

Class C Notices, Warrants, Arrests, Collections, and Community Service



Austin

Austin Municipal Court

May 12th, 2026

Background



- Class C misdemeanors are the lowest-level criminal offenses in Texas.
- Punishable by a fine only (no jail time upon conviction), typically up to \$500, though some offenses (e.g., city ordinances and traffic offenses) may have different fine structures.
- Common examples include:
 - Traffic violations
 - Public Intoxication, Disorderly Conduct, Assault by Contact/Family Violence
 - Failure to Maintain Property, High Grass and Weeds, Illegal Dumping
 - Zoning and Building Code violations
- Cases are initiated by citation or probable cause affidavit
 - Defendants are required to appear to answer the charges filed against them
- Failure to appear to answer charges or satisfy a judgment may result in
 - Additional charges filed (Failure to Appear)
 - Issuance of a warrant

Notices



- Citations serve as primary legal notice and must include:
 - Written notice to appear
 - Time/place or instructions to contact the court
- Cases filed by probable cause affidavits are charged by complaint and a notice to appear is mailed to the defendant
- Pre-Warrant
 - Failure to Appear (FTA)
 - Notice prior to issuance of warrant
 - Notice must include alternatives if unable to pay, options, and consequences
- Post-Judgement (Failure to Comply)
 - Notice and opportunity to be heard before enforcement actions (to include issuance of warrant)

Notices, Phone Calls, and Texts



Unadjudicated Cases (failed to appear)

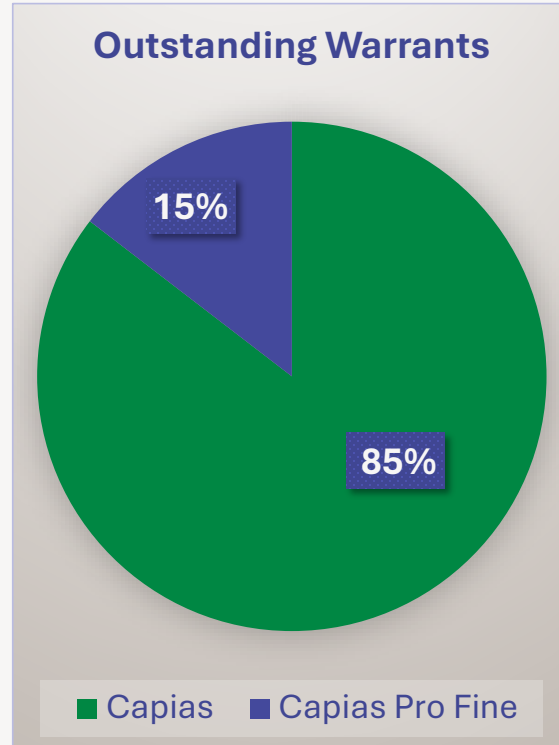
Initial appearance phone call and text*	3 days before initial appearance
Scheduled docket reminder phone call and text*	3 days before scheduled court date
Delinquent Appearance Notice	7 days after missed initial appearance or scheduled court date
Warrant Issued Notice*	1 day after warrant issuance
Warrant phone call and text*	3 days after warrant issuance
Pre-Collections notice*	Before case is referred to collection agency

Adjudicated Cases (failed to comply)

Scheduled docket reminder phone call and text*	3 days before scheduled court date
Past due phone call and text*	11 days after due date for payment plans
Past Due Warning Notice	21 days past due date
Past due phone call and text*	31 days after due date for extensions
2nd Past Due Warning Notice*	42 days past due date
Warrant Issued Notice*	1 day after warrant issuance
Warrant phone call and text*	3 days after warrant issuance

Outstanding Warrants as of 4/23/26

- Capias (unadjudicated/failed to appear)
 - 52,050 cases
- Capias Pro Fine (adjudicated/failed to comply)
 - 8,881 cases



