

Orange County Grand Jury

Overview

The California Constitution (Article I, Section 23), the California Penal Code (Title 4, Part 2, Chapters 1–3), and other applicable laws govern the qualifications, selection, powers, and duties of California Grand Jurors.

Orange County Grand Jury of serves two primary functions:

Civil Responsibilities

- Investigate and report on the operations of county and local government agencies.
- Review allegations of misconduct by public officials and, when appropriate, issue formal accusations seeking their removal from office.

Criminal Responsibilities

- Conduct criminal investigative hearings.
- Determine whether sufficient evidence exists to return criminal indictments.

What Does a Grand Juror Do?

Grand Jurors serve as members of an independent civil and criminal investigative body. Their responsibilities include:

- Attending meetings, hearings, committee assignments, and required training.
- Reviewing documents, records, policies, procedures, and other evidence.
- Conducting interviews and participating in civil investigations.
- Deliberating on evidence and assisting in the preparation of reports and recommendations.
- Working collaboratively while exercising independent judgment.
- Maintaining strict confidentiality throughout their term of service.

Time Commitment

Serving on the Grand Jury requires a significant commitment.

- **Term:** One year (July 1–June 30)
- **Schedule:** Approximately 27–30 hours per week, Monday through Friday
- **Attendance:** Consistent participation is essential due to the deadline-driven nature of Grand Jury work.
- **Time Off:** Limited time away is permitted; vacations should generally not exceed two weeks, and personal appointments should be scheduled outside Grand Jury hours whenever possible.

- **Workload:** Approximately 70–80% of the Grand Jury's work involves civil investigations and reports, while 20–30% involves criminal matters and investigative hearings.

Qualities for Successful Service

Prospective Grand Jurors should:

- Be prepared to devote the time and effort necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of the position.
- Work effectively as part of a collaborative team.
- Exercise sound judgment and maintain confidentiality.
- Possess basic computer skills to review documents, conduct research, and complete assignments.
- Carefully consider personal and professional obligations before accepting appointment.