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)

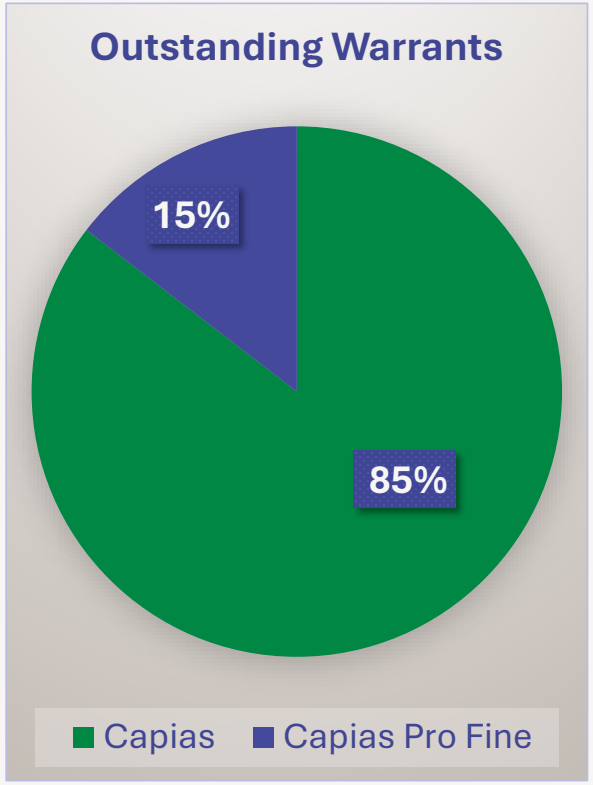
Notices, Phone Calls, and Texts

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

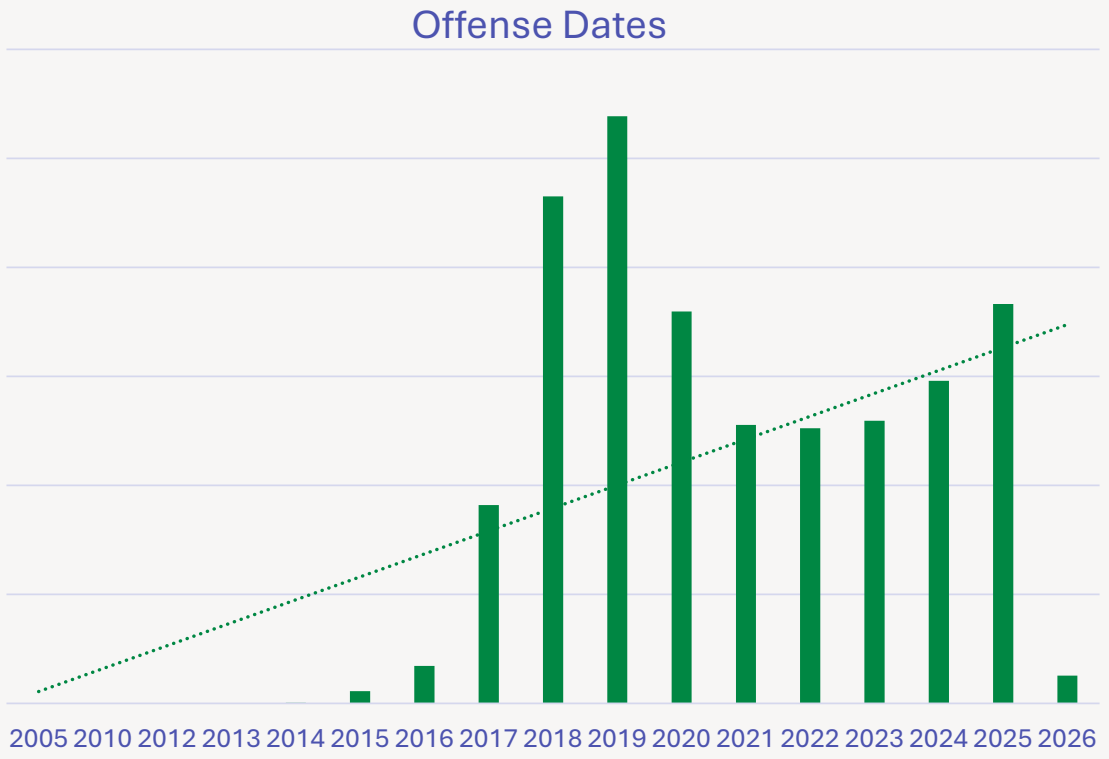
- Capias (unadjudicated/failed to appear)
  - 52,050 cases
- Capias Pro Fine (adjudicated/failed to comply)
  - 8,881 cases



