



MARIN COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY

PRESENTED BY MCCGJ ASSOCIATION

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

What is the Civil Grand Jury?

What is the Job of the Civil Grand Jury?

How Does the Civil Grand Jury Work?

How Can You Participate in this Important Work?



THE ROLE OF THE CIVIL GRAND JURY

- The Civil Grand Jury was established in the California Constitution
- In its role of watchdog representing Marin County residents, the Civil Grand Jury strives to
 - Improve government efficiency and effectiveness
 - Promote accountability and transparency
- The Civil Grand Jury investigates civil matters (not criminal) relating to local government entities through the
 - Identification of issues
 - Investigation and research of topics
 - Reporting of findings and recommendations
- Elected county officials and local governing boards are required to respond to grand jury reports

HOW DOES THE CIVIL GRAND JURY WORK?

- The Civil Grand Jury selects the topics that it will investigate, drawing upon input from
 - Requests for Investigations submitted from the public
 - Current jurors
 - Previous Grand Jury reports
 - News Media articles
- In addition, the Civil Grand Jury conducts site visits to inquire about the condition and management of all public detention facilities in the county (San Quentin, Marin County Jail, and Marin County Juvenile Hall)

MARIN COUNTY STATISTICS

Marin consists of 125 local governments with 285 elected officials all of which can be investigated including

- County departments
- 11 cities and towns
- 30 independently-elected special districts including sanitary, fire, water and community service districts
- 16 school districts, a community college board district and the County Office of Education

COMPOSITION OF THE CIVIL GRAND JURY

- One of the goals of MCCGJA is to strive to reflect the county's diversity in
 - Geographical distribution
 - Occupations
 - Age
 - Race
 - Gender

HOW THE CIVIL GRAND JURY MAY BE ORGANIZED

Each Grand Jury organizes themselves into committees

Individual members select the ones that they would like to join

Here are some examples of investigative committees

| INVESTIGATIVE | ADMINISTRATIVE |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Law and Justice | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Requests for Investigation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment/Transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuity |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Editorial |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cities/Towns | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social |

GRAND JURY INVESTIGATIONS

- Steps in the investigative process include
 - Primary research into the issue
 - Review of public documents online, such as
 - Minutes of Board meetings
 - News articles
 - Websites of pertinent entities
 - Previous grand jury reports
 - Interviews of selected individuals
 - Site visits
 - Attendance at public meetings and events
- Individuals needed for interviews and records can be subpoenaed if necessary
- All investigations are confidential, forever



CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORTS

Reports are written as the investigation ends, followed by multiple reviews and revisions.

