APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

- Each Superior Court judge in Alameda County may nominate at least one person for Grand Jury service. However, it is not necessary to know a judge personally to become a Grand Juror. Qualified citizens who desire to be nominated for the Grand Jury and who are able to provide one year of service are encouraged to apply.

- Applications are accepted throughout the year and are reviewed each spring for service beginning July 1.

- Six nominees from each Alameda County Supervisorial District are chosen to create a pool of 30 candidates from which 19 are selected at random. These 19 citizens are then impaneled as the Civil Grand Jury.

- Soon after the selection process, impaneled Grand Jurors receive an orientation on city and county government and must complete and file a Statement of Economic Interest.

HOW TO APPLY

Obtain an application by visiting:

https://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/system/files/general/cgj-application.pdf

Email or call with questions to:

accivilgrandjury@alameda.courts.ca.gov

510-924-3800

Website:

https://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/general-information/jury-duty/civil-grand-jury

REMUNERATION Grand Jurors are paid $15 per day for each day served, plus mileage and parking at a reduced fee.

CIVIL GRAND JURY

Holding Local Government Accountable

The Civil Grand Jury is an independent entity authorized to investigate every aspect of local government to ensure that public agencies are working in the best interest of the public, and are doing so effectively and economically. This independence gives the Grand Jury a unique role in promoting local government accountability.

Functions

Operating under the auspices of the Superior Court and subject to the court's general supervision, the Civil Grand Jury accomplishes its mission by investigating local government operations and citizen complaints.

"Citizens' Watchdog." The Grand Jury has broad authority to examine local government agencies including special districts. The Grand Jury may:

- Inspect and audit financial records to ensure that public funds are properly accounted for and spent legally;
- Inquire into the conditions of jails, detention centers, and hospitals; and
- Inquire into charges that a public official or employee engaged in willful misconduct while in office.

Committees The Grand Jury accomplishes much of its work through the use of committees, which are formed to evaluate government operation areas such as:

- Education
- Health & Social Services
- Government
- Law and Justice

Upon completion of each investigation, the Grand Jury issues an *interim report* that contains its findings, describes any problems encountered, and recommends solutions.

(Functions, continued)

At the end of its term, the Grand Jury issues a *final report* on the operations of Alameda County government. The County Board of Supervisors must comment upon the Jury's recommendations within 90 days.

Citizen Complaints. Citizens alleging government waste or misconduct by government officials may submit confidential complaints to the Grand Jury. The Grand Jury investigates the complaints, and, if the situation warrants, recommends corrective action. It has jurisdiction to investigate complaints about any city or county agency within Alameda County (e.g., BART, EBMUD, AC Transit, school districts, etc.).

The privilege of serving as a Grand Juror comes with many rewards including the satisfaction of making a worthwhile contribution to the improvement of one's community.

Distinct from Criminal Grand Jury.
In Alameda County, criminal grand jurors are selected from the regular Superior Court jury pool. They review evidence presented by the district attorney to determine whether an accused should be indicted for a criminal offense.

Required Qualifications

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

1. Citizen of the United States at least 18 years of age;
2. Resident of Alameda County for one year immediately before being selected;
3. Ordinary intelligence, sound judgment, and good character; and
4. Sufficient knowledge of the English Language.

Desirable Qualifications

1. Good health;
2. Open-minded with a concern for others' points of view;
3. Able to work well with others;
4. Interested in community affairs;
5. Able to ask thoughtful questions, review documents, and help write reports; and
6. Possess a general knowledge of the functions and responsibilities of city and county government.

Disqualifications

A person may not serve if any of the following apply:

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