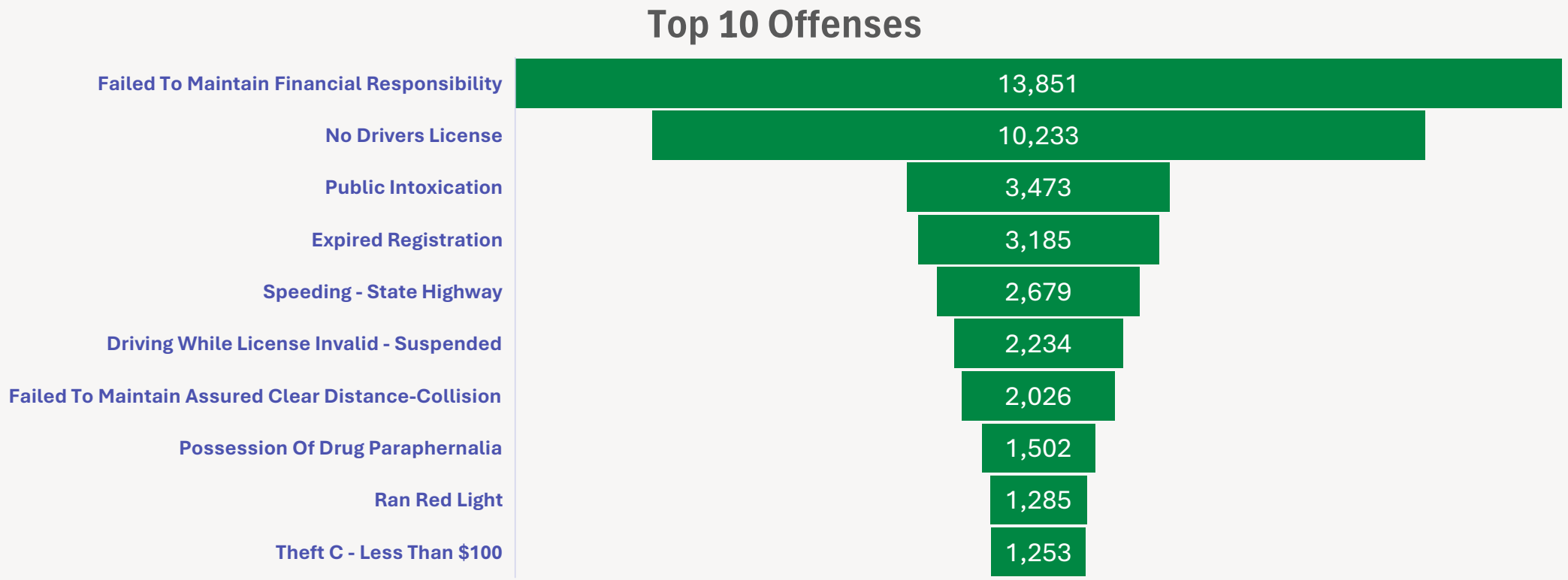
Asian	**232**	1%
Female	75	
Male	157	
Black or African American	**8,509**	24%
Female	2,752	
Male	5,750	
Blank	7	
Hispanic or Latino	**9,943**	28%
Female	3,109	
Male	6,827	
Blank	7	
Middle Eastern	**56**	0%
Female	6	
Male	50	
Native American or Alaskan	**47**	0%
Female	11	
Male	36	
Native Hawaiian or 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

