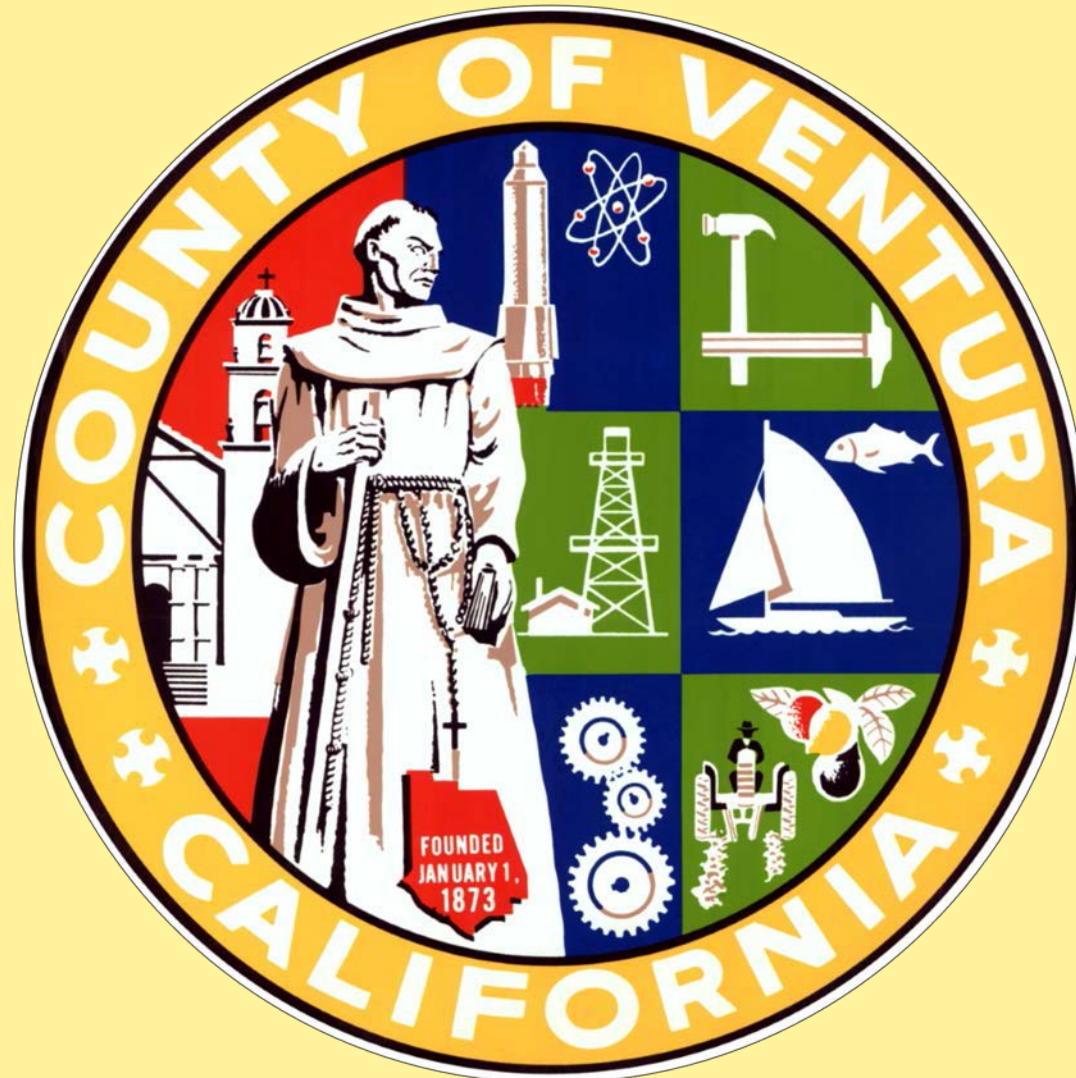


GRAND JURY



CALIFORNIA JURIES, PART 1

“Petit” juries (French for “small”)

- 12 members chosen by random selection (jury of peers)
- Decide guilt, innocence, or liability



CALIFORNIA JURIES, PART 2

"Grand" juries (French for "large") –
in Ventura County,
19 members

Civil
Grand Jury



Public
watchdog

Criminal
Grand Jury

Felony
indictments



WHAT IS THE CIVIL GRAND JURY?

