

NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



BRANDON E. RILEY
Court Executive Officer

400 McAllister St.
San Francisco, CA
94102

Contact: Ann E. Donlan
media@sftc.org

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SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR CIVIL GRAND JURY

The Court today announced it is inviting individuals interested in improving their community to apply to serve on the Civil Grand Jury, which identifies and studies issues in San Francisco government and then suggests reforms.

"I am looking for citizens from all backgrounds to reflect the rich diversity of our communities," said Judge Eric R. Fleming, chair of the Civil Grand Jury Committee. "The Court wants the grand jury to have a collective voice that reflects a cross-section of the community. Accomplishing this goal will help ensure that the grand jury fairly fulfills its watchdog function to identify inefficiencies and issues in our city that – if reformed – could better serve the public."

The application form for the 2026-2027 Civil Grand Jury may be accessed via the Civil Grand Jury website: www.sf.gov/apply-join-civil-grand-jury. The deadline to apply is **May 1, 2026**. If you are a passionate San Franciscan, ready to work with others to make government more responsive, and care about improving the quality of life for everyone in the city, this is a great opportunity.

A panel of judges selects the 19 people to serve on the Civil Grand Jury. Civil grand

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juries are required for every county in California. They do not investigate crimes; however, they are independent, citizen “watchdog” groups dedicated to improving the efficient, ethical and effective operations of local government. In San Francisco, the Civil Grand Jury decides its own topics of inquiry and writes reports with findings and recommendations. City agencies must respond to the jury’s reports and participate in a public hearing with jurors before the Government Audit and Oversight Committee of the Board of Supervisors.

Previous Civil Grand Jury reports have focused on affordable housing, homelessness, pension reform, rising sea levels, and public transit efficiency. To conduct its investigations, the Civil Grand Jury is empowered to review records and confidentially interview city officials and staff, who are required by law to answer the jurors’ questions.

The Civil Grand Jury’s term is one year, from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Volunteers, who are not paid to serve but receive reimbursement for meetings, must be:

- U.S. citizens;
- At least 18 years of age;
- San Francisco residents for at least the past 12 months, with no felony convictions; and
- Able to communicate in English.

The Civil Grand Jury is especially interested in recruiting people of color, and residents who represent a wide range of San Francisco neighborhoods, to make up a strong and diverse jury.

Volunteers with skills in writing, researching, and analyzing data are integral, as are applicants interested in politics and government. The ability to think creatively and work collaboratively are key attributes for applicants.

More information on the Civil Grand Jury is available on the [Court’s website](#).

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