



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

# 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

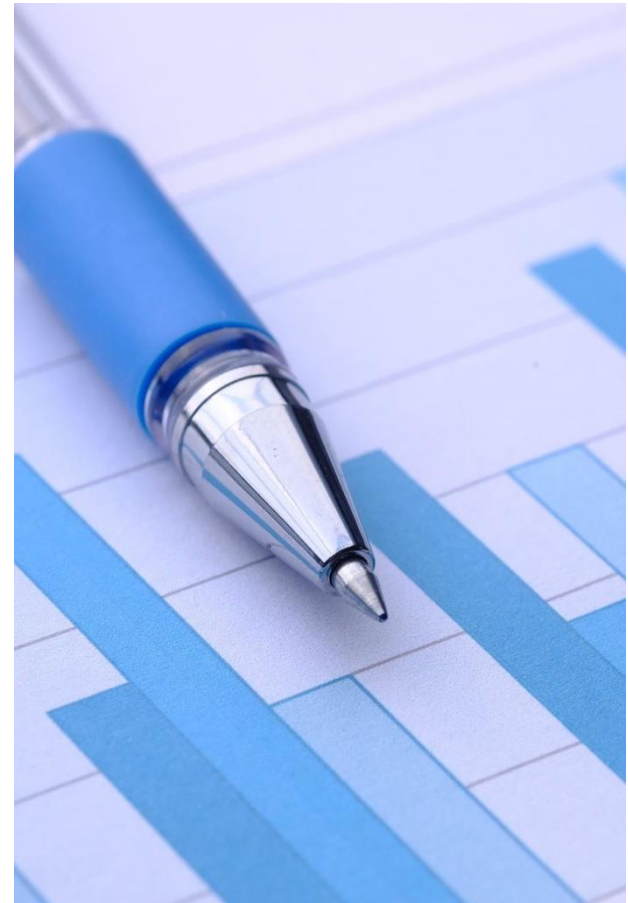
- Findings based on verified facts

- 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

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.marincounty.gov/departments/grand-jury/civil-grand-jury-reports>. The page title is "Reports and Responses". It features six report categories in a grid:

- 2023-2024 Civil Grand Jury Reports**: Report topics include public education, Marin's sea level rise, Measure A funds and more.
- 2022-2023 Civil Grand Jury Reports**: Report topics include Marin housing, older adults, SMART, and more.
- 2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury Reports**: Report topics include affordable housing, COVID-19 response, Sheriff oversight, and more.
- 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury Reports**: Report topics include opioid misuse, firearm safety, climate change, and more.
- 2018-2019 Civil Grand Jury Reports**: Report topics include vaping, telecommunications, wildfires, and more.
- Older Civil Grand Jury Reports**: Reports are available by request. Fill out your request form.

# HEADLINES FROM 2022 & 2023

Inside » Miami Heat defeat Denver Nuggets to win NBA Finals series. [View all](#)
Even More On The Web

Chancellor of California highlights Marin score
College by DeSai-Lafont sets up bids to Orinda

Chancellor of California highlights Marin score
College by DeSai-Lafont sets up bids to Orinda

**Marin Independent Journal**  
 Monday, June 6, 2023

**MARIN CIVIL GRAND JURY**  
**Panel: Boost office for aging**  
 Report urges county to elevate 'buried' service

The Marin County Civil Grand Jury panel on Tuesday urged the Board of Supervisors to boost the county's aging services office, which it described as "buried" and "underfunded."

The panel, which met for the first time since its formation in 2021, also urged the county to create a new position for a countywide aging services director.

The panel's report also urged the county to create a new position for a countywide aging services director.

Inside » Possible escalation if Feinstein doesn't finish term. [View all](#)
WAKE UP WITH LJ

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College by DeSai-Lafont sets up bids to Orinda

**Marin Independent Journal**  
 Sunday, May 14, 2023

**CIVIL GRAND JURY**  
**DA's office tied to case backlog**  
 Report cites lack of organizational structure to speed up court system

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Inside » A's secure crucial votes from Nevada lawmakers. [View all](#)
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**Marin Independent Journal**  
 Wednesday, June 14, 2023

**POINT REYES BEACHBORE**  
**New tule elk proposal splits activists, ranchers**

A new proposal to reintroduce tule elk to Point Reyes National Seashore has split local activists and ranchers.