Reports are highly detailed, and include

- A summary of the investigation

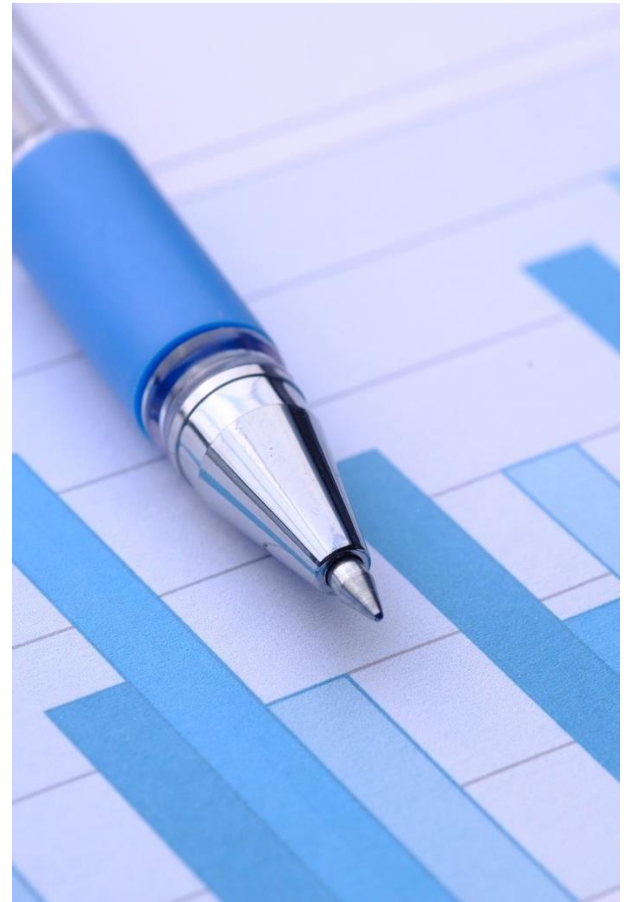
- Findings based on verified facts

- Recommendations that are specific, measurable and attainable

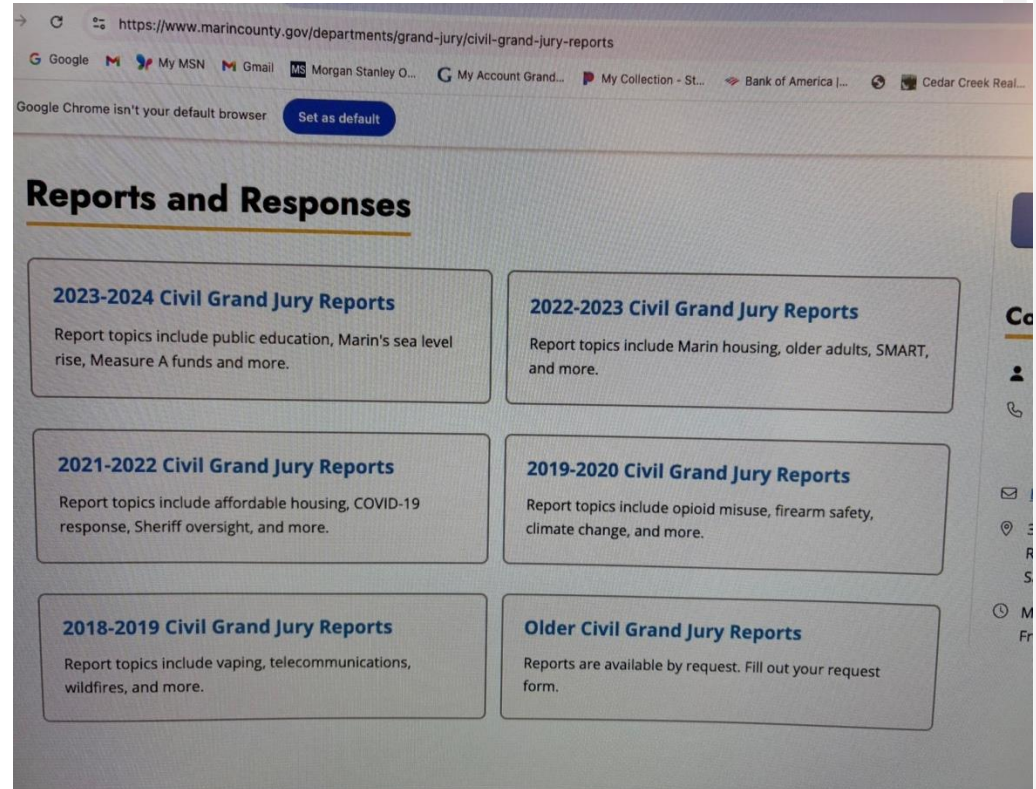
Each investigative topic and report must be approved by a super majority of the jurors (12 of 19 members)

Once approved, reports are sent first to elected officials and boards for required responses, and to appointed officials for invited responses

Reports are posted online and distributed to media outlets for publication



PRIOR GRAND
JURY REPORTS
ARE
AVAILABLE
ONLINE



HEADLINES FROM 2022 & 2023

Marin Independent Journal
 Monday, June 6, 2023

Panel: Boost office for aging
 Report urges county to elevate 'buried' service

Even More on the Web

Insider • Miami Heat defeat Denver Nuggets to tie NBA Finals series.

