

Grand Jury Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is eligible to become a Grand Juror?

To qualify, you must:

- Be a United States citizen.
- Be at least 18 years old.
- Have lived in Orange County for at least one year before selection.
- Be of good character with sound judgment and ordinary intelligence.
- Be able to read, write, and understand English.

2. What qualities make a strong Grand Juror?

While legal experience is not required, successful jurors often have:

- Interest in county or local government.
- Strong reading, research, analytical, and report-writing skills.
- Ability to working on committees or teams.
- The ability to listen objectively and respect different viewpoints.

3. How much time does Grand Jury service require?

Grand Jury service is a significant commitment.

- The term is one year (July 1 through the following June 30).
- Jurors typically serve 5 days each week.
- Some evening or weekend meetings may also be required.
- Regular attendance is expected throughout the term.

4. Are Grand Jurors compensated?

Yes. Grand Jurors receive:

- A \$50 daily stipend for each day served (up to five days per week).
- Mileage reimbursement at the County-approved rate.
- Meeting facilities and adjacent parking.

5. What happens after I submit my application?

The selection process includes several steps:

- Applications are reviewed by the Grand Jury Recruitment/Selection Committee.
- Approximately 90 applicants are invited to interview.
- The most qualified applicants undergo a background investigation.
- A panel of 25–30 finalists is selected for the court's lottery drawing.

6. What does the background investigation include?

Applicants selected as finalists may complete:

- Criminal and records checks.
- Personal interview(s).
- A written background investigation report.

7. How are Grand Jurors selected?

State law requires the final panel to represent all supervisorial districts based on population.

- The names of 25–30 finalists are placed into a random lottery conducted by the Superior Court.
- The first 19 names drawn become Grand Jurors.
- The remaining individuals serve as alternates.

8. Is training provided before service begins?

Yes. Before the new term begins:

- All selected jurors attend an orientation and training program.
- Training is conducted by the current Grand Jury and its advisors.
- The Presiding Judge appoints the Grand Jury Foreperson, and the jurors elect the remaining officers.

9. Do I need legal experience to serve?

No. Legal training or a law degree is not required. Jurors come from a wide variety of professional and personal backgrounds. The most important qualifications are integrity, sound judgment, objectivity, and a willingness to serve.

10. Why should I serve on the Grand Jury?

Serving on the Grand Jury is a unique opportunity to:

- Make a meaningful contribution to your community.
- Promote accountability and transparency in local government.
- Participate in an important part of the justice system.
- Use your knowledge, skills, and experience in public service.
- Meet and work with a group of intriguing, dedicated people