The proposal, which would reintroduce the species to the area, has been met with mixed reactions.

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Inside » Blows out again, the Oakland A's are back on record-loss pace. [View all](#)
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**Marin Independent Journal**  
 Monday, June 26, 2023

**MARIN CIVIL GRAND JURY**  
**Sales tax increase urged for Novato**  
 Report says steps would avoid cuts, boost services

The Marin County Civil Grand Jury panel on Tuesday urged the Board of Supervisors to increase the sales tax in Novato.

The panel, which met for the first time since its formation in 2021, also urged the county to create a new position for a countywide aging services director.

The panel's report also urged the county to create a new position for a countywide aging services director.

Inside » Chuanananno delatantea tells of torture, hopes to leave. [View all](#)
Even More On The Web

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**Marin Independent Journal**  
 Friday, July 7, 2023

**MARIN CIVIL GRAND JURY**  
**SMART urged to build public's trust to survive**

The Marin County Superior Court judge on Tuesday urged the Statewide Judicial Branch to build public trust.

The judge, who presided over a hearing on the court's reform plan, said the public's trust is essential for the court to survive.

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Inside » Fed chair Powell facing rising criticism. [View all](#)
Even More On The Web

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**Marin Independent Journal**  
 Wednesday, June 21, 2023

**MARIN COUNTY**  
**Grand jury report rips water supply planning**

The Marin County Civil Grand Jury panel on Tuesday criticized the county's water supply planning.

The panel, which met for the first time since its formation in 2021, also urged the county to create a new position for a countywide aging services director.

The panel's report also urged the county to create a new position for a countywide aging services director.

Inside » Blows out again, the Oakland A's are back on record-loss pace. [View all](#)
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**Marin Independent Journal**  
 Monday, June 26, 2023

**SAH BATAEAL**  
**City pursues plan to bury power lines in Canal area**  
 Council creates utility district to use funds from PG&E

The City of Sausalito is pursuing a plan to bury power lines in the Canal area.

The city council has approved the creation of a utility district to use funds from PG&E.

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**Report: Supply of ADUs needed**  
 Panel calls on officials to ease costs, red tape

The Marin County Civil Grand Jury panel on Tuesday urged officials to ease costs and red tape for ADUs.

The panel, which met for the first time since its formation in 2021, also urged the county to create a new position for a countywide aging services director.

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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 laws for under-16 riders

George Bonick Marin grand jury calls for cybersecurity authority



#### County buying system faulted

Report cites risks for millions of credit cards

#### Update of jail in Marin needs to be examined

Thirty years ago, Marin County opened its new jail, at the time touted as a state-of-the-art detention facility.

The jail, which cost \$100 million to build, was designed to house 1,000 inmates. It was the largest and most expensive jail in the state at the time.

Over the years, the jail has become overcrowded and outdated. The county has spent millions on upgrades, but the facility remains inefficient and costly to operate.

The grand jury report calls for a comprehensive review of the jail's operations and funding. It suggests that the county should explore alternative models of incarceration and consider the impact on the local community.

#### Report rebukes county offices

Watching parent office managing agency flaws

#### Report: System failing seniors

Watching steps taken to help others housed

#### Watchdogs seek scrutiny of agricultural easements



Cows graze in a field in Marin. The grand jury report calls for greater oversight of agricultural easements.

#### Concern about tax revenues used to help make purchases

The grand jury report expresses concern about the use of tax revenues for certain purchases. It suggests that the county should be more transparent about how these funds are spent and ensure that they are used for the intended purposes.

#### New Marin agency urged to manage sea-level rise

Report says coordinator could aid local planning



Sea-level rise is a growing concern in Marin. The grand jury report calls for a dedicated agency to manage the risk.



