



Marin County Civil Grand Jury

Applicant
Information Session

starting soon

Marin County Civil Grand Jury Applicant Information Session



Agenda:

- What is the Civil Grand Jury?
- Selection and Training
- Organization of the Civil Grand Jury
- Time Commitment
- How Should I Prepare?
- Q & A

What is the Civil Grand Jury?

- The Constitution of California requires that **every county impanel a Civil Grand Jury each year**
- It functions as an independent “**watch dog**” for local governments
- The Grand Jury conducts **CONFIDENTIAL** investigations and issues final reports
- Comprised of **19 citizen volunteers**



The Job of the Civil Grand Jury

To investigate local government matters of civil concern and interest through the...

- Identification of issues
- Investigation and research of topics
- Reporting of findings and recommendations
- The jury **MUST** issue at least one report



What the Civil Grand Jury Is Not

The Civil Grand Jury Is ***NOT*** a Criminal Grand Jury. A Criminal Grand Jury is called by the District Attorney and empaneled grand jurors are required to serve.



Civil Grand Jury Selection Process

- Application due by April 15nd via mail or online
- Interview process is held in May
- Drawing in June for 19* jurors, 11 alternates
- Begin in July with extensive training

*Total new jurors may vary if judge decides to retain holdovers from prior session



Marin Civil Grand Jury Training

- July 7th, 8th, 11th, 9-5pm in person at the Marin Civic Center
- Training is **MANDATORY** for jurors and alternates
- Training is conducted by CGJA (state) trainers as well as MCCGJA (Marin) trainers. Includes technology training on the Google Workspace used by the jury.
- Civil Grand Jury will begin official work after training
- July 17th, 4-6pm New Juror welcome at McInnis Park

How The Civil Grand Jury Organizes

The Presiding Judge selects a Foreperson to lead the jury. The Foreperson is usually a “holdover” juror from the previous term.

Most of the work of the jury is done by committees.

Jurors create and serve on committees of their choosing. There are INVESTIGATIVE committees and ADMINISTRATIVE committees.

How The Civil Grand Jury Organizes

INVESTIGATIVE committees conduct investigations and prepare reports. Usually have 4-7 jurors.

Examples of past INVESTIGATIVE committees:

- Law and Justice
- Environment & Transportation
- Education
- Health & Human Welfare
- Administration & Finance
- Special Districts

How the Civil Grand Jury Organizes

ADMINISTRATIVE committees support the work of the jury. Number of jurors depends on the type of work.

Examples of past ADMINISTRATIVE committees:

- Continuity
- Editorial
- Secretary
- Social
- Public Requests for Investigations

How the Civil Grand Jury Organizes

- Plenary (entire jury) meets in person, at the Civic Center, once a week, usually for 3 hours
- Investigative committees meet weekly, usually 2 hours. Committees ALSO meet, as needed and agreed upon by members, to pursue an investigation, conduct interviews, site visits, write reports, etc.
- Administrative committees meet as needed
- There is a preference for in-person meetings, however the jury is equipped for remote and hybrid meetings, as needed and at the DISCRETION of the Foreperson.

Time Commitment

- 10-20+ hours per week
- Time commitment varies throughout the term. February - April is the busiest time
- The NUMBER OF COMMITTEES a juror serves on will impact the time commitment
- Most jurors are engaged and excited by the work and are more satisfied when they can expand their work hours to meet the need
- Vacations are coordinated with the Foreperson and committee members

How Should I Prepare?

Have an OPEN MIND:

Unlike any other experience, every jury unique

Work productively with 18 others

Jurors may NOT pursue their own causes

Follow local media coverage

Read prior Civil Grand Jury reports

All Prior Grand Jury Reports are Available Online

The screenshot displays the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Reports website. The browser address bar shows the URL marincounty.org/depts/gj/reports-and-responses. The navigation menu includes links for Home, How Do I?, Government, For Residents, For Business, Recreation, and Contacts. The breadcrumb trail indicates the current location: Home > Departments > Marin County Civil Grand Jury > Reports and Responses.

Marin County Civil Grand Jury Final Reports

Pat Shepherd, 2022-23 Foreperson, Marin County Civil Grand Jury

Report Archives

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Reports & Responses	Date
Affordable Housing - Time for Collaboration in Marin	June 24, 2022
Sheriff Oversight: The Time is Now	June 15, 2022
A Roadmap to Water Resilience for Marin Municipal Water District	June 13, 2022
Electrifying Marin's Buildings: A Countywide Approach	June 6, 2022
COVID-19 Response in Marin County: Successes and Next Steps	May 25, 2022
Marin Schools: A Prescription for COVID Recovery	April 27, 2022
An Update on 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury Issues	April 11, 2022

The sidebar on the left contains 'Featured Links' such as Contact Us, Frequently Asked Questions, Grand Jury Brochure, Grand Jury Application, Accomplishments, Listing of Forms, Request an Investigation (English), Marin Chapter California Grand Jurors' Association, and California Grand Jurors' Association. Below this is the 'Marin County Civil Grand Jury' section with sub-sections for Information and Reports, with 'Reports and Responses' being the active selection.

