

The Supreme Court of Montana
Office of the Court Administrator


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TO Cathy Duncan, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Section D, Finance Subcommittee

FROM: Beth McLaughlin 
Supreme Court Administrator

RE: HB693 Required Report

Attached is the report of open general civil cases (DV) required by 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, 2022. 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, 5,969 civil cases were filed in Montana's District Courts in the first half of 2022 and 6,284 were closed.

Please let me know if the committee needs additional information.

Pending Civil Cases - Q2 2022

District # / Court Name	2 Yrs Pending	3 Yrs Pending	4 Yrs Pending	5+ Yrs Pending	Grand Total
1	182	67	16	34	299
Broadwater County District Court	19	14	8	12	53
Lewis & Clark County District Court	163	53	8	22	246
2	116	63	56	55	290
Butte-Silver Bow County District Court	116	63	56	55	290
3	36	18	9	5	68
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County District Court	18	13	6	3	40
Granite County District Court	6	1	1	1	9
Powell County District Court	12	4	2	1	19
4	161	60	28	23	272
Mineral County District Court	2				2
Missoula County District Court	159	60	28	23	270
5	26	12	4	5	47
Beaverhead County District Court	7	5			12
Jefferson County District Court	7	4	3	2	16
Madison County District Court	12	3	1	3	19
6	44	8	1	3	56
Park County District Court	37	7	1	2	47
Sweet Grass County District Court	7	1		1	9
7	37	24	15	182	258
Dawson County District Court	16	1	4	77	98
McCone County District Court	2	2		1	5
Prairie County District Court	8	1		1	10
Richland County District Court	10	20	11	96	137
Wibaux County District Court	1			7	8
8	171	35	26	22	254
Cascade County District Court	171	35	26	22	254
9	19	8	4	14	45
Glacier County District Court	5	1	1	1	8
Pondera County District Court	9	4	1	1	15
Teton County District Court	2	2	1	2	7
Toole County District Court	3	1	1	10	15
10	11	1	4	18	34
Fergus County District Court	9				9
Judith Basin County District Court	1		4	18	23
Petroleum County District Court	1	1			2
11	168	51	36	14	269
Flathead County District Court	168	51	36	14	269
12	30	8	7	17	62
Chouteau County District Court	12	3	2	8	25
Hill County District Court	17	5	2	1	25
Liberty County District Court	1		3	8	12
13	144	68	35	102	349
Yellowstone County District Court	144	68	35	102	349
14	12	7	6	13	38
Golden Valley County District Court	1		1	2	4
Meagher County District Court	3	1	1	3	8
Musselshell County District Court	4	3	1	3	11
Wheatland County District Court	4	3	3	5	15
15	40	23	37	132	232
Daniels County District Court	1	1			2
Roosevelt County District Court	15	7	15	15	52
Sheridan County District Court	24	15	22	117	178
16	20	12	5	8	45
Carter County District Court		1			1
Custer County District Court	1	1	1		3
Fallon County District Court	1	1			2
Garfield County District Court	3	1		2	6
Powder River County District Court	1		1		2
Rosebud County District Court	10	3	1	1	15
Treasure County District Court	4	5	2	5	16

Pending Civil Cases - Q2 2022

District # / Court Name	2 Yrs Pending	3 Yrs Pending	4 Yrs Pending	5+ Yrs Pending	Grand Total
17	16	8	3	3	28
Blaine County District Court	6	3	2	2	13
Phillips County District Court	1	1	1	1	4
Valley County District Court	9	2			11
18	71	41	13	14	139
Gallatin County District Court	71	41	13	14	139
19	44	6	7	11	68
Lincoln County District Court	44	6	7	11	68
20	54	13	7	11	85
Lake County District Court	44	4	2	5	55
Sanders County District Court	10	9	5	6	30
21	75	56	35	8	174
Ravalli County District Court	75	56	35	8	174
22	37	8	6	10	61
Big Horn County District Court	11	1	3	1	16
Carbon County District Court	12	4	1	4	21
Stillwater County District Court	14	3	2	5	24
23	92	43	30	8	173
Asbestos Claims District Court	92	43	30	8	173
Grand Total	1606	638	390	712	3346