



NEWS RELEASE

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2024-2025 San Benito County Civil Grand Jury releases consolidated report

HOLLISTER, CA – The San Benito County Civil Grand Jury functions as an independent investigatory entity, vested with the authority to oversee local government operations and evaluate citizen complaints. Grand jurors are bound by strict confidentiality, and their work remains undisclosed except for the final report. The current grand jury has conducted a thorough, year-long examination of special districts, county departments, and city government operations.

The release of the San Benito County Civil Grand Jury's 2024-2025 Final Report represents the culmination of extensive investigations and analysis undertaken by nineteen dedicated residents, committed to upholding transparency, accountability, and the integrity of local governance. This year's report examines 12 critical issues impacting the county, including concerns surrounding school safety, challenges at the animal shelter, countywide staffing and recruitment difficulties, delays in a vital update to the Sheriff's communication system, as well as code enforcement and housing concerns.

Barbara Douglass-Scherer, who served as foreperson of this year's grand jury, stated "It was an honor and privilege to serve as the Foreperson, along with a very talented, diverse, and committed group of individuals who chose to serve our community. Every investigation considered by this Civil Grand Jury was undertaken in a serious, thoughtful, and comprehensive manner. We encourage every citizen

who aspires to improve our community to consider serving as a Civil Grand Juror to help provide a path forward for San Benito County.”

The full report is available to the public and can be accessed at <https://www.sanbenito.courts.ca.gov/civil-grand-jury/civil-grand-jury-reports>. Residents are encouraged to review the findings and take an active role in efforts to enhance local government.

Members of the public are invited to attend the selection and swearing-in ceremony for the 2025-2026 Civil Grand Jury on June 27, 2025, at 2:00 PM. The ceremony will take place in Department 1, located on the upper level of the Superior Court of San Benito County Courthouse.

