

# WHY BECOME A GRAND JUROR?



Grand Jurors are interested and curious, inquisitive and persistent. They are passionate about improving the effectiveness of City government. If you love San Francisco, why not volunteer to make it an even better place to live?

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APPLY NOW!

## HOW DO I APPLY?

Please visit  
<https://civilgrandjury.sfgov.org/join.html>.

The application deadline is **May 14, 2021**.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Qualified applicants will be invited to participate in selection on **June 1-4, 2021**.

During selection, a panel of Superior Court Judges will interview each applicant and recommend the most qualified to become the pool from which the Civil Grand Jury will be randomly selected. 19 jurors will be sworn, and up to 11 will serve as alternates.

Training for sworn and alternate jurors will be provided on **June 14-18, 2021**.

The 2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury takes office on **July 1, 2021**.



# THE CIVIL GRAND JURY

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Volunteers  
Making a Difference  
For All  
San Franciscans

# WHAT IS THE CIVIL GRAND JURY?

As required by the California Constitution, the Civil Grand Jury is a “watchdog” that investigates the operations of the City and County government, including its officers, departments, and agencies.

The Civil Grand Jury is 19 members randomly drawn from a pool of applicants who volunteer to serve for a one year term. Civil Grand Jurors are San Franciscans who are passionate about their City; who want to make a difference in their communities; and who work together to carry out the charge of the Jury.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Civil Grand Jury is an independent body. Each Civil Grand Jury determines, by majority vote, which issues in government it wishes to investigate. Typically, the Jury divides itself into committees, which carry out the investigations and write the reports.

To do an investigation, the Jury reviews records and financial documents; interviews City and County department heads, elected officials, and staff; and visits government facilities. Jurors discuss and debate issues to reach consensus on the findings and recommendations included in the reports. The entire Jury votes to approve the final reports. The Board of Supervisors holds a public hearing on each report.

## WHO CAN VOLUNTEER?

In order to volunteer to be on the Civil Grand Jury, you must be:

- ✓ A citizen of the United States who is at least 18 years of age; has lived in San Francisco for at least the past 12 months; has no felony convictions; and is able to communicate in English.
- ✓ A person who is willing to work as a member of a team to achieve a common goal, checking personal agendas at the door.
- ✓ A good listener who is enthusiastic about affecting change in the City and who is interested in investigating the performance of City government.

## WHAT’S THE TIME COMMITMENT?

Civil Grand Jurors serve a minimum term of one year, from July 1 through June 30 of the following year. Persons selected for Civil Grand Jury service must commit to a minimum of 10 hours per week. This time commitment may fluctuate depending on the role of the individual on the panel and the time of year.

The Jury meets weekly in the early evening. Subcommittee meetings will be scheduled as needed, generally during business hours.

The Jury sets its own schedule and is able to accommodate time off for vacations and the like.

## WHAT REPORTS HAVE BEEN DONE?

The range of topics that the Civil Grand Juries have investigated is broad and reflects the diverse interests of the Juries. Some examples include:

- Sustain Our City’s High Performing Moscone Convention Center (2020)
- Act Now Before It Is Too Late: Aggressively Expand and Enhance Our High-Pressure Emergency Firefighting Water System (2019)
- Mitigating the Housing Crisis: Accessory Dwelling Units and Modular Housing (2018)
- Accelerating SF Government Performance (2017)
- San Francisco’s Crime Lab: Promoting Confidence and Building Credibility (2016)
- Clean Power SF: At Long Last (2015)
- Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep (2014)
- Building a Better Future at the Department of Building Inspection (2013)
- Surcharges and Healthy San Francisco: Healthy for Whom? (2012)
- Central Subway: Too Much Money for Too Little Benefit (2011)
- Pension Tsunami: The Billion Dollar Bubble (2010)

A complete list of Civil Grand Jury reports, department responses to the reports, and the audit of Civil Grand Jury recommendations can be found at

<http://civilgrandjury.sfgov.org/index.html>.

