

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 2021's HB693. 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 June 30, 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.

Please note pursuant to HB693 this reporting requirement ended on June 30, 2023.

Pending Civil Cases Q2 2023

District / Court	2 Yrs Pending	3 Yrs Pending	4 Yrs Pending	5+ Yrs Pending	Grand Total
1	139	125	49	42	355
Broadwater County District Court	9	10	14	19	52
Lewis & Clark County District Court	130	115	35	23	303
2	78	70	43	61	252
Butte-Silver Bow County District Court	78	70	43	61	252
3	32	22	10	11	75
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County District Court	18	12	10	8	48
Granite County District Court	3	6		2	11
Powell County District Court	11	4		1	16
4	159	92	32	32	315
Mineral County District Court	1	1			2
Missoula County District Court	158	91	32	32	313
5	50	14	8	4	76
Beaverhead County District Court	7	4	3		14
Jefferson County District Court	6	3	2	2	13
Madison County District Court	37	7	3	2	49
6	17	9	1	1	28
Park County District Court	16	8	1	1	26
Sweet Grass County District Court	1	1			2
7	32	22	15	161	230
Dawson County District Court	11	12	1	81	105
McCone County District Court	3	1	1	1	6
Prairie County District Court	1	5	1		7
Richland County District Court	16	3	12	72	103
Wibaux County District Court	1	1		7	9
8	138	129	26	36	329
Cascade County District Court	138	129	26	36	329
9	24	10	5	11	50
Glacier County District Court	3	3		1	7
Pondera County District Court	6	6	4	2	18
Teton County District Court	8		1	3	12
Toole County District Court	7	1		5	13
10	15	4	1	22	42
Fergus County District Court	7	2			9
Judith Basin County District Court	5	1		22	28
Petroleum County District Court	3	1	1		5
11	154	50	4	6	214
Flathead County District Court	154	50	4	6	214
12	11	12	3	19	45
Chouteau County District Court	5	9	1	9	24
Hill County District Court	4	2	2	1	9
Liberty County District Court	2	1		9	12
13	181	66	28	119	394
Yellowstone County District Court	181	66	28	119	394
14	16	5	4	10	35
Golden Valley County District Court	3	1		2	6
Musselshell County District Court	10	1	2	4	17
Wheatland County District Court	3	3	2	4	12
15	28	34	16	143	221
Daniels County District Court	6	1			7
Roosevelt County District Court	6	12	4	5	27
Sheridan County District Court	16	21	12	138	187
16	23	12	9	10	54
Carter County District Court	1		1		2
Custer County District Court	1	1		1	3
Fallon County District Court	2	1	2		5
Garfield County District Court	2	2		2	6
Powder River County District Court	2	1		1	4
Rosebud County District Court	9	3	1		13
Treasure County District Court	6	4	5	6	21

Pending Civil Cases Q2 2023

District / Court	2 Yrs Pending	3 Yrs Pending	4 Yrs Pending	5+ Yrs Pending	Grand Total
17	12	3	3		18
Blaine County District Court	2	2	2		6
Phillips County District Court	8	1			9
Valley County District Court	2		1		3
18	94	40	25	24	183
Gallatin County District Court	94	40	25	24	183
19	34	32	3	13	82
Lincoln County District Court	34	32	3	13	82
20	72	43	13	18	146
Lake County District Court	44	35	4	7	90
Sanders County District Court	28	8	9	11	56
21	84	50	49	40	223
Ravalli County District Court	84	50	49	40	223
22	21	8	2	9	40
Big Horn County District Court	4	4		2	10
Carbon County District Court	14	2		3	19
Stillwater County District Court	3	2	2	4	11
23	32	89	43	37	201
Asbestos Claims District Court	32	89	43	37	201
Grand Total	1446	941	392	829	3608