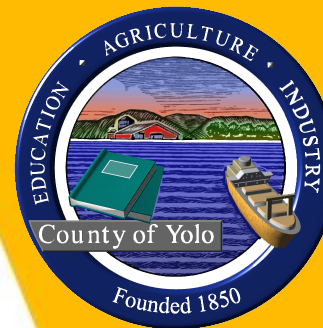


# **Yolo County Public Guardian**

## **Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency**

Laurie Haas, Chief Deputy Public Guardian  
Karleen Jakowski, Public Guardian



# Who is the Public Guardian and What Do We Do?

The first office of the Public Guardian in California was established in 1945 in Los Angeles County. Now every California county has a Public Guardian who is the substitute decision maker for the person and estate of vulnerable populations of the county, such as the frail elderly and persons with serious mental illness.

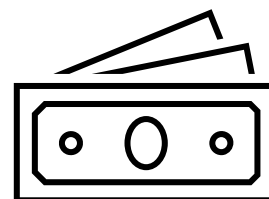
## Our Yolo County Commitment



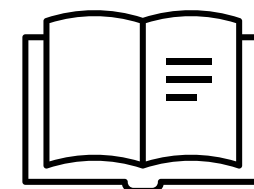
Treat everyone with dignity, compassion, and understanding



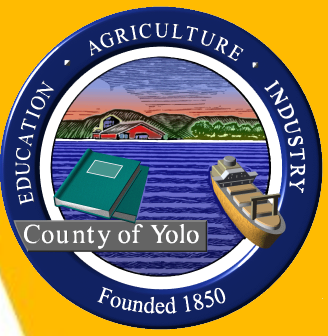
Act in the best interest of the conservatee



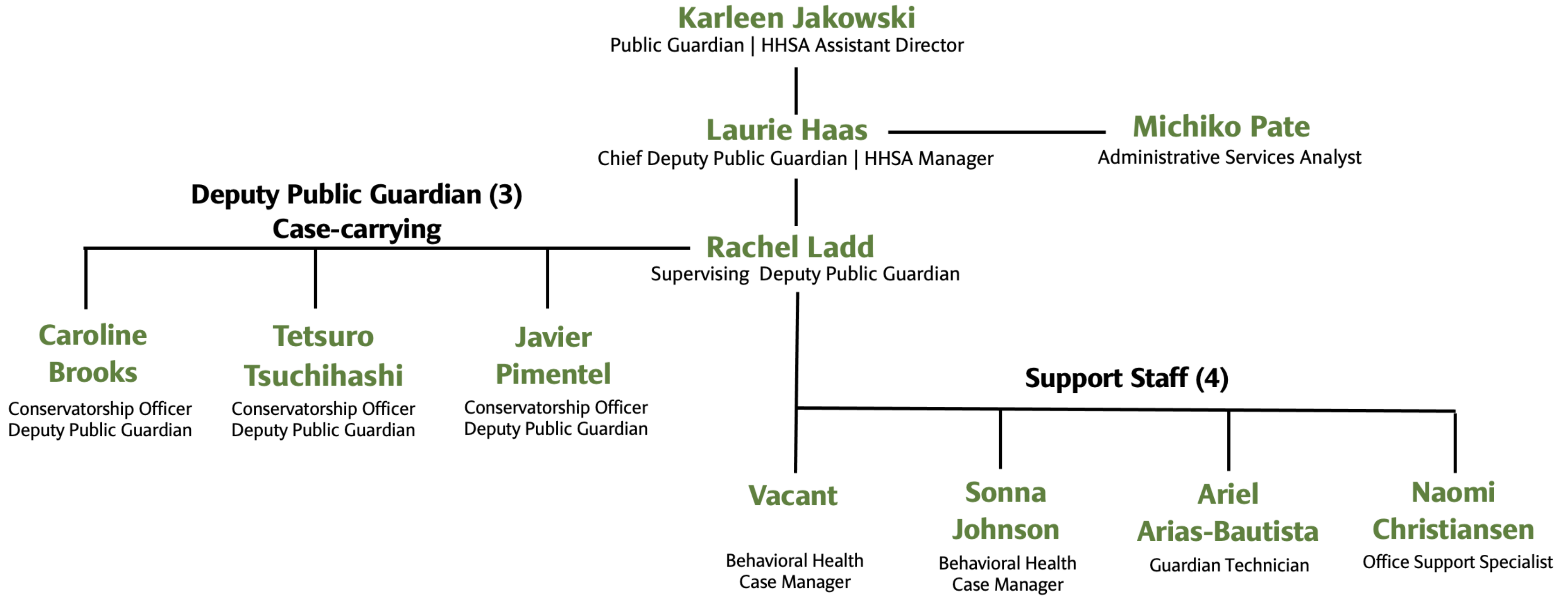
Protect and manage conservatee estates to the highest standard