Marin residents have been experiencing sea level rise and related road 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

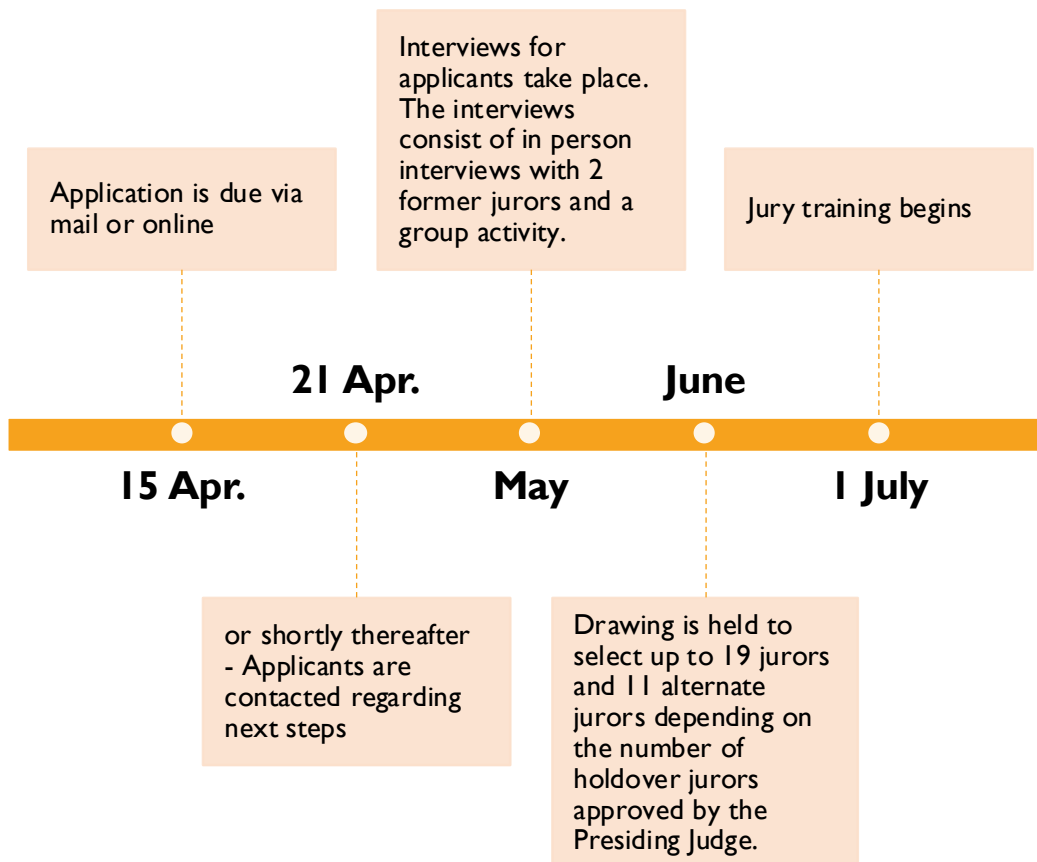
2024 -- *A Free Public Education includes School Supplies* concluded in the Marin Superintendent of Schools issuing a policy directly that County public schools should provide everything needed for students to participate fully at school, at no cost to the student or their families



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

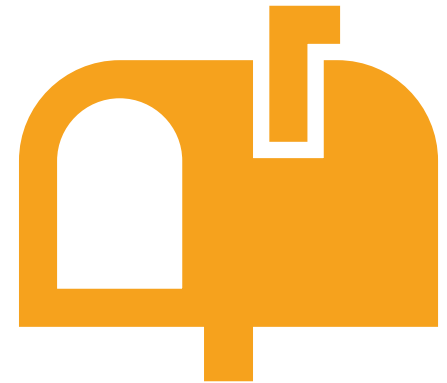
# CIVIL GRAND JURY SELECTION PROCESS



## 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 15<sup>th</sup>



# 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>