10	17	46
Chouteau County District Court	6	2	8	8	24
Hill County District Court	7	1	2		10
Liberty County District Court	1	2		9	12
13	180	63	37	107	387
Yellowstone County District Court	180	63	37	107	387
14	9	10	5	9	33
Golden Valley County District Court	4	2		2	8
Musselshell County District Court	2	5	1	3	11
Wheatland County District Court	3	3	4	4	14
15	27	29	25	152	233
Daniels County District Court	2	5			7
Roosevelt County District Court	5	7	11	5	28
Sheridan County District Court	20	17	14	147	198
16	20	10	6	11	47
Carter County District Court		1			1
Custer County District Court		1		1	2
Fallon County District Court	5	1	1		7
Garfield County District Court	1	1	1		3
Powder River County District Court	2				2
Rosebud County District Court	6	4	1	1	12
Treasure County District Court	6	2	3	9	20
17	5	1	4	1	11
Blaine County District Court			4		4
Phillips County District Court	5	1			6
Valley County District Court				1	1

Pending Civil Cases Q4 2023

District / Court	2 Yrs Pending	3 Yrs Pending	4 Yrs Pending	5+ Yrs Pending	Grand Total
18	130	64	16	33	243
Gallatin County District Court	130	64	16	33	243
19	42	23	9	13	87
Lincoln County District Court	42	23	9	13	87
20	66	51	24	29	170
Lake County District Court	40	35	19	10	104
Sanders County District Court	26	16	5	19	66
21	100	58	55	62	275
Ravalli County District Court	100	58	55	62	275
22	35	7	1	9	52
Big Horn County District Court	2	2		1	5
Carbon County District Court	23	3	1	3	30
Stillwater County District Court	10	2		5	17
23	32	72	62	31	197
Asbestos Claims District Court	32	72	62	31	197
Grand Total	1474	951	504	850	3779