Fact Sheet

- **Sacramento County Grand Jury is empaneled as a Civil Grand Jury**
  - Improve government efficiency and effectiveness and promote accountability and transparency
  - Work is done through committees – 5 investigative and 3 supportive
    - Administrative and Municipal Affairs (AMA)
    - Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CJJ)
    - Education (EDU)
    - Environment, Public Works and Special Districts (EPS)
    - Health and Human Services (HHS)
    - Continuity (CONT)
    - Edit (EDIT)
    - Technology (TECH)
  - Committees conduct investigation and the full Grand Jury issues reports

- **Sacramento County Grand Jury may also be requested to convene as a Criminal Grand Jury**
  - Convene at the request of the County District Attorney or the State Attorney General
  - May be used as either a criminal investigative body or to return criminal charges, known as indictments

- **Important concepts for the Grand Jury**
  - **Confidentiality**
    - With the exception of public reports, both interim and annual, issued by the Grand Jury, all Grand Jury communications, documents, activities and deliberations are confidential
    - Grand Jurors are sworn to secrecy for life
  - **Ethics and Conflict of Interest**
    - Members must promptly and candidly reveal any personal or financial relationships that may present a conflict of interest with any business of the Grand Jury
    - Members must recuse themselves whenever appropriate
  - **Independent Body**
    - By law, one of the most independent government entities
    - Each Grand Jury is independent of its predecessor and successor juries
  - **Collegiality**
    - By law, the Grand Jury is collegial rather than hierarchical – it is a meeting of equals
• Grand Jury term and selection process
  o 19 members of the 2021/22 Grand Jury will serve for 12 months beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022
  o February orientation – complete application and background check request
  o Interview in February by Sacramento Grand Jurors Association volunteers
  o March/April applications, background check information and results of interviews reviewed by judges of the Sacramento Superior Court
  o Final pool prospective jurors (approx. 45) attend the final Grand Jury selection, which is done by lot, and empanelment in mid-May
  o New Grand Jurors attend 2 days of orientation in late June

• Desirable qualifications and skills for a member of the Sacramento County Grand Jury
  o Have the time to make the necessary commitment
    ▪ Members often serve between 25 and 35 hours a week (time away for vacations is expected)
    ▪ On-going employment and serving on the Grand Jury would be very challenging
  o Be open-minded and have the ability work with others
  o Have an interest in local government and community affairs
  o Possess writing and investigative skills
  o Have some skills with technology (computer, smartphone) and the ability to use various common computer applications (Word, Internet, email)

• Training and other information
  o Orientation and general overview information in late June
    ▪ 2 days training provided by current Grand Jury members
    ▪ Financial disclosure, Form 700, instruction provided by County employees
  o Detailed training provided by the California Grand Jury Association
    ▪ 2 days in early July
    ▪ Covers Grand Jury law, processes and procedures for investigations and interviews, and reports
  o Report writing training offered by the CGJA in the Fall
  o Grand Jury reimbursement, parking and compensation
    ▪ Members are reimbursed for mileage from their residence to the Grand Jury office, the site of any interview and the site of a Grand Jury tour
    ▪ Free parking is provided in the County parking garage
    ▪ Members are compensated $30/day for those days they attend a full Grand Jury or committee meeting, a committee interview or a Grand Jury tour
    ▪ Employers do not compensate for Grand Jury participation