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MADERA COUNTY GRAND JURY

2024-2025 Final Report

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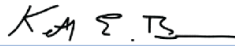
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Madera County Grand Jury
2024-225 Madera County Grand Jury Final Report

With signatures below this document becomes

The Final Report of the
2024-2025 Madera County Grand Jury
July 1st, 2024 to June 30th, 2025

Approved by the Grand Jury:



Kenneth Bowman (Jun 23, 2025 09:20 PDT)

Kenneth Bowman, Foreperson
2024-2025 Madera County Grand Jury

Accepted for Filing:



Honorable Michael Jurkovich
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury, Madera Superior Court

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SUPERIOR COURT

COUNTY OF MADERA
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DALE BLEA
PRESIDING JUDGE

SOSI VOGT
ASSISTANT PRESIDING JUDGE

ADRIENNE CALIP
COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

200 SOUTH "G" STREET
MADERA, CA 93637
(559) 416-5599
FAX (559) 675-6565

June 16, 2025

Re: 2024-2025 Grand Jury

To the Citizens of Madera County:

As the supervising judge of your Madera County Civil Grand Jury, it is my privilege to report to you at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 grand jury term. Your grand jury is a part of the judicial branch of government. However, neither I nor the court provide direction to the grand jury on what matters or agencies should be investigated. As such, your grand jury is truly independent.

The grand jury is comprised of citizens of Madera County. Each grand jury term is for one year (the beginning of July to the end of June, each year).

The grand jury exists to serve as an independent examining and investigative body charged with monitoring the operation of local government. These investigations assist your elected officials and public employees in operating more effectively and efficiently. We all benefit from their work. Grand jurors do not perform this service for public acclaim. Quite to the contrary, their work often places them at odds with elected officials, public employees, as well as other members of the community.

Prior to their selection, all prospective grand jury members are interviewed. I can assure you each is motivated by one reason - community service. The grand jury members are a diverse group, with diverse backgrounds. It is this diversity which makes for such an effective body. This diversity is also why no grand jury is quite the same. This is also a benefit to the citizens of Madera County.

Each juror who served on the grand jury during the 2024-2025 term did so without complaint and with the diligence required to perform their job as representatives of the residents of Madera County. The grand jury has produced detailed reports. These reports also contain recommendations. We all benefit from the work of the grand jury.

In conclusion, I wanted to personally thank each member of the 2024-2025 grand jury for selflessly giving to your community so much of your personal time during this grand jury term. I also

wanted to specifically thank this year's foreperson, Mr. Kenneth Bowman, for his guidance to the grand jury this term.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Jurkovich".

Michael J. Jurkovich
Supervising Judge
2024-2025 Madera County Civil Grand Jury



Photo: Jillian Milam with Early Morning Light Studio

Hon. Michael J. Jurkovich
Supervising Judge
2024-2025 Madera County Civil Grand Jury

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Honorable Michael Jurkovich
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury
Madera Superior Court

June 13, 2025

Honorable Michael Jurkovich,

The 2024-2025 Madera County Civil Grand Jury respectfully submits our Final Consolidated report for the 2024-2025 term. This report contains the various reports from this year's Panel investigations and the responses to the 2023-2024 Grand Jury Report. It represents hundreds of hours of research, investigation and review by the members of the Grand Jury.

The purpose of this report is to examine and shed light on some of the government agencies of Madera County. It is not necessarily meant to be critical of any agency, but to be an independent effort to improve the governance of Madera County. We hope all government agencies will review this report with an open mind and where appropriate, implement its recommendations. We also invite the citizens of Madera County to review this report and consider serving on the Grand Jury.

This year's Panel consists of a wide variety of Madera County citizens from Bass Lake, Oakhurst, Awahanee, the city of Madera and rural Madera County. Their occupations range from teacher, law enforcement or mechanic, to postal worker, farmer or attorney. This diverse background gave the Panel a wide range of experience and expertise for their assigned task as well as a well rounded background to help it reach its conclusions.

I would personally like to thank each Jury member for their efforts and hard work. From the first year "Newbies" with their excitement and curiosity to the "Old returnees" with their experience and dedication to perfection. Great job folks, you worked through your differences to complete your assigned task and produce a quality report.

The Grand Jury would like to extend its deepest appreciation to Erin Kenney (Jury Division Supervisor of Madera County) and her staff, Jessica Leon (Office of Madera County Administration), her staff and the California Grand Jury Association for their support this past term. We also extend our thanks to Wiley Driskill, our legal advisor, and appreciation to Judge Jurkovich for his support.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Bowman

Ken Bowman, Foreman
2024-2025 County Civil Grand Jury

The Madera County Civil Grand Jury 2024 - 2025



Front row: Bill Schoettler, Bill McPike Esq., Steven Rice, Sergeant-at-Arms Shawn McRae, Debbie Jackson, Recording Secretary Rosemary Cantu, Pro-Tem & Corresponding Secretary Rebecca Lastreto, Treasurer Rod Hatzman.

Top row: Steve Allen, Nina Zarucchi-Mize, Mary Norris, Foreman Ken Bowman, Cana Marks.

Missing: Paul Aleman, Robert Lewis, Katie Krogstad.

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**The 2024-2025 Madera County Grand Jury wished to acknowledge
and thank the following:**

The Honorable Michael Jurkovich Supervising
Judge of the Grand Jury

Ms. Erin Kinney
Superior Court Jury Division Supervisor

Ms. Regina Garza
Madera County Counsel

Mr. Wiley Driskill
Madera County Deputy County Counsel

Ms. Jessica Leon and
Madera County Administration Staff
&
The Madera County IT Staff



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