

22-3001. Grand juries; summoning; petition; jury instructions; membership; quorum. (a) A majority of the district judges in any judicial district may order a grand jury to be summoned in any county in the district when it is determined to be in the public interest.

(b) The district or county attorney in such attorney's county may petition the chief judge or the chief judge's designee in such district court to order a grand jury to be summoned in the designated county in the district to consider any alleged felony law violation, including any alleged misdemeanor law violation which arises as part of the same criminal conduct or investigation. The attorney general in any judicial district may petition the chief judge or the chief judge's designee in such judicial district to order a grand jury to be summoned in the designated county in the district to consider any alleged felony law violation, including any alleged misdemeanor law violation which arises as part of the same criminal conduct or investigation, if authorized by the district or county attorney in such judicial district or if jurisdiction is otherwise authorized by law. The chief judge or the chief judge's designee in the district court of the county shall then consider the petition and, if it is found that the petition is in proper form, as set forth in this subsection, shall order a grand jury to be summoned within 15 days after receipt of such petition.

(c) (1) A grand jury shall be summoned in any county within 60 days after a petition praying therefor is presented to the district court, bearing the signatures of a number of electors equal to 100 plus 2% of the total number of votes cast for governor in the county in the last preceding election.

(2) The petition, upon its face, shall state the name, address and phone number of the person filing the petition, the subject matter of the prospective grand jury, a reasonably specific identification of areas to be inquired into and sufficient general allegations to warrant a finding that such inquiry may lead to information which, if true, would warrant a true bill of indictment.

(3) The petition shall be in substantially the following form:

The undersigned qualified electors of the county of _____ and state of Kansas hereby request that the district court of _____ county, Kansas, within 60 days after the filing of this petition, cause a grand jury to be summoned in the county to investigate alleged violations of law and to perform such other duties as may be authorized by law.

The signatures to the petition need not all be affixed to one paper, but each paper to which signatures are affixed shall have substantially the foregoing form written or printed at the top thereof. Each signer shall add to such signer's signature such signer's place of residence, giving the street and number or rural route number, if any. One of the signers of each paper shall verify upon oath that each signature appearing on the paper is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be and that such signer believes that the statements in the petition are true. The petition shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the district court who shall forthwith transmit it to the county election officer, who shall determine whether the persons whose signatures are affixed to the petition are qualified electors of the county. Thereupon, the county election officer shall return the petition to the clerk of the district court, together with such election officer's certificate stating the number of qualified electors of the county whose signatures appear on the petition and the aggregate number of votes cast for all candidates for governor in the county in the last preceding election. The judge or judges of the district court of the county shall then consider the petition and, if it is found that the petition is in proper form and bears the signatures of the required number of electors, a grand jury shall be ordered to be summoned.

(4) After a grand jury is summoned pursuant to this subsection, but before it begins deliberations, the judge or judges of the district court of the county in which the petition is presented shall provide instructions to the grand jury regarding its conduct and deliberations, which instructions shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(A) You have been impaneled as a grand jury pursuant to a citizens' petition filed in this court, signed by (insert number) qualified electors of this county, stating (insert the subject matter described in the petition, including a reasonably specific identification of the areas to be inquired into and the allegations sufficient to warrant a finding that the grand jury's inquiry may lead