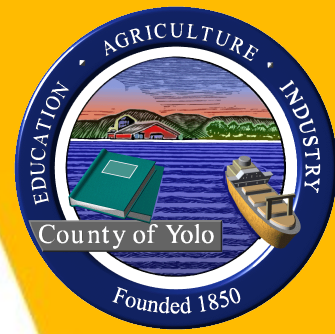


Commitment and Oath to carry out duties openly and willingly accepting the role bestowed upon PG



# Organizational Chart





# How the Public Guardian's Office Cares for Yolo County's Most Disabled and Vulnerable Individuals

## Tasks Requiring Deputized Staff

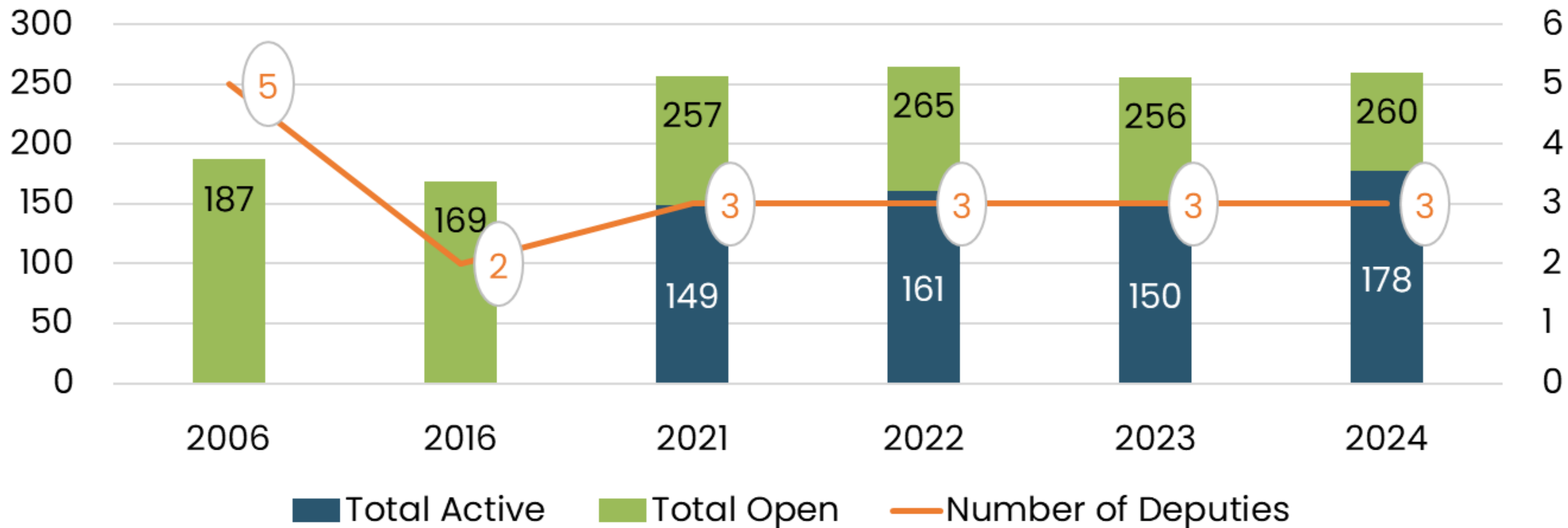
- Investigate all conservatorship referrals
- Conservatorship recommendations to Court
- Ongoing Court reporting for every conservatee
- Inventory/Marshall all assets and properties (search, property removal, storage)
- Sales of assets (real estate, vehicles, jewelry, firearms, securities, antiques and other items)
- Apply/maintain conservatee public benefits
- Secure conservatee pensions, stocks, and investments
- Pay bills/debt management (medical, utilities, mortgage, loan, collections, and others)
- Special Needs Trust management
- Placement determination and coordination
- Community and Provider relations – statewide
- Coordinate medical/psychiatric treatment, consents
- Estate planning and management
- End-of-life decisions
- Case closure and discharge

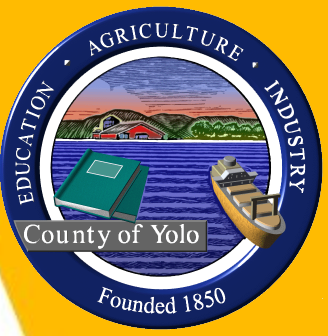
## Support Staff Tasks

- Regular conservatee visits and contact with family members as appropriate
- Transport/accompany conservatees to medical/psychiatric appointments
- Purchase and deliver needed items for conservatee
- Administrative support (phone calls, faxes, mail, scheduling)

# Caseload and Staffing Data

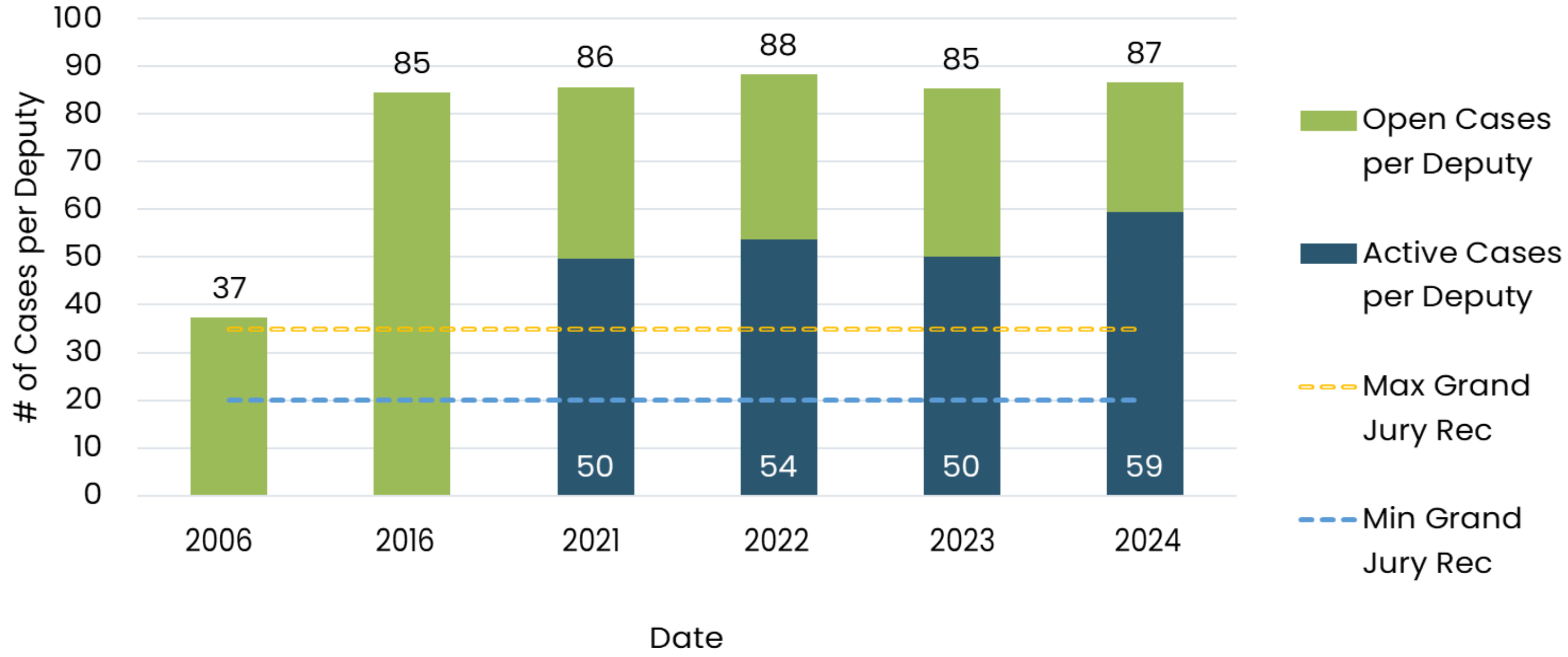
Public Guardian  
Point in Time Open/Active Cases + Number of Deputies

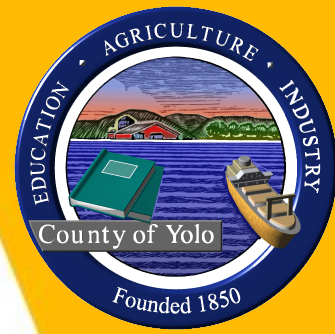




# Average Caseload Size versus Grand Jury Recommendations

Actual Deputy Caseload





# Challenges for Public Guardian

Completion of 2016  
Internal Audit Corrective  
Action Plan

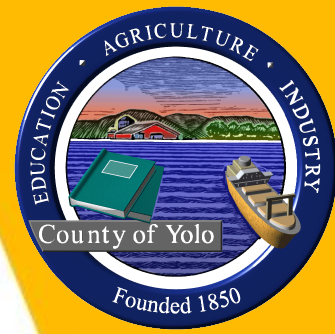
Implementation of 2020  
Grand Jury  
Recommendations

High Caseloads  
and Turnover

Lengthy Learning Curve  
and Training Needs for  
Deputies

Risks Pertaining to  
Conservatee Safety,  
Needs, and Asset  
Protection

# The Future of the Public Guardian



## CARE Act

The Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act, a civil court process, will launch locally in December 2024 and will be another avenue to refer for conservatorship if CARE is not successful for the client.

## Senate Bill 43

SB 43 will be implemented locally by January 2026 and will significantly impact the numbers of conservatorship referrals and cases through significantly expanded grave disability criteria.

## Growth of Aging Population

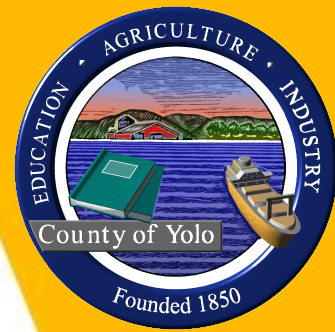
Yolo County's aging population is expected to grow significantly by 2060. In 2020, the aging population was 41,541. By 2060, the aging population is projected to be 59,436, a 43% increase.

[Data Dashboard for Aging - Let's Get Healthy California](#)

# Questions?

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# Thank you