Trinity County Grand Jury

The responses to the 2017-2018 Trinity County Grand Jury Final Report will be uploaded, as received, to the county website under Grand Jury Reports. The web address is www.trinitycounty.org. On the home page in the bottom left hand corner is a link called "Grand Jury Reports". In the past, reports were uploaded after all responses were received, however, this year and moving forward they will be separate, Once you click on the 2017-2018 Grand Jury Final Report link you will find the various reports within the Final Report. As the required respondents reply to the findings/recommendations to a given report a link will be added.

The 2017-2018 Trinity County Grand Jury members offered representation throughout the county including Big Bar, Douglas City, Junction City, Kettenpom-Zenia, Lewiston and Weaverville.

Did you know?

….That your Grand Jury represents the citizens of our county? Much like at the ballot box, the voice of the people is heard loud and clear through the work of the Grand Jury each year.

….That the Grand Jury acts as the "watchdog" for local government agencies and departments? The work of the Grand Jury is designed to shed a spotlight on the functions of our county leaders and their employees and is never to be used as a sledgehammer.

….That the Grand Jury serves for one fiscal year, from June through July? Individual jurors also have the option to extend their terms for no more than one extra year, concurrently.

….That while some states have Grand Juries that are designed for criminal cases, our county's Grand Jury serves mainly as a civil investigative body, and does not often deal with criminal matters?

….That the Grand Jury is an investigative body and not a policing agency? The Grand Jury's duties are all about observing and reporting, while criminal matters are, as always, dealt with by the D.A. and local law enforcement.

2017-2018 Grand Jury Mission Statement

Each Trinity County resident is participating in the growth and character of this community. From district attorney to school custodian, from county supervisor to small business owner, mill worker and waitress, we all participate in the fabric of this place we call home. We are each responsible for the quality of life and the strength of our county.

The Grand Jury shares this social contract. It is comprised of a group of average people willing to investigate, and to cooperate with, our local governing bodies to help provide solutions to the challenges that small representative government faces. The Grand Jury should be appreciated as a vital partner with local government, an 'auto immune' system in the body politic.

The civil Grand Jury provides a responsive interface between county government and the citizens of the county. By law, the only agenda a Grand Jury can pursue is an ongoing effort to insure the quality of life and the fair treatment of every county citizen. It is a vital and rewarding constitutional responsibility to serve as a juror.

It is the Grand Jury's responsibility to provide an investigative body to assist our local government in identifying and correcting county systems that are outdated, mismanaged or simply neglected. Through cooperation and mutual respect, the Grand Jury offers an essential resource for improving the responsiveness of local government. With input and support from citizens, the Grand Jury can provide an ally for those seeking a fair and honest accounting from those we elect to manage the often-complex affairs of Trinity County.

Why become a Grand Juror?

As citizens of the United States of America, we enjoy many rights and privileges not common in most countries of the world. We, as a people, tend to forget that with each of these rights and privileges we take for granted, we have an inherent responsibility. One of our rights is that we may be involved with and become a part of our government process.

One of the most profound means of participation in our country can be as a Juror of the Grand Jury. To be selected to serve on the Grand Jury is one of the greatest honors a citizen can receive. This position provides an opportunity to make a contribution of great value to your community.

How Jurors are Chosen

Jurors are chosen in a few different ways. One way is to respond to the annual advertisement in The Trinity Journal — usually in April.

The other way is by recommendation by the Presiding Judge or a member of the current jurors. You would then receive a summons and once in the court room 19 names are drawn.

Qualifications for Grand Jury Service

A person is competent to act as a Grand Juror if they possess each of the following:

1. Have citizenship of the United States of the age of 18 years or older who shall have been a resident of the State and of the county for one year immediately before being selected.
2. Have possession of his/her natural faculties, of ordinary intelligence, of sound judgment and of fair character.
3. Have possession of sufficient knowledge of the English language. Sufficient is interpreted to mean: able to read, write and speak in a high school level.
4. Have a Complaint? We have included a complaint form on page 11. Once you have exhausted all other options for resolving the issue you should then mail the completed form to the Grand Jury. You will receive a letter of receipt and if your complaint is within our purview. All complaints are completely confidential.
5. Additional complaint forms can be either downloaded from our county website – www.trinitycounty.org under Grand Jury or at your local library.