A **volunteer group** that investigates whether local government is:

- **Serving** the best interests of residents
- **Applying** the law fairly
- **Using** our resources wisely



WHAT WE MAY INVESTIGATE (1)

- **VENTURA COUNTY GOVERNMENT**, its departments and processes
- **CITY GOVERNMENTS** and their agencies, processes, and contracts
- **ALL UNINCORPORATED AREAS** (not within city boundaries)

Continued...



WHAT WE MAY INVESTIGATE (2)



■ AGENCIES & SPECIAL DISTRICTS (Examples)

School Districts

Fire District

Airports

Harbor Districts

Water Districts

Sanitation Districts

Air Pollution Control District

Health Care Agency

Animal Services



AUTHORITY OF THE GRAND JURY

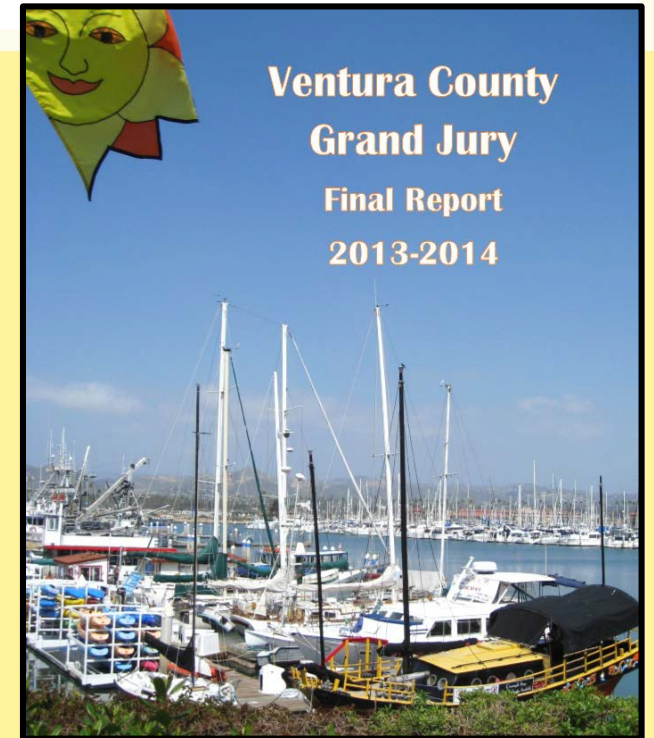
- **Inspect and audit** books, records, and expenditures
- **Inspect conditions** of detention centers and jails
- **Investigate complaints** of government mismanagement or inefficiency
- **Investigate charges** of misconduct or unfair treatment by public officials or employees



INVESTIGATIONS

Usually originate in response to a public complaint (**complainant's identity kept secret**)

May originate within the Grand Jury itself



**Publicly
available
reports**

CIVIL OVERSIGHT PROCESS

- ▶ Attend **briefings** by local government officials
- ▶ Visit selected county and city facilities
- ▶ Identify processes/facilities to investigate
- ▶ Conduct independent research/interviews
- ▶ Write reports with recommendations
- ▶ Follow up on changes



HOW TO MAKE A COMPLAINT

- Download complaint form:
www.ventura.org/grand-jury
- Complete, **sign**, and return the form per the instructions,
OR
- Write us a letter with the same info.

*Your identity will
always be kept secret.*



Grand Jury County of Ventura

800 South Victoria Avenue L#3751
Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 477-1600

COMPLAINT FORM

ALL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE GRAND JURY ARE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY

Please complete all information and return to the Grand Jury by mail at the above address or by fax to (805) 658-4523. Documents submitted cannot be returned.

