



SACRAMENTO COUNTY GRAND JURY

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NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY ELECTEDS FAILED TO LEAD: SACRAMENTO COUNTY GRAND JURY 2022 FINAL REPORT

Numerous and detailed investigations conducted by the Sacramento County Grand Jury over the past 18 months have all come to the same surprising and concerning conclusion: When it mattered, county elected officials failed to lead. The Jury released its final report today, calling for change and questioning the effectiveness and accountability of those serving in public positions. Thousands of hours of work are represented in the final document which examines county jurisdictions involving public health and safety, education, environmental services, public agency financial and administrative operations, and the criminal justice system.

Notably, the Grand Jury found:

- The County Board of Supervisors and several other elected officials have been indifferent and neglectful in their role to protect the very people they represent.
- County elected officials appeared uninterested and unresponsive to the critical problems facing their county and its residents.
- In a countywide health crisis like no other, the record reveals a lack of attention and transparency by elected leaders. From merely handing over millions of federal COVID-19 dollars to the Sacramento County Sheriff to ignoring the emergency needs of the County Office of Public Health.
- This was also the case for investigations regarding smaller entities. A probe of operational and administrative failures by the Board of Directors for the Del Paso Manor Water District resulted in the Grand Jury's report showing that elected officials had been ignoring mounting safety risks for decades. A complaint regarding a vacant seat on the Isleton City Council led the Grand Jury to find that elected officials blatantly ignored the law and their own oath of office by failing to fill a vacant position on the City Council.

“The investigations represented in the final report point again and again to the absence of transparency and accountability among elected officials and their administrators,” says outgoing Grand Jury Foreperson Deanna Hanson. “Jurors have worked hard to provide purposeful findings and recommendations in our role as advocates for the residents of Sacramento County.”

The 2021-22 Grand Jury Final Report, formal responses, and news media coverage are available to the public on the Grand Jury website: www.sacgrandjury.org.