



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 17, 2025

DATE: May 20, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Alicia Lerud, Court Administrator and Clerk of Court, Second Judicial District Court (775) 328-3194, alicia.lerud@washoecourts.us

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager

SUBJECT: Approve the installation and operation of audio-visual equipment in the courtrooms of the Second Judicial District Court for the recording of civil and criminal proceedings, in lieu of court reporters, as authorized by NRS 3.380 with approval retroactive to January 1, 2020. District Court (All Commission Districts).

SUMMARY

This item recommends the Board of County Commissioners approve, retroactive to January 1, 2020, the installation and operation of audio-visual equipment in the Second Judicial District Court for the recording of any civil and criminal proceedings, testimony, objections, rulings, exceptions, arraignments, pleas, sentences, statements and remarks made by the district attorney or judge, oral instructions given by the judge and any other proceedings occurring in civil or criminal actions or proceedings, or special proceedings whenever and wherever and to the same extent as any of such proceedings have previously been recorded by court reporter. Approval by the Board of County Commissioners for the installation and operation of audio-visual equipment for the recording of court proceedings is required pursuant to NRS 3.380.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

None.

BACKGROUND

NRS 3.380 allows a district court to utilize audio-visual equipment to record certain court proceedings where the Board of County Commissioners approves such use. NRS 3.380(1) provides

AGENDA ITEM # _____

The judge or judges of any district court may, with the approval of the board of county commissioners of any one or more of the counties comprising such district, in addition to the appointment of a court reporter as in this chapter provided, enter an order for the installation of sound recording equipment for use in any of the instances recited in NRS 3.320, for the recording of any civil and criminal proceedings, testimony, objections, rulings, exceptions, arraignments, pleas, sentences, statements and remarks made by the district attorney or judge, oral instructions given by the judge and any other proceedings occurring in civil or criminal actions or proceedings, or special proceedings whenever and wherever and to the same extent as any of such proceedings have heretofore under existing statutes been recorded by the official reporter or any special reporter or any reporter pro tempore appointed by the court.

Over the last two years, it has become increasingly difficult to find licensed court reporters to provide the recording of civil and criminal proceedings, requiring the use of audio-visual recording to maintain the court record. Therefore, the District Court is seeking approval pursuant to NRS 3.380 to install and operate audio-visual equipment to keep the court record. Without this approval, the Second Judicial District Court will experience a backlog due to the need to limit courtroom proceedings based on court reporter availability.

Approval is being sought retroactively to January 1, 2020, as audio-visual recording has been used out of necessity on a limited basis since 2020 due to impacts of the global pandemic and lack of available court reporters.

FISCAL IMPACT

No General Fund budget appropriations are being requested.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners approve, pursuant to NRS 3.380, the installation and operation of audio-visual equipment in the Second Judicial District Court for the recording of civil and criminal proceedings whenever and wherever and to the same extent as such proceedings have previously been reported by court reporter, with approval retroactive to January 1, 2020.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Move to approve, pursuant to NRS 3.380, the installation and operation of audio-visual equipment in the Second Judicial District Court for the recording of civil and criminal proceedings whenever and wherever and to the same extent as such proceedings have previously been reported by court reporter, with approval retroactive to January 1, 2020.