

## SELECTION PROCESS (continued)

The judges will select 30 nominees to proceed to a blind drawing which is held in January of each year, during a public court proceeding. A total of 19 citizens are drawn to serve on the Grand Jury; the remaining 11 citizens from the drawing serve as alternates. Alternates are called to serve if a selected juror becomes unable to serve during the course of the year. Grand Jurors are sworn in and begin their one-year term during the first week of January. After the Grand Jury is sworn in, the Presiding Judge appoints a presiding juror to preside at meetings. The jury then organizes itself into committees and investigates various departments and functions of local government.

Desirable Grand Juror qualifications include:

- Be in a state of good health;
- Be open-minded with concern for the positions and views of others;
- Have an interest in community affairs;
- Possess investigative skills and an ability to write reports; and,
- Have a general knowledge of the functions, authorities, and responsibilities of county and city government.

Would you make a good Grand Juror?

- Can you keep a secret? All of your work must be kept confidential.
- Have you the ability to commit yourself to a *full year* of work?
- Can you ask thoughtful questions, review documents, and help write reports?
- Does your schedule permit you to attend a *minimum of 4-6* daytime meetings each month?
- Are you interested in trying to increase the efficiency of local government, save taxpayers' dollars, and improve services?
- Can you contribute a minimum of 10-15 hours per week to the Grand Jury?
- If employed, can you obtain consent from your employer to serve on the Civil Grand Jury?



## QUALIFICATIONS

Prospective Grand Jurors must possess the following qualifications (Penal Code 893):

- Be a citizen of the United States of the age of 18 years or older.
- Be a resident of the State and of the County for one year immediately before being selected.

- Be in possession of his or her natural faculties of ordinary intelligence, of sound judgment, and of fair character.
- Possess sufficient knowledge of the English language.



## DISQUALIFICATION

A person is *not legally qualified* to serve if any of the following apply:

- The person is serving as a trial juror in any court of this State.
- The person has been discharged as a Grand Juror in any court of this State within one year.
- The person has been convicted of malfeasance in office or any felony or other high crime.
- The person is serving as an elected public officer.



## COMPENSATION

Jury members are paid \$15 per day for attendance of regular Grand Jury meetings, along with reimbursement at the current Federal mileage rate for mileage to and from regular Grand Jury meetings. No other compensation is provided.



## HISTORY

The Civil Grand Jury is an investigatory body created for the protection of society and enforcement of the law. The concept of juries dates back to Norman times in the 800s. By 1215, the jury concept had evolved into a guarantee expressed in the Magna Carta that no free man would be "imprisoned or [dispossessed] or exiled or in any way destroyed...except by the lawful judgment of his peers..." In the United States, the Massachusetts Bay Colony impaneled the first Grand Jury in 1635 to consider cases of murder, robbery, and wife beating. The U.S. Constitution's Fifth Amendment and the California Constitution call for Grand Juries. Grand Juries were established throughout California during the early years of statehood and are now impaneled annually.

[Rev.Aug.2010]



## MONTEREY COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY



**You can make a difference!  
Rewards for Grand Jury  
service come from increased  
knowledge of local  
government and the  
satisfaction of making a  
worthwhile contribution to  
the improvement of  
government operations.**



## FUNCTIONS

The Monterey County Grand Jury serves as a Civil Grand Jury. It is impaneled in January of each year and is comprised of 19 members.

Grand Jurors are officers of the court but work as an independent body. A Grand Jury works to ensure that the best interests of all citizens of the county are being served by governmental bodies.

Although the responsibilities of a juror are many and diverse, the three predominant functions include investigations, handling citizen complaints, and generating a final report.



## INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

The major function of the Monterey County Grand Jury is to examine county and city governments and special districts to ensure that their duties are being lawfully carried out. The Grand Jury reviews and evaluates procedures, methods, and systems utilized by these entities to determine whether more efficient and economical programs may be employed. The Grand Jury is also authorized to:

- Inspect and audit books, records, and financial expenditures to ensure that public funds are properly accounted for and legally spent;
- Inspect financial records of special districts in Monterey County;
- Examine the books and records of any nonprofit organization receiving county or city funds;
- Inquire into the conditions of jails and detention centers; and
- Inquire into any charges of willful misconduct in office by public officials or employees.



## CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

Citizens may submit a Citizen Complaint form to the Civil Grand Jury for consideration.

You may access a Citizen Complaint form at the Court's website:

[www.monterey.courts.ca.gov/grandjury](http://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov/grandjury)

Or contact the Grand Jury by phone at:

Salinas: (831) 775-5400, ext. 2081  
Monterey: (831) 647-5800, ext. 2081  
Marina: (831) 883-5300, ext. 2081  
King City: (831) 386-5200, ext. 2081

Or write to:

Civil Grand Jury, PO Box 414, Salinas, CA 93902



## FINAL REPORT

At the end of its term, the Grand Jury publishes a final report. The final report summarizes the year's activities and contains findings and recommendations for action and study. Copies of the final report are distributed to public officials, libraries, the news media, any interested parties, and any entity that is the subject of one of the reports. According to law, the governing body of any department reporting to the Board of Supervisors about which a report is issued, must respond to the report within 60 days following the release of the final report. All other subject organizations must respond within 90 days.

Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses to the reports are on file with the Superior Court, at local libraries, and are posted on the Court's website.



## GRAND JURY STRUCTURE

The Superior Court Presiding Judge or designee acts as the Advisory Judge to the Grand Jury and appoints a presiding juror (foreperson) who presides at all full jury proceedings and who is responsible for directing the business of the Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury usually forms committees, that include

Administration, Audit/Finance, Cities/Special Districts, Edit, Education, Health and Social Services, and Law Enforcement. Other committees may be appointed as needed.

The Grand Jury and its committees meet several times a month. Each Grand Juror usually serves on three committees. The committees meet with county, city and local agency officials; visit government facilities; and conduct independent research on matters of interest or concern. The committees report to the full Grand Jury each month and conclusions are reached after discussion and study of the issues.

The jury may seek advice or request the services of the County Counsel, District Attorney, Advisor Judge of the Superior Court, or State Attorney General.



## COMMITMENT

The Grand Jury forms committees and sets its own program of committee meetings, investigations and interviews. Persons selected for Grand Jury service should commit to a minimum of 10-15 hours per week to Grand Jury service for a period of one year (January-December).



## SELECTION PROCESS

Service on the Grand Jury is voluntary. Citizens who are interested, qualified, and able to commit to a minimum of 10-15 hours per week for one year, may submit a Statement of Interest form to:

Monterey County Civil Grand Jury  
P.O. Box 414  
Salinas, CA 93902

To apply on-line, visit the Court's website:  
[www.monterey.courts.ca.gov/grandjury](http://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov/grandjury)  
or contact the Grand Jury office at  
(831) 775-5400, ext. 2081

Superior Court judges review the candidates' Statements of Interest and interview prospective grand jurors. Effort is made to impanel a jury of qualified men and women of diverse socio-economic, ethnic, and educational backgrounds, as well as age groups.