WAKE UP WITH IJ

Insider • Possible accusation if Feinstein doesn't finish term.

WAKE UP WITH IJ

Insider • A's secure crucial votes from Nevada lawmakers.

WAKE UP WITH IJ

Insider • Blows out again, the Oakland A's are back on record-losing pace.

WAKE UP WITH IJ

Marin Independent Journal
 Monday, May 8, 2023

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Marin Independent Journal
 Monday, June 19, 2023

New tule elk proposal splits activists, ranchers
Sales tax increase urged for Novato

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Marin Independent Journal
 Monday, June 26, 2023

City pursues plan to bury power lines in Canal area
Report: Supply of ADUs needed

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Marin Independent Journal
 Friday, July 7, 2023

SMART urged to build public's trust to survive
Protections for tenants challenged in Fairfax

Even More on the Web

Insider • Quasimano detainees tell of torture, hope to leave.

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WAKE UP WITH IJ

Marin Independent Journal
 Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Grand jury report rips water supply planning
Long effort to preserve key land advances

Even More on the Web

Insider • Fed chair Powell facing rising criticism.

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ARTICLES FROM LAST YEAR

Marin County Civil Grand Jury in the News

Marin Independent Journal

Stronger youth e-bike rules urged

Safety concerns prompt call for class 2 ban for under-18 riders

George Bonnell: Marin grand jury calls for cybersecurity authority



County buying system faulted

Report cites risks for misuse of credit cards

Update of jail in Marin needs to be examined

Thirty years ago, Marin County agreed to new jail at the site, based on a study of Alameda Valley.

The county's decision to build a new jail at the site of the former Alameda Valley Correctional Facility was based on a study conducted in 1991. The study found that the site was suitable for a new jail, and the county agreed to build a new jail at the site. However, the study did not take into account the fact that the site is now a residential area, and the county has been unable to build a new jail at the site. The county is now considering other options, but the study remains a key part of the decision-making process.

Report rebukes county offices

Watching parent cities engage agency fees

The report rebukes county offices for their handling of agency fees. It states that the county has been slow to respond to parent cities' requests for information and that the county has been untransparent in its dealings with the cities. The report also criticizes the county for its failure to provide adequate funding for the cities' services.

Watchdogs seek scrutiny of agricultural easements



Cows graze in a field in Marin. The report calls for more oversight of agricultural easements.

Concern about tax revenues used to help make purchases

The report expresses concern about the use of tax revenues to help make purchases. It states that the county has been using tax revenues to purchase expensive equipment and services, and that this has led to a significant increase in the county's debt. The report also criticizes the county for its failure to provide adequate funding for its core services.

New Marin agency urged to manage sea-level rise

Report says coordinator could aid local planning



Children play in a shallow body of water in Marin. The report calls for a new agency to manage sea-level rise.



Marin residents have been experiencing sea level rise and related tidal flooding in Corte Madera, Marin City, Mill Valley and Sausalito, among other towns.

EdSource
SCHOOLS SHOULD STOP ASKING PARENTS TO PROVIDE SUPPLIES, MARIN GRAND JURY SAYS


GRAND JURY'S
IMPACT --
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE IN
MARIN

2019 -- *Wildfire Preparedness: A New Approach* was highly influential in the creation of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Agency (MWPA)

2022 -- *Sheriff Oversight: The Time is Now* resulted in the Board of Supervisors unanimously approve independent oversight of Sheriff's Department

2023 -- *Justice Delayed is Justice Denied* lead to the County budgeted \$500,000 to address the backlog in the District Attorney's office