*Your Name: _____

*Home Address: _____

*City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

*Phone Numbers: (Work or cell) _____ (Home) _____

CONCISE STATEMENT OF ISSUE. In one or two sentences, summarize the specific issue you want the grand jury to address.

SUPPORTING DATA. Provide information relating to the issue, including dates of events, names of officials, other persons, departments, and agencies involved. (Attach additional sheets if needed.)

*Signature: _____ *Date: _____

* Required information; complaint will be rejected if not completed.

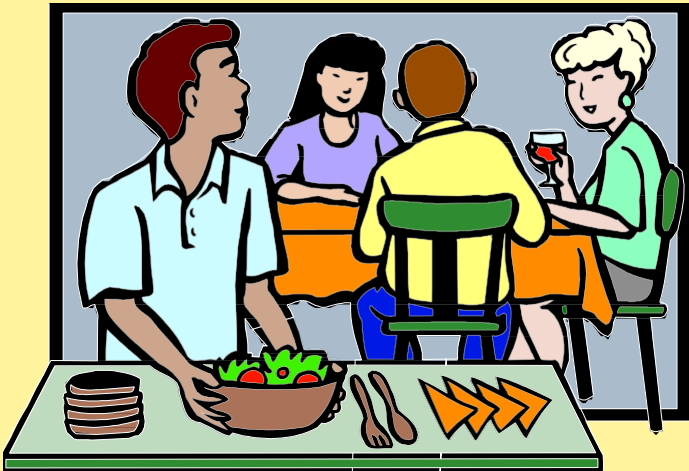
INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEES

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



SUPPORT COMMITTEES

- < Community Relations
- < Complaint Review
- < Editorial Review
- < Grand Jury Review
- < Executive
- < Social



QUALIFICATIONS FOR GRAND JURORS

- **U.S. citizen** 18 years of age or older
- **Resident** of Ventura County for at least one year immediately before serving
- Average **intelligence** and good **character**
- Sufficient knowledge of **English**



COMMITMENT

Grand jurors serve a **one-year term** (July 1 - June 30). They may serve **up to 35 hours** a week Monday through Friday.

With advance notice, **vacations or single days off** can be taken **at any time**.



STIPEND AND REIMBURSEMENT

Grand Jurors receive a stipend based on actual days served. The current rate is **\$25 per day plus mileage**. Mileage is reimbursed according to the current established IRS rate.



TIMEFRAMES (1)

January – Mid April

- ✓ Applications accepted from the public.
- ✓ Grand Jury conducts an open house.

May – June

- ✓ Applications are reviewed.
- ✓ Selected applicants are invited for interviews.



TIMEFRAMES (2)



June

- Prospective jury of 30 is named consisting of:
 - Up to 10 “holdover” members from prior jury;
 - New applicants.
- Mandatory **orientation program** is conducted for prospective jurors.
- Past year’s final investigative **reports are issued and made public by June 30.**

TIMEFRAMES (3)



July 1

- **A random drawing** of new applicants is conducted to complete the 19-member Grand Jury.



- **New Grand Jury** members are sworn in and start the same day.

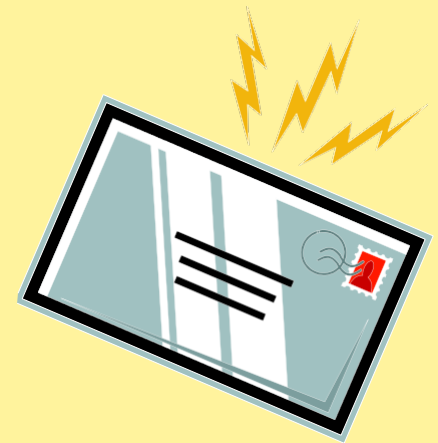
APPLICATIONS

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



Ventura County Grand Jury
ventura.org/grand-jury
(805) 477-1600

Or from **Jury Services**
800 South Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009-3751





GRAND JURY