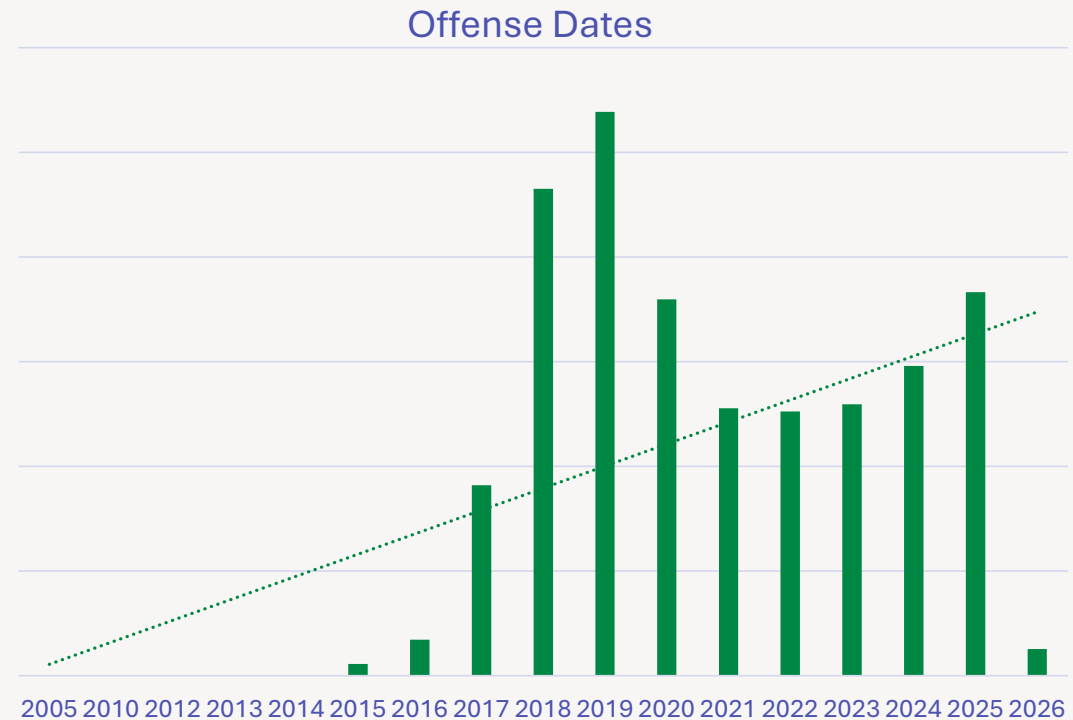
Asian	232	1%
Female	75	
Male	157	
Black or African American	8,509	24%
Female	2,752	
Male	5,750	
Blank	7	
Hispanic or Latino	9,943	28%
Female	3,109	
Male	6,827	
Blank	7	
Middle Eastern	56	0%
Female	6	
Male	50	
Native American or Alaskan	47	0%
Female	11	
Male	36	
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	64	0%
Female	20	
Male	44	
Other	393	1%
Female	94	
Male	296	
Blank	3	
Unknown	2,598	7%
Female	621	
Male	1,287	
Unknown	4	
Blank	686	
White	14,208	39%
Female	4,091	
Male	10,107	
Unknown	3	
Blank	7	
Grand Total (by person)	36,050	100%



Outstanding Warrants as of 4/23/26



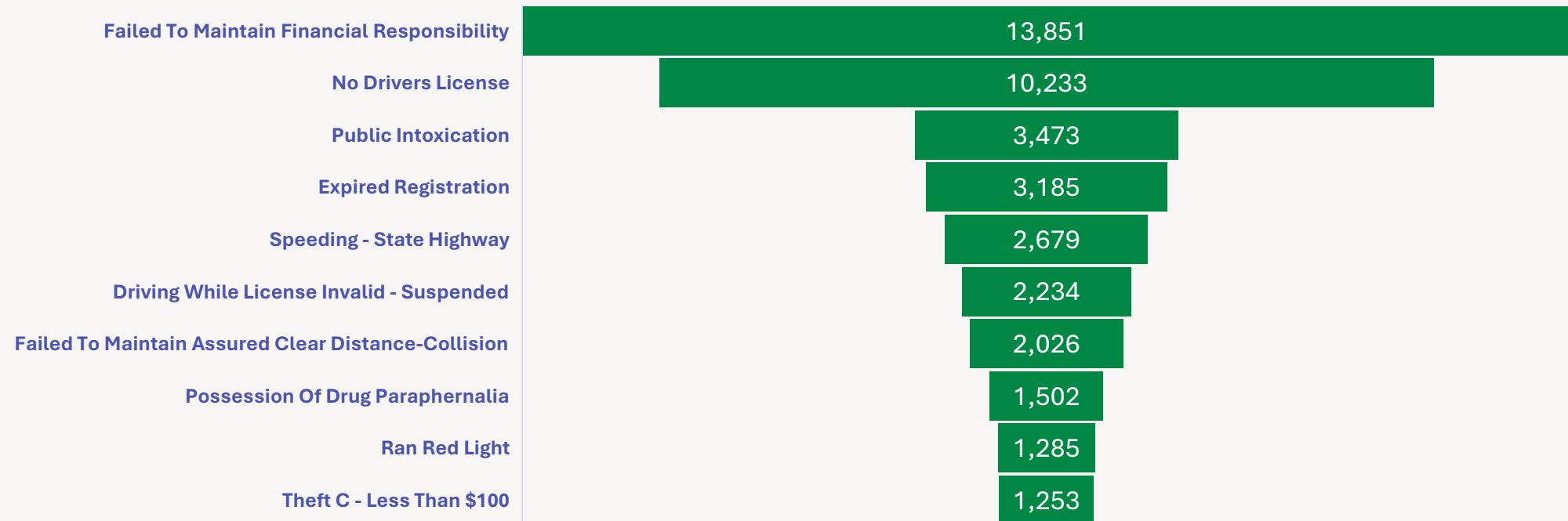
- Unadjudicated cases (failed to appear)
 - Administratively closed after 8 years with some exclusions
 - Closures in September of each year
 - Last closure was through 2017
- Adjudicated Cases (failed to comply)
 - Can not be administratively closed for 15 years with some exclusions
- Outstanding Warrants dating to 2005
 - 1% of all cases filed in warrant status
- Outstanding Warrants dating to 2017
 - 16% of all cases filed in warrant status