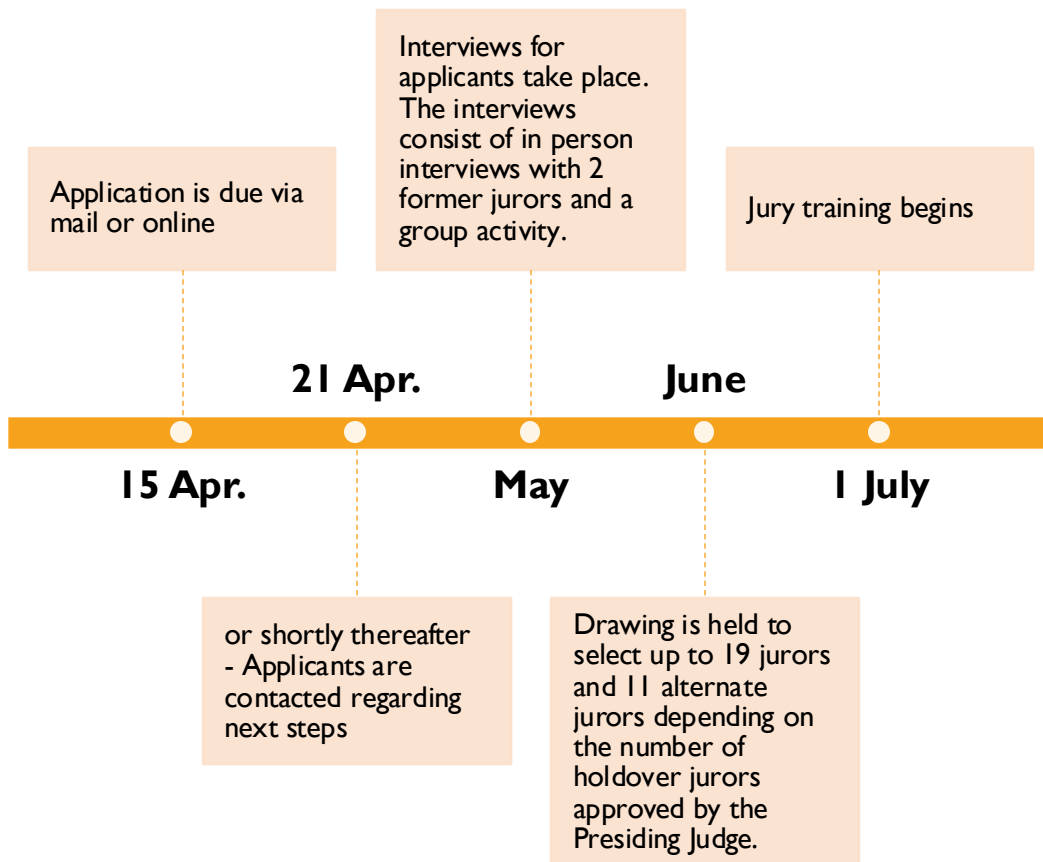
2024 -- *A Free Public Education includes School Supplies* concluded in the Marin Superintendent of Schools issuing a policy directly that County public schools should provide everything needed for students to participate fully at school, at no cost to the student or their families



THE
BENEFITS
OF BEING
ON THE
GRAND
JURY

- Serving on the Civil Grand Jury is an opportunity to contribute to the betterment of the community
- Jurors benefit personally by
 - Gaining a deeper understanding of local government
 - Learning what's going on behind the scenes
 - Developing valuable skills
 - Serving as an agent for change
 - Developing new friends and contacts
 - Experiencing personal fulfillment

CIVIL GRAND JURY SELECTION PROCESS



MAIL-IN AND ONLINE APPLICATIONS

<https://www.marincounty.gov/sites/g/files/fdkgoe241/files/2024-10/application-to-serve.pdf>

Applications should be
submitted by April 15th



THANK YOU

- What questions do you have?
- We hope you are inspired to serve and will submit your application to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury.
- <https://www.marincounty.gov/departments/grand-jury/apply-serve-civil-grand-jury>