

2022-2023 SACRAMENTO COUNTY GRAND JURY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP

APRIL 11, 2023



THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY GRAND JURY....

- Operates under the authority of:
 - Penal Code, Grand Jury Proceedings, Sections 888-939.9
 - Government Code, Sections 3060- 3075
- Is an independent body, serving as an arm of the court
- Differs from a trial jury
- Primarily investigates matters of civil concern
- Operates as a committee of the whole, but conducts its activities through individual committees
- 19 grand jurors, including holdovers from 2021-22 for continuity and consistency

3 GRAND JURY AS A WATCHDOG

- Objectives
 - Improve government **efficiency** and **effectiveness**
 - Promote **accountability** and **transparency**

4 KEY CONCEPTS FOR A GRAND JURY

- Confidentiality
- Independence
- Ethics
- Collegiality
- Continuity

CORE ACTIVITIES OF JURY MEMBERS

- Acts as a public “watchdog” – investigates and reports on local government operations
- Reviews misconduct allegations of public officials and determines formal accusations for removal from office
- Reviews citizen complaints for possible investigation and reporting
- Serves on three committees
- Tours all detention facilities within the County (Both County & State)
- Produces a final report before the end of the term
- May hear criminal charges and determine possible indictments



6 SELECTION OF THE GRAND JURY

- Dec – Invitations to apply to the Jury
 - 5,000 invites to Jury pool plus targeted organizations and public information campaign to improve jury pool diversity
- Jan – Orientation of potential jurors
- Feb-March – Pre-selection
 - Interviews of active candidates – assess skills in research, analysis, writing, & technology
 - Background investigation
 - Interview results forwarded to Judicial Panel (Chaired by Advisor Judge Steven Gevercer) for selection pool
- June – Empanelment through random selection of Judicial Pool (up to 19 members and 11 alternates)

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GRAND JURY ORGANIZATION - COMMITTEES




GRAND JURY COMMITTEES

Investigative:

- Administrative and Municipal Affairs (AMA)
- Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CJJ)
- Education (EDU)
- Environmental, Public Works and Special Districts (EPS)
- Health and Human Services (HHS)

Supportive:

- Continuity (CONT)
 - Edit (EDIT)
 - Technology (TECH)
 - Communications (COMM)
 - Strategic Planning (Ad Hoc)
- 

9 ADMINISTRATIVE AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS (AMA)

Focus Area:

- Review policies, procedures, budget and management of city and county public agencies and departments



10 CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE (CJJ)

Focus Areas:

- ▶ Review criminal justice agencies and ensure public prisons are in compliance with policies, procedures and state laws.
- ▶ Inquire into the conditions and management of public prisons in the County.
- ▶ Arranges tours and visits to all County Public Confinement Facilities as mandated.
- ▶ Prepares the Public Confinement report.



EDUCATION (EDU)

Focus Area:

- ▶ Review the educational programs, including charter schools and public school districts under the jurisdiction of the Sacramento County Office of Education as well as Los Rios Community College District and its community colleges.



12 ENVIRONMENTAL, PUBLIC WORKS AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS (EPS)

Focus Area:

- ▶ Review policies and procedures regarding environmental agencies, public works, special districts and joint power authorities.



CONTINUITY (CONT)

Focus Areas:

- ▶ Facilitate a smooth transition from one grand jury to the next
- ▶ Track and review responses to previous year's GJ investigations
- ▶ Prepare and facilitate the briefing and orientation for the incoming grand jury
- ▶ Update Procedures Manual as needed
- ▶ Coordinate social activities



EDIT (EDIT)

Focus Areas:

- ▶ Develop report template and guidelines
- ▶ Set timeline for report development and submittals for approval
- ▶ Review all investigative and other reports
- ▶ Review reports for grammar, tone, clarity
- ▶ Coordinate publication of the Final Report



16 OTHER SUPPORT COMMITTEES

- Technology (TECH)
 - Assists the Jury with use of technology, communications
- Communications
 - Facilitates the Public Information processes of Jury, ensures website is current and usable
- Strategic Planning Workgroup
 - Developing a long range strategic plan to enhance and improve Jury Operations and Processes

INVESTIGATIONS




WHERE DO INVESTIGATIONS COME FROM?

