



Superior Court of California
County of Mendocino
100 N. State St., Ukiah, CA 95482
www.mendocino.courts.ca.gov/

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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PARTICIPATE IN OVERSIGHT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT JOIN THE CIVIL GRAND JURY

Each Spring, the Mendocino County Superior Court recruits Mendocino citizens to volunteer for a one-year appointment as civil grand jurors. The Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury, composed of 19 members plus alternates, performs important citizen oversight of local government. It investigates, monitors and issues reports and recommendations on the performance of government entities, including Mendocino County departments; city departments; water, school, and fire districts; and other special districts.

Jurors are not summoned, but instead volunteer to examine the operations of various local government entities and departments. The work is rewarding and ensures that ordinary citizens have appropriate insight into how public funds are spent and how public entities operate to make sure the mission of responsible government is met. Topics for investigation may come from the grand jurors or referrals from the previous grand jury or may arise from complaints, including anonymous complaints from citizens.

To be selected, applicants must be US citizens, at least 18 years old, reside in Mendocino County, and be fluent in English to communicate both orally and in writing. Applications and related information are available at: [Grand Jury \(ca.gov\)](http://GrandJury.ca.gov). The application may also be obtained in person at the Court, 100 North State Street, Room 303 in Ukiah or by calling the Grand Jury at (707) 463-4320. The deadline this year is May 31, 2024.

Typically, civil grand jurors will spend 10-20 hours per week performing the oversight fieldwork and drafting public reports of findings and recommendations that are delivered to the target organizations. Jurors often spend the first month of their term deciding what topics will be investigated. Local agencies are required to provide relevant information to the grand jury to ensure a thorough review and must respond to findings and recommendations contained in the reports. Reports from the last two years have included reviews of County Human Resources, Family and Children's Services, Ukiah School District's Special Education Program, Mendocino County Jail, and many other topics.

Civil grand juries are convened in all 58 California counties. The long-cherished tradition of citizen oversight into the workings of government is widely recognized in democratic forms of government. When the California Constitution was ratified in 1849-50, the concept of a civil grand jury was included in Article 1, Section 23 and directed that a civil grand jury be impaneled "at least once a year in each county" to act as a "watchdog" on local government.

Consider joining your fellow citizens in an important and stimulating process to ensure that Mendocino County government is fulfilling its potential to serve its citizens responsibly and its mission to provide critical services to all Mendocino residents.

For more information contact:

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