

This document is an extract of a larger publication.

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## 2017-2018 Shasta County Grand Jury Committees

### Standing Committees

- Audit Finance
- City Government
- Continuity and Editorial
- County Government
- Local Districts and Agencies
- Criminal Justice

### Ad Hoc Committees

- Prop 64 Investigation
- AB 109 Investigation
- Jail Funding and Capacity
- Safety Vehicle Investigation
- Procedures Manual
- County Audit Procedures

### Summary of Committee Activities

Committee	Meetings	Investigations*	Interviews	Reports
Audit Finance	27	1	7	1
City Government	15	1	1	0
Continuity and Editorial	36	0	0	1
County Government	13	3	1	0
Criminal Justice	5	0	0	0
Local Districts and Agencies	11	2	0	0
Ad Hoc 1 - AB 109 & Jail	50	2	19	2
Ad Hoc 2 - Prop 64	49	1	27	1
Ad Hoc 3 - Safety Vehicles	18	1	7	1
Ad Hoc 4 - County Audit	5	1	2	0
Ad Hoc - Procedure Manual	15	0	0	0
Ad Hoc - Audit Procedure	5	0	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>6</b>

\*Not all investigations result in a report

## Focusing on the Shasta County Grand Jury

### What is the Grand Jury?

The Grand Jury is an independent body comprised of 19 Shasta County citizens that functions as an arm of the judicial branch of government operating under the guidance of the Presiding Judge of the Shasta County Superior Court. In this capacity, the Grand Jury inquires into and investigates the operations of local government agencies and officials, ensuring that their activities are authorized by law and services are efficiently provided. Members of the Grand Jury are selected through an application and interview process by the Superior Court.

### **Why does the Grand Jury matter?**

The Grand Jury acts as a watchdog for the county. It helps local government to be more accountable and efficient. Empowered by the judicial system, it is a fact-finding body that develops meaningful solutions to a wide range of government problems which, in turn, facilitates positive change in the county. The Grand Jury examines statutory aspects of the city governments, county government, special districts, the local agency formation commission, school districts, housing authorities, joint powers agencies, and non-profit agencies established by or operated on behalf of a public agency. The Grand Jury determines whether monies of local government agencies are handled properly and that all accounts are properly audited – in general, assuring honest, efficient government in the best interest of the county residents.

### **By what authority does the Grand Jury act?**

The California State Constitution requires the Superior Court in each county to impanel at least one Grand Jury each year. Grand juries are governed and guided by California Penal Code Section 925, et seq. The code authorizes the Grand Jury to investigate and report on the operations of any local governmental agency within the county. On rare occasions, the Grand Jury may even review criminal cases.

All communications with the Grand Jury are confidential. Because the Grand Jury is exempt from the state's open meeting law (the Brown Act), actions are taken by a vote of the Grand Jury in accordance with their own rules and procedures. The ability to internally police itself allows the Grand Jury to operate completely independent of external pressures.

When there is a perception of a conflict of interest involving a member of the Grand Jury, that member has been required to recuse from any aspect of the investigation involving such a conflict and from voting on the acceptance or rejection of that report. Four (4) 2017-2018 Grand Jurors were recused from certain investigations. These jurors were excluded from all parts of the investigations, including interviews, deliberations, and the making and acceptance of the report.

### **Would you like to serve on the Grand Jury?**

Citizens over the age of 18 in Shasta County are given an opportunity to serve on the Grand Jury. For specific information regarding juror qualifications and applications to serve on the Grand Jury, either contact or visit the following address:

Shasta County Superior Court  
1500 Court Street, Room 205  
Redding, CA 96001  
[www.shastacountygrandjury.org](http://www.shastacountygrandjury.org)

### **How do you file a Citizen Complaint with the Grand Jury?**

The grand jury reviews all complaints and investigates when appropriate. All complaints are treated confidentially. The complainant may be asked to appear as a witness. A citizen complaint form may be obtained online at [www.shastacountygrandjury.org](http://www.shastacountygrandjury.org) or by contacting:

Shasta County Grand Jury  
P.O. Box 992086  
Redding, Ca. 96099-2086  
(530) 225-5098  
[www.shastacountygrandjury.org](http://www.shastacountygrandjury.org)

### **How are Grand Jury reports written and published?**

The content and subject matter of the Grand Jury reports are the result of a diligent effort by the members of the Grand Jury. The reports are prepared by members of the Grand Jury and reviewed by County Counsel, or the District Attorney, and the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court. The reports are then made available online at [www.shastacountygrandjury.org](http://www.shastacountygrandjury.org) and at the Shasta County Clerk's Office. A Consolidated Final Report is printed by the Record Searchlight at the end of each term.

Throughout the course of the 2017-2018 term, the Grand Jury met, discussed policies and procedures, and reviewed possible subjects for inquiry and/or investigation. Committees were formed to perform specific investigations. Subjects for investigation were initiated by citizen complaints or by members of the Grand Jury. Upon completion of the individual investigations, reports were prepared and edited by the Grand Jury and then forwarded on to County Counsel or the District Attorney for legal review. After legal review, the reports were forwarded to the Presiding Judge for final review and approval to release to the public.

The 2017-2018 Grand Jury released individual reports prior to the end of its one-year term. At the end of its term, all investigative reports, including those previously released, are compiled into one report referred to as the Consolidated Final Report of the Grand Jury, and released to the public.

### **Who responds to the Findings and Recommendations of the Grand Jury report?**

Typically, each report includes both Findings and Recommendations. The Findings consist of conclusions, relevant to the specific entity investigated, which are of concern to the Grand Jury. The Recommendations are proposals by the Grand Jury which will help to remedy problems or inefficiencies within the agency or organization. California Penal Code Section 933 requires responses to the final report be submitted to the Superior Court in a timely manner. Required responses are to be submitted within 60 days for elected officials and 90 days for elected governing bodies, and within 60 days for non-elected officials. It is anticipated that the various agencies and governments will respond in a manner that is in the best interest of the residents of the county.

**The 2017-2018 Grand Jury recommends that all governing bodies place their responses to all Grand Jury reports on their Regular Calendars for public discussion, not on their Consent Calendars.**