Formal complaints:

- General public
- Inmates, parolees, probationers, wards of the court

Grand Jury self-generated (Inquiry & Investigation):

- Current and former grand jurors
 - Investigative committees
 - Newspaper/media outlet reporting
 - Outcome of a tour or site visit
 - Sacramento County Grand Jury reports from prior years
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FORMAL COMPLAINTS

Complaint: Citizen inquiry concerning operations of local government agencies, special districts and/or officials.

Within our jurisdiction.....

- ▶ Sacramento County government operations
- ▶ City government operations
- ▶ Special Districts
- ▶ School Districts




FORMAL COMPLAINTS

Process:

- Complaints received and logged by GJ Coordinator
- Initial review by Foreperson for committee assignment
- Committees review and recommend action
- Grand Jury can open an investigation or close the complaint

Committee Review:

- Determine jurisdiction
 - Who is it from? What does the complaint allege?
 - What information was received? Is it sufficient?
 - Develop a strategy/action plan for approval by full Grand Jury
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OVERVIEW OF INVESTIGATIONS (SELF GENERATED AND/OR COMPLAINTS)

Once the investigation has been opened.....

- ▶ Identify:
 - ▶ Issues (Importance/Consequence, likelihood of impact)
 - ▶ Documents to be obtained
 - ▶ Individuals to interview
 - ▶ Proposed timeline
- ▶ Conduct research and interviews
- ▶ Determine facts, findings and recommendations
- ▶ Develop report
- ▶ Seek full GJ approval (required – Super Majority)



INVESTIGATION INTERVIEWS

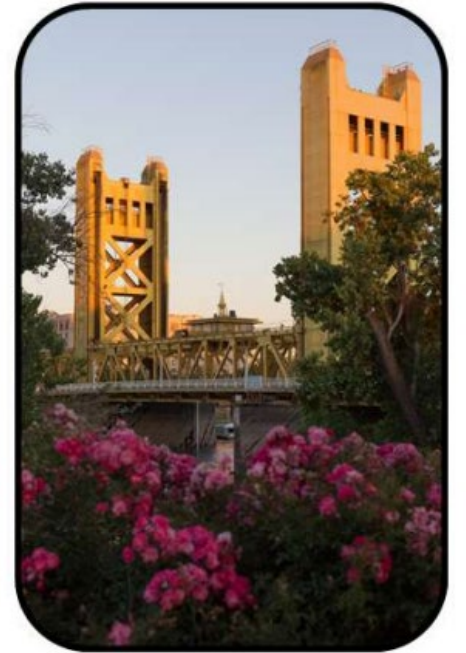
- ▶ Plan the Interview – Who, What, Where
- ▶ Conduct the Interview
 - ▶ “Rule of Two”
 - ▶ Admonition – confidentiality
 - ▶ Record the interview
- ▶ Follow-up
 - ▶ Debrief, compare notes and analyze information
 - ▶ Next Steps



REPORT WRITING

- ▶ At least one report is required per the penal code
- ▶ Key elements:
 - ▶ Summary
 - ▶ Methodology (how the investigation was conducted)
 - ▶ Discussion (Determination and Analysis of Facts-True, Verified, & Objective)
 - ▶ Findings (at least one is required)
 - ▶ Recommendations (only if problems are identified)
 - ▶ Required responses (Who must respond)
- ▶ Each report must be approved by supermajority vote of the full GJ
- ▶ Each report is reviewed by County Counsel and the Advisor Judge

SACRAMENTO COUNTY
GRAND JURY
FINAL REPORT
2019~2020



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- Questions?
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