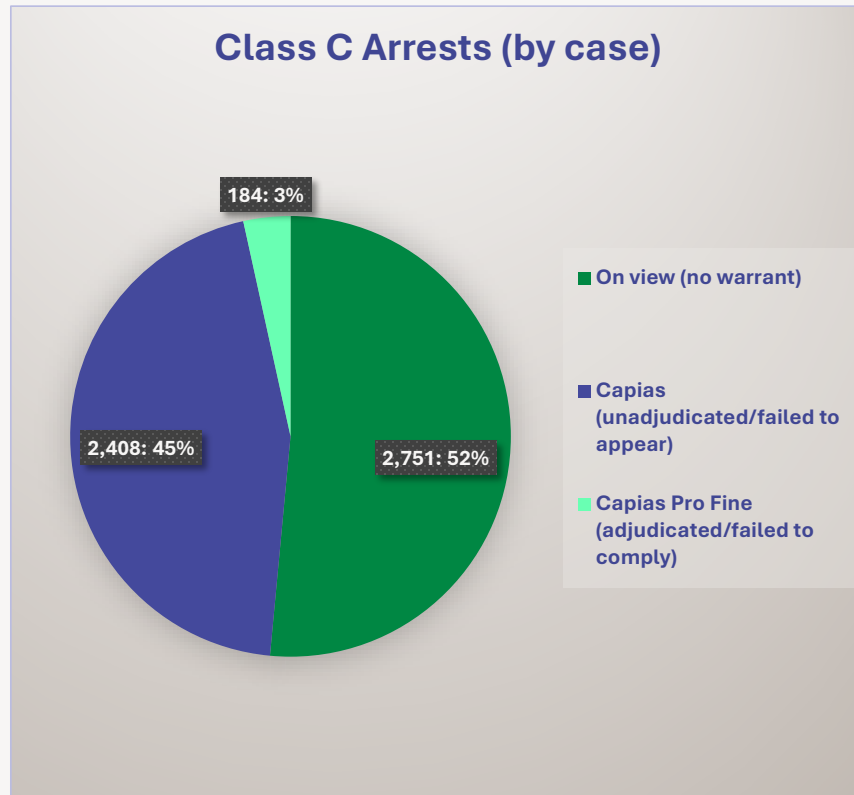
Outstanding Warrants as of 4/23/26



Top 10 Offenses



Arrests on Class Cs: 4/20/24-4/20/26



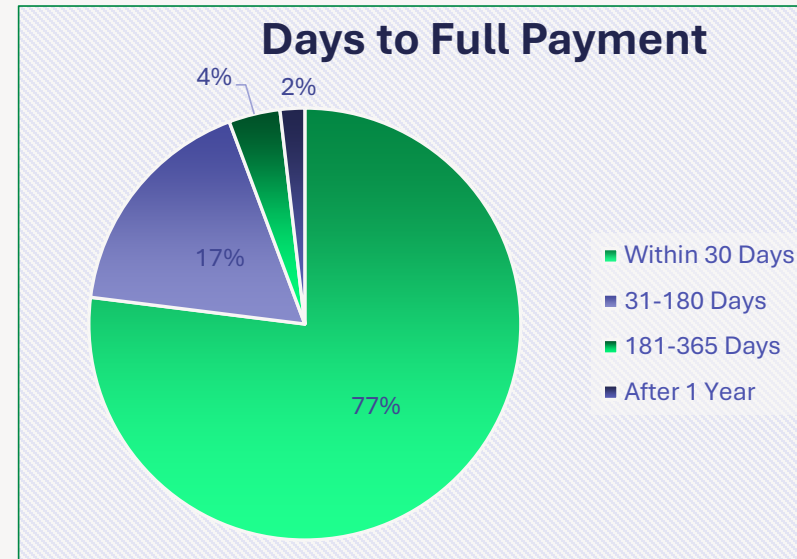
Asian	37	
Female	7	
Male	30	1%
Black or African American	902	
Female	225	
Male	677	28%
Hispanic or Latino	180	
Female	44	
Male	136	6%
Middle Eastern	14	
Female	1	
Male	13	0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	6	
Female	1	
Male	5	0%
Other	50	
Female	8	
Male	42	2%
Unknown	90	
Female	16	
Male	59	
(blank)	15	3%
White	1,903	
Female	481	
Male	1,422	60%
Grand Total (by person)	3,182	100%

