

Sacramento County Grand Jury Fact Sheet

Thank you for your interest in serving on the Sacramento County Grand Jury. Grand Jury service is a serious commitment.

A Grand Juror must be:

- Impartial
- Open-minded and patient
- Willing to work as a team
- Respectful of others' opinions

Legal Requirements

You must be:

- 18 years or older
- United States citizen for at least one year before selection
- California and Sacramento County resident
- Able to communicate orally and in writing

A person will not be able to serve if he or she:

- Is currently serving as a trial juror in any California court
- Has been discharged as a Grand Juror in any California court within the prior year
- Has been convicted of malfeasance in office or other high crimes

What Is The Grand Jury?

- An independent body of 19 people, serving as an arm of the court
- Serves as a full committee, as well as individual committees
- Operates with a court-appointed foreperson who facilitates the activities of the jury and acts as its spokesperson
- Grand Jurors serve voluntarily for one year beginning July 1

Grand Jury Responsibilities

- Investigates and reports on the accounts, records, operations, and functions of district, city and county governments and public officials
- Reviews complaints from citizens for possible investigation and reporting
- Tours the detention facilities in the county, including California State Prison Sacramento and Folsom State Prison
- In coordination with the District Attorney's Office, issues criminal indictments
- Works approximately 20-30 hours per week
- Produces a final report before the end of the term

Desired Knowledge and Skills

- Knowledge of local government operations
- Ability to analyze information, write reports, and actively participate in investigations

Selection Process

- A Grand Jury candidate pool is developed from voter registration and Department of Motor Vehicle records, as well as interested individuals nominated by the Superior Court Judges
- The selection process begins in January
- The Jury Commissioner's Office reviews each application and comprises a list of qualified applicants

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- Each of the Superior Court Judges may nominate individuals for Grand Jury service, either from this list or from other applicants within the county
- Each nominated applicant is mailed a notice to appear for the Grand Jury drawing process
- In June, a random drawing is held in open court and the next Grand Jury is selected
- 19 jurors are selected, as well as 11 alternates

Advisors To The Grand Jury

The Grand Jury may rely on the following as advisors:

- Advisor Judge
- County Counsel
- District Attorney
- Attorney General

Other Support Resources

- The court may select prior jurors pursuant to Penal Code section 901(b) to ensure broad-based representation and provide continuity
- A Grand Jury handbook is provided to all empanelled Grand Jurors
- An Executive Secretary provides full time support to the Grand Jury
- A Grand Jury meeting room is provided, complete with computers, copier, and fax machine.

Other Useful Information

1. All candidates must undergo a criminal background check by the Department of Justice
2. Modest compensation is paid on a monthly basis
3. Free parking is provided
4. Jurors may take short vacations during the term
5. Jurors must complete a Form 700, Statement of Economic Interest

Recruitment Timeline

January: Questionnaires are sent to potential Grand Jurors throughout Sacramento County

February: Interested people are invited to a briefing session

March/April: Judges receive lists of candidates for nomination selections

May: Nominees are notified of selection and drawing via certified letter

May: Random drawing of 30 names and empanelment of new Jury

July 1st: Term of service begins

How To Apply

If you did not receive a random questionnaire in the mail in January, please send a letter of interest indicating your willingness to devote 20 to 30 hours a week to the Grand Jury. Include a biography or résumé for circulation to the judicial officers of the Court. Your interest letter should be mailed to:

Sacramento County Grand Jury
720 9th Street, Room 611
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please send your letter no later than the due date as listed online at: www.sacgrandjury.org