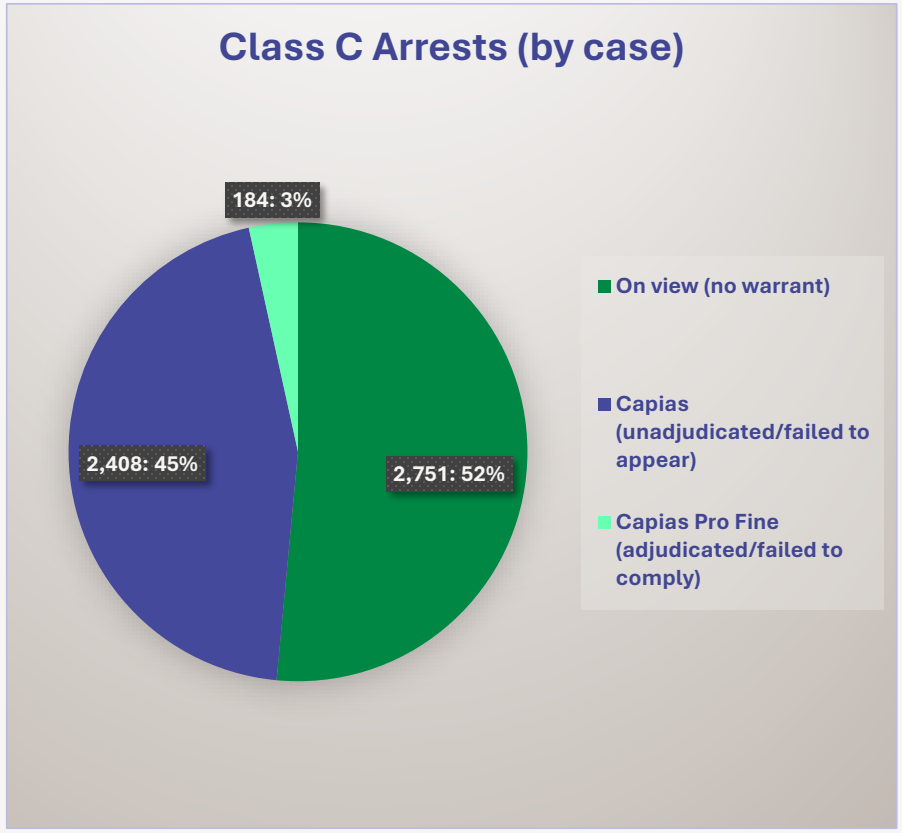
- Unadjudicated cases (failed to appear)
  - Administratively closed after 8 years with some exclusions
    - Closures in September of each year
    - Last closure was through 2017
- Adjudicated Cases (failed to comply)
  - Can not be administratively closed for 15 years with some exclusions
- Outstanding 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



