



SACRAMENTO COUNTY GRAND JURY NEWS RELEASE

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FINAL INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS RELEASED BY SACRAMENTO COUNTY GRAND JURY

The 2025-2026 Sacramento County Grand Jury released its final report today, a collection which includes its 2025-2026 Confinement Review and seven (7) investigative reports.

- **2025-2026 Confinement Review**

County Grand Jurors are required by law to inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the County every year, and in compliance with that mandate, the 2025-2026 Sacramento County Grand Jury visited all five detention facilities within Sacramento County. The Grand Jury found that each facility has its own unique challenges from aging physical infrastructure to higher demand for medical and mental care. The Grand Jury noted that much effort is being made to provide a safe environment and, to a degree, rehabilitation and educational opportunities to a diverse population of youth and adults at varying levels of detention.

- **Career & Technical Education: An Underutilized Pathway to Success for High School Students**

The Sacramento County Grand Jury conducted a county-wide investigation into the state of high school career and technical education (CTE) programs, and found school districts generally operate exemplary programs with little funding and support. The report calls for additional support for CTE programs from various sources, including community businesses and the industrial sector so that such training can be expanded to include more students. Improved marketing of the program would also counter what the report calls a “missed opportunity” for many students.

- **Is Sacramento Regional Transit Ignoring Riders with Disabilities?**

Following a complaint, the Sacramento County Grand Jury opened an investigation into paratransit services offered by the Sacramento Regional Transit District (District). During this investigation, the Grand Jury found that the District fails to provide effective paratransit for riders with disabilities in the Sacramento region. In addition, despite federal mandates to seek input from its stakeholders, the District fails to proactively consult with, and excludes key stakeholders when making key decisions that affect riders with disabilities. In addition, the Grand Jury uncovered irregularities in the District's contract payment system.

- **No Longer Invisible: Foster Youth Still in the Shadows**

In follow up to a 2023-2024 Grand Jury report entitled "Invisible Foster Teens: Where Are They Now?" (www.sacgrandjury.org), which identified serious deficits in the county's foster care system that did not fully protect the youth entrusted to the County's care, the 2025-2026 Grand Jury found that, two years later, Child Protective Services (CPS) has made significant progress toward addressing the problems outlined in the earlier report. However, the Grand Jury found a lack of a long-term strategic plan, faulty communication among agencies and advisory boards established to protect children, and State policies that impede the county's efforts still leave many of Sacramento County's foster youth at risk.

- **Rancho Murieta Community Services District: Still a Work in Progress**

Following receipt of complaints about continued poor governance and financial management by the Rancho Murieta Community Services District (District), and as follow up to a previous Grand Jury investigation into District governance in 2022-2023 (www.sacgrandjury.org) the 2025-2026 Grand Jury found that while the District has implemented necessary changes to its accounting system and processes, and taken steps to complete some missing audits, the District still is not current in its financial statements. Besides missing financial audits, this investigation uncovered new areas of concern related to a failure to establish procedures to avoid conflicts of interest and the impact of past turmoil in personnel hiring and retention.

- **Sacramento Community Police Review Commission: Window Dressing or Progressing?**

After an eight-month investigation, the 2025-2026 Sacramento County Grand Jury released a report in which it found that the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission (Commission) largely functions as a symbolic body because it is lacking the resources and support necessary to bring about change to police policies, practices, and procedures. No timeline exists within which the Sacramento City Council (Council) or the Sacramento Police Department (SPD) must process recommendations by the Commission. This lack of a timeline and transparency in the review and reporting process, along with the lack of resources, documentation requirements, mechanisms for

tracking recommendations, mandatory responses from SPD or Council, and required Council action leaves the Commission's work largely in the dark. Rather than shine a light on policing, the Commission has further shrouded it in darkness.

- **Slowly Sunsetting Main Jail Late-Night Releases: Progress Made, but the Midnight Door Remains Open**

The 2025-2026 Sacramento County Grand Jury found, in response to a prior Grand Jury report, that the Sheriff's Office has reduced late-night releases by more than a third. However, the late-night releases still remain higher than those in other jurisdictions with similar release counts. With the closing of Sacramento County night court, further reductions in late-night releases are expected but they will not be eliminated. The Grand Jury found that although Main Jail late night releases have been reduced, there remains room for improvement.

- **The Natomas Unified School District Special Education Program Struggles to Meet Student Needs**

In response to a complaint, the 2025-26 Sacramento County Grand Jury investigated the Natomas Unified School District (District) special education program. In its report, the Grand Jury found the District has a high rate of absenteeism and suspensions for special education students. It also notes the District has been cited as having a disproportionate number of African American/Black students with disabilities who are chronically absent and for disproportionately identifying African American/Black special education students as emotionally disturbed. In this report, the Grand Jury also seeks to provide some perspective as to how the District's special education program performs and how it compares to other districts in Sacramento County.

The Grand Jury is comprised of 19 citizens and 11 alternates and is appointed to provide oversight of county, city, school and special district agencies and operations within Sacramento County. The Grand Jury is also authorized to hear criminal indictments and is tasked with visiting detention facilities throughout the region. A new Grand Jury begins its one-year term on July 1, 2026.

The full investigation is available for public review on the Grand Jury website:

<https://www.sacgrandjury.org/reports.aspx>.