

Welcome

to the

Civil Grand Jury



COUNTY of VENTURA

Your Civil Grand Jury Needs You!





What is the Purpose of the Civil Grand Jury?

- Investigates government entities to ensure they:
 - ✓ **SERVE** the best interests of County residents
 - ✓ **APPLY** civil law fairly
 - ✓ **USE** resources wisely
 - ✓ **ADHERE** to mandated function
- Acts as “government watchdog” by investigating citizen complaints





What Does the Civil Grand Jury Investigate?

- ✓ **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES**
departments and processes
- ✓ **CITY GOVERNMENTS**
agencies, processes and contracts
- ✓ **UNINCORPORATED AREAS**
(not within city boundaries)





What May the Civil Grand Jury Investigate?

Agencies and Special Districts

- ✓ HEALTH CARE AGENCY
- ✓ SCHOOL DISTRICTS
- ✓ WATER DISTRICTS
- ✓ ANIMAL SERVICES AGENCY



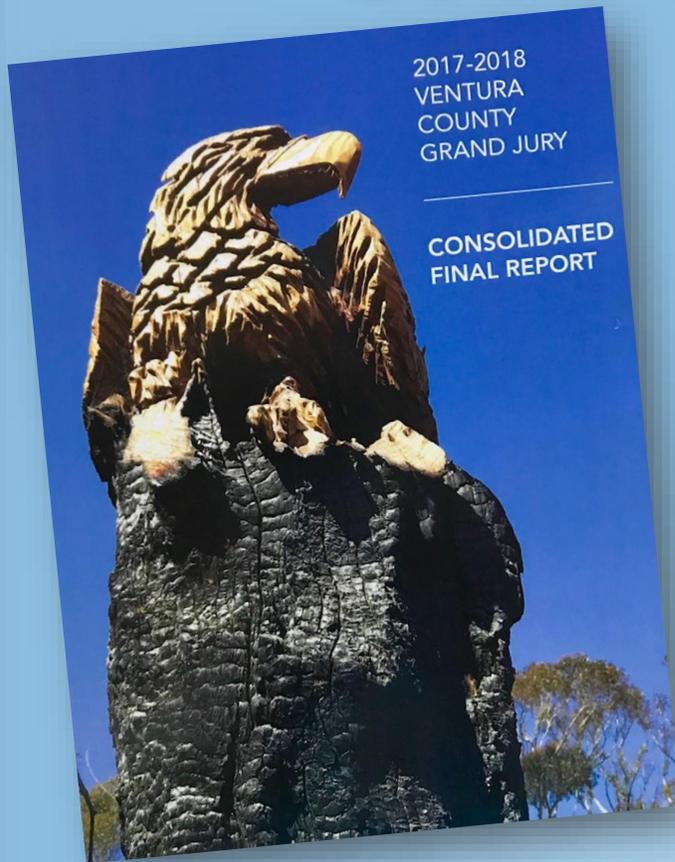


Authority of the CIVIL GRAND JURY

- ✓ **INSPECT CONDITIONS** of detention centers and jails
- ✓ **INSPECT & AUDIT** books, records and expenditures
- ✓ **INVESTIGATE CITIZEN COMPLAINTS** of government mismanagement or inefficiency
- ✓ **INVESTIGATE CHARGES** of misconduct or unfair treatment by public officials or employees



Investigations



PUBLICLY AVAILABLE REPORTS

USUALLY . . .

originate in response to a public complaint
(complainant's identity remains confidential)

MAY ...

originate within the Civil Grand Jury itself





Civil Oversight Process

- ✓ Attend briefings by government officials
- ✓ Visit selected county and city facilities
- ✓ Identify processes/facilities to investigate
- ✓ Conduct independent research/interviews
- ✓ Write reports with recommendations
- ✓ Review responses to reports





How to Submit a Complaint. . .

Download complaint form:

www.ventura.org/grand-jury

- ✓ Complete, sign and return the form per the instructions, or
- ✓ Write to the Civil Grand Jury detailing the complaint with name and address

Your identity will always remain confidential.





Investigative Committees

- **Audit, Finance & County Administration**
- **Cities and Joint Powers**
- **County Services & Special Districts**
- **Health, Education & Welfare**
- **Law, Justice & Public Safety**





Qualifications for Civil Grand Jurors

- ✓ U.S. citizen 18 years of age or older
- ✓ Resident of Ventura County for one year
- ✓ Computer literate in commonly used software
- ✓ Sufficient knowledge of English
- ✓ Average intelligence and fair character





Commitment

- ✓ Civil Grand Jurors serve a one-year term (July 1 - June 30)
- ✓ Civil Grand Jurors may serve up to 30 hours a week
- ✓ Civil Grand Jurors may take vacations or days off with advance notice





Stipend and Reimbursement

- ✓ Civil Grand Jurors receive a stipend based on actual days attended
- ✓ The current rate is \$25 per day, plus mileage
- ✓ The mileage rate is established by the IRS



Time Frames . . .

January – Early April

- ✓ Applications accepted from the public

May – June

- ✓ Applications reviewed and interviews

July 1

- ✓ Returning (holdover) jurors announced
- ✓ A random drawing of approved applicants
- ✓ New Civil Grand Jury of 19 is sworn and begins service





Applications

Qualified Ventura County residents are invited to apply. Applications may be obtained from:

ventura.org/grand-jury

or Jury Services
800 South Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009-3751
(805) 289-8661





THANK YOU!

FOR SUPPORTING

Your

Ventura

County

Civil Grand Jury



COUNTY of VENTURA