Collection Rates on Class Cs: 4/20/24-4/20/26



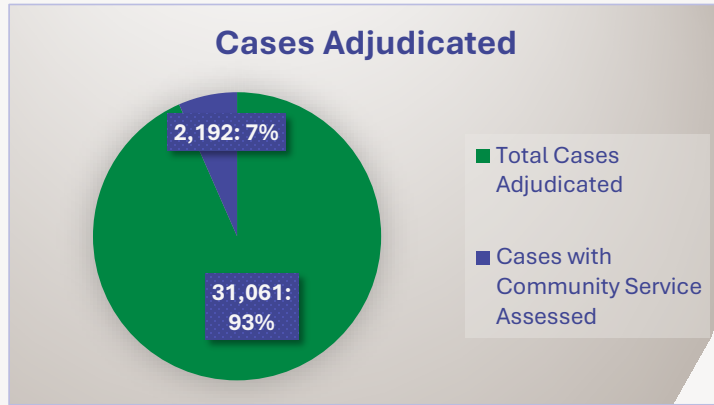
Days to Payment in Full (from Due Date)

	Transactions	%
Within 30 Days	25,638	77%
31-180 Days	5,772	17%
181-365 Days	1,281	4%
After 1 Year	614	2%
Grand Total	33,305	100%



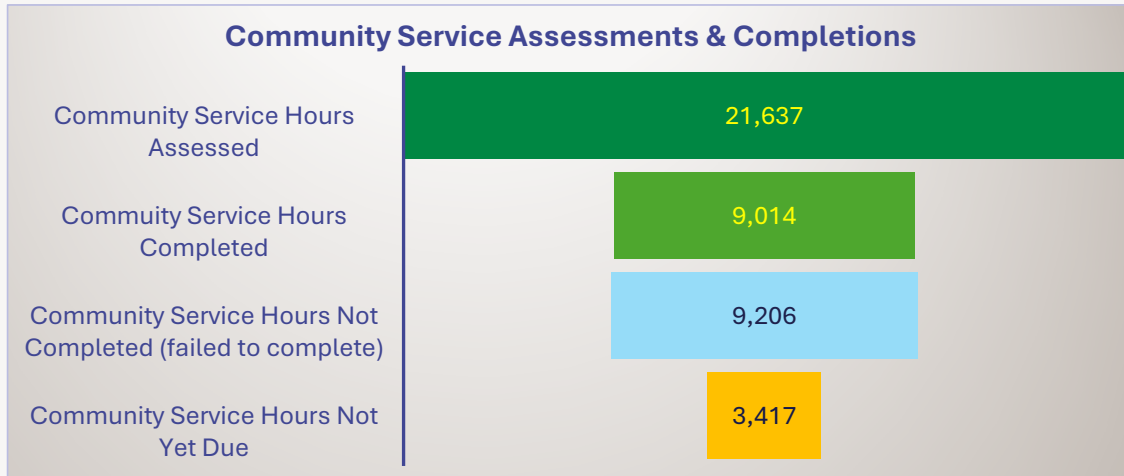


Community Service in Lieu of Financial Penalty: 4/20/24-4/20/26



- Defendant must request
- Median Days Allowed to Complete: 90
- Median Days to Complete: 75

Asian	11	1%
Female	2	
Male	9	
Black or African American	526	33%
Female	181	
Male	344	
Unknown	1	
Hispanic or Latino	146	9%
Female	64	
Male	82	
Middle Eastern	6	0%
Male	6	
Native American or Alaskan	3	0%
Female	2	
Male	1	
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	9	1%
Female	4	
Male	5	
Other	20	1%
Female	4	
Male	16	
Unknown	96	6%
Female	23	
Male	51	
Unknown	22	
White	798	49%
Female	237	
Male	561	
Grand Total (by person)	1,615	100%





Conclusion

- High volume of outstanding warrants (though low compared to total Class C cases filed), driven mainly by failure-to-appear cases.
- Demographic disparities are present in both outstanding warrants and arrests.
- Strong payment compliance, with most fines, costs, and fees paid quickly.
- Community service is available and efficiently completed but used in a relatively small share of cases.
- The court relies heavily on automated notices to encourage compliance prior to enforcement actions.