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

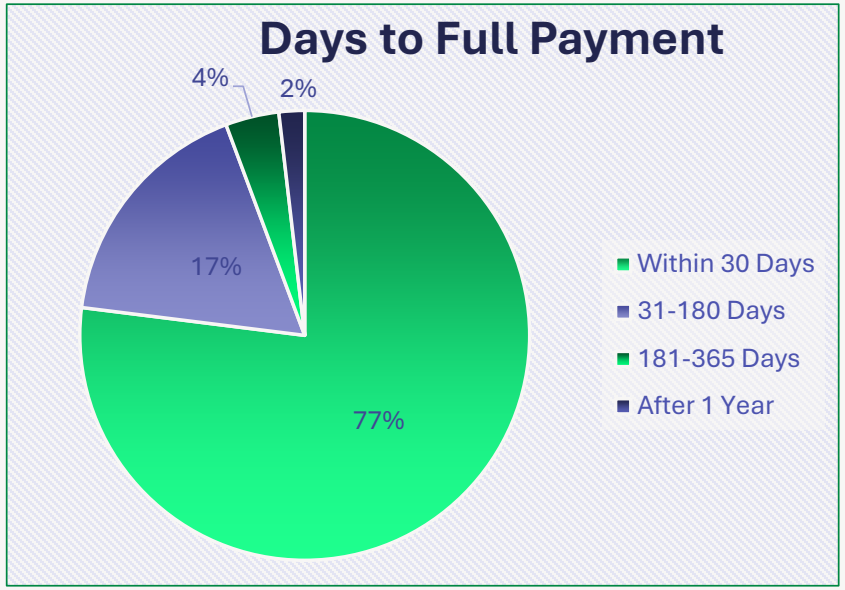


Asian	**37**	
Female	7	
Male	30	1%
Black or African American	**902**	
Female	225	
Male	677	28%
Hispanic or Latino	**180**	
Female	44	
Male	136	6%
Middle Eastern	**14**	
Female	1	
Male	13	0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	**6**	
Female	1	
Male	5	0%
Other	**50**	
Female	8	
Male	42	2%
Unknown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

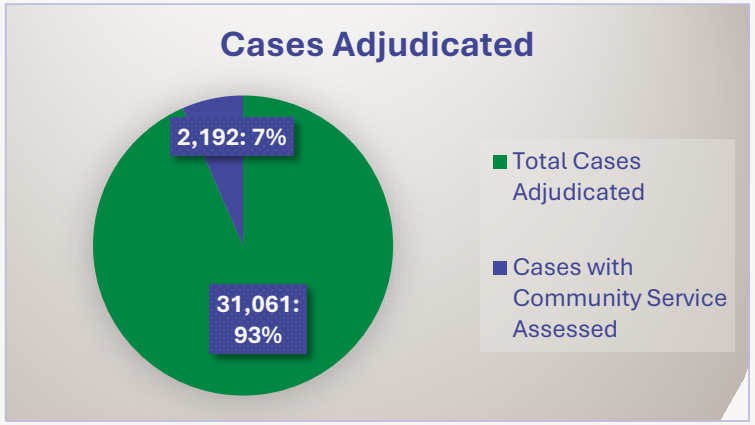
Collection Rates on Class Cs: 4/20/24-4/20/26

Days to Payment in Full (from Due Date)

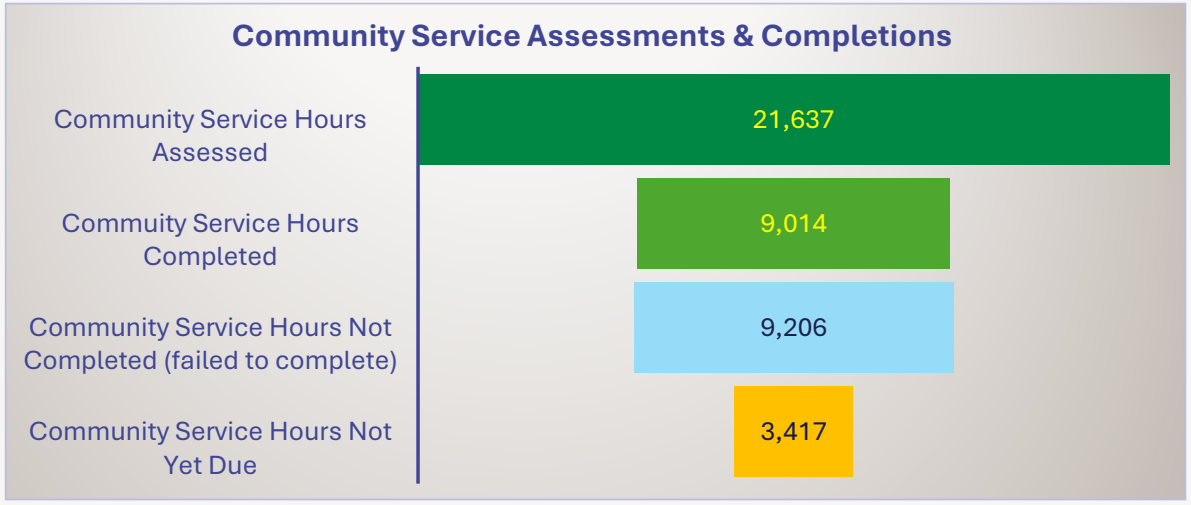
	Transactions	%
Within 30 Days	25,638	77%
31-180 Days	5,772	17%
181-365 Days	1,281	4%
After 1 Year	614	2%
Grand Total	**33,305**	**100%**



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.