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Placer County Grand Jurors

Foreperson:	Albert A. Erkel, Jr.	Granite Bay
Pro Tempore:	Joan Bowen	Roseville
Office Manager:	Dennis Lovejoy	Lincoln
Secretary:	Rebecca Troxell	Lincoln
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Mark Linkiewicz	Roseville

Rob Arthur	Granite Bay
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Drew Haydu	Roseville
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Steve Hendrickson	Rocklin
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Sandy Herold	Granite Bay
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Gary Hobbs	Granite Bay
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William McCuistion	Lincoln
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Dale Melin	Roseville
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Dave O'Brien	Rocklin
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Abraham Rivera	Roseville
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John Schabinger	Granite Bay
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George Sirovy	Newcastle
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Reginald Van Sleet	Rocklin
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Tom Wilson	Roseville
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Cy Young	Roseville
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2012-2013 GRAND JURY PHOTOGRAPH

Left to right: Bill McCuistion, Cy Young, John Schabinger, Abe Rivera, Mark Linkiewicz (Sergeant at Arms) Joan Bowen (Pro Tem), Gary Hobbs, Sandy Herold, Drew Haydu, Reggie Van Sleet, George Sirovy, Al Erkel (Foreman), Rob Arthur, Dave O'Brien, Dennis Lovejoy (Office Manager), Tom Wilson
Absent: Becky Troxell (Secretary), Dale Melin, Steve Hendrickson



Placer County Grand Jury

What is a Grand Jury?

The Grand Jury is an investigatory body with the authority to act as a watchdog on local government, investigate citizen complaints, and assist in criminal matters at the request of the district attorney.

The Grand Jury is part of the county judicial system as authorized by the California State Constitution. It is advised by the Superior Court, but is not accountable to elected officials or government employees. Its findings and recommendations are unbiased and impartial. Grand jurors are sworn to secrecy and, other than final reports; their work is kept strictly confidential.

History

Juries stem from the eleventh century. In 1215, the concept of a jury had become a pledge expressed in the Magna Carta, that no free man would be "imprisoned or dispossessed or exiled or in any way destroyed ...except by the lawful judgment of his peers ..."

In 1635, the Massachusetts Bay Colony impaneled the first grand jury to consider cases of murder, robbery and wife beating. The U.S. Constitution's Fifth Amendment and the California Constitution call for grand juries. Grand Juries were established throughout California during the early years of statehood. As constituted today, criminal and civil grand juries are a part of the judicial branch of government, arms of the court system.

Functions

The grand jury is an investigatory body created for the protection of society and the enforcement of the law. The grand jury in California is unusual because its duty includes investigation of county government as provided by statutes passed in 1880. Only a few other states require grand jury investigation beyond alleged misconduct of public officials. Although the jury responsibilities are many and diverse, the three predominant functions include:

Civil Watchdog Responsibilities - This is the major function of present day California grand jurors and considerable effort is devoted to these responsibilities. The grand jury may examine all aspects of county and city government and special districts to ensure they are serving the best interests of Placer County residents. The grand jury reviews and evaluates procedures, methods and systems used by these entities for efficiency and economy.

Most grand jury "watchdog" findings are contained in reports describing problems they discover and their subsequent recommendations for solutions. To accomplish the county watchdog functions, the grand jury normally establishes several committees. During its term, the grand jury issues final reports on government operations in Placer County.

After a final report is published, the official or governing body of an agency or government covered in the report must respond to the grand jury within a given period of time, as prescribed by California law. Officials must respond within 60 days; governments or agencies must respond within 90 days. The following year's grand jury publishes the responses to the final report.

Citizen Complaints - As part of the civil function, the grand jury receives complaints from residents alleging official mistreatment, suspicious conduct, or governmental inefficiencies. The grand jury investigates reports from residents for their validity. All such requests are kept confidential until a final report is published. In fact, the complainant is not told whether or not the grand jury will investigate a complaint until the report is issued.

Criminal Investigations – Upon occasion, the district attorney asks the grand jury to hold hearings to determine whether evidence presented by the district attorney is sufficient to indict an individual, who would then stand trial in court. A minimum of 12 grand jurors must vote for an indictment in any criminal proceeding.

Jurisdiction

The following summarizes the areas that are within investigatory jurisdiction of the Placer County Grand Jury:

- Persons imprisoned in the jail of the county on a criminal charge and not indicted;
- The condition and management of the public prisons within the county;
- Willful or corrupt misconduct in office of public officers of every description within the county;
- County government, city government, special districts, school districts, agencies and authorities;
- Criminal hearings upon request of the district attorney.

Areas not within county grand jury jurisdiction include:

- Federal agencies;
- State agencies;
- Superior court system;
- School district personnel records, curriculum, and policy.