

## PAST JURY REPORTS HAVE LED TO:

- The establishment and public funding of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority.
- The formation of a citizens' oversight committee for the County Sheriff's Department.
- Increased County funding to address significant backlog and staffing issues within the District Attorney's office.
- A re-prioritization plan within the Marin's Health and Human Services Department to improve help for Marin's rising population of senior citizens.
- The passage of a new sales tax to address the City of Novato's financial deficits.
- A commitment by all Marin County schools to provide classroom supplies, materials, and equipment free of charge without obligating parents to make donations.
- The adoption of a plan for building a sustainable water supply within the Marin Municipal Water District.

12/24

## TO JOIN THE CIVIL GRAND JURY

You must be

- 18 or older, a United States citizen, and resident of Marin County for at least one year
- Interested in investigating the performance of local government agencies
- Enthusiastic to recommend solutions to improve governance and services
- A good listener who can ask thoughtful questions
- Ready to invest 10 to 20 hours per week doing research, interviews, and writing. Some jurors spend more than 20 hours per week, but it's not required.
- Willing to maintain confidentiality
- Able to work collaborate with 18 others to achieve a common goal
- Computer-literate

## APPLY NOW

Serving on the Marin Civil Grand Jury is an enriching and educational experience of a lifetime. Don't miss out! Please submit your online application for the next term by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Applications may be downloaded: <https://www.marincounty.gov/sites/g/files/fdkgoe241/files/202410/applicationto-serve.pdf>.

## VOLUNTEER FOR THE MARIN COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY



Learn about Your Community

Improve the Quality of Life in Marin

Provide a Valuable Civic Service in Your  
Community

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Marin County Civil Grand Jury  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 275  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
Phone: 415.473.6132

[https://www.marincounty.gov/departments/  
grand-jury](https://www.marincounty.gov/departments/grand-jury)

## WHAT THE CIVIL GRAND JURY DOES

The Civil Grand Jury is Marin County's only independent watchdog of local government agencies and services. It is appointed by the Marin Superior Court to investigate and recommend improvements in the operations of the county, cities, special districts, and other local agencies. Marin's civil grand jury is composed of 19 citizen volunteers who apply to serve on it.

The Marin Civil Grand Jury operates in secret and independently chooses its own topics for investigations. The jury is free of influence from government administrators and politicians. **It is not a criminal grand jury, and it does not issue indictments or prosecute criminal cases.**

## CIVIL GRAND JURY SERVICE

**Jurors** serve for a one-year term beginning on July 1. After being sworn in, Marin County Civil Grand Jurors receive comprehensive training on grand jury responsibilities and local governments as well as investigation and report-writing techniques. The Grand Jury organizes itself with the help of a court-appointed foreperson and chooses what local government departments and functions to investigate.

**Investigations** can be initiated by the Civil Grand Jury itself or suggested by citizens. Investigations into government entities often lead to the release of a public report with recommendations that must be addressed by the entities' elected officials within 60 to 90 days. The Grand Jury also may respond to complaints of alleged misconduct and mistreatment by local officials.

## GRAND JURY REPORTS

**Reports** are issued by the Civil Grand Jury throughout the year. Marin's juries typically release 5 to 10 investigative reports each year. Past reports have covered a broad range of topics including fire protection, water supply, cybersecurity, school operations, and the operations of city and county government. To see past reports issued by the Marin County Civil Grand Jury, visit its website:

<https://www.marincounty.gov/departments/grand-jury/civil-grand-jury-reports>.

## HISTORY

Under the California Constitution, every county is required to annually empanel a civil grand jury. As one of the state's original counties, Marin has had a civil grand jury since 1850 when California became a state.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Recommend ways to enhance your local government operations and services
- Verify that your tax dollars are spent efficiently.
- Learn about our county, city, special districts and other governing entities
- Inspect San Quentin, Marin's Juvenile Hall and the County Jail
- Give your time and expertise to make Marin better than ever.

## APPLYING FOR THE JURY

Applicants for the civil grand jury must be at least 18, a U.S. citizen, and a Marin resident for the past 12 months.

Applications to become Civil Grand Jurors for the following term are accepted through April 15.

Eligible applicants are interviewed and participate in a group activity during May.

Based on these activities, the presiding judge of the Marin Superior Court selects 30 applicants for inclusion in a June drawing.

The first 19 names drawn are appointed to the new jury with the remaining 11 names serving as alternates if one of the original 19 leaves the jury.

Jury service and training begins within the first two weeks of July. Alternates participate in the training. Training is mandatory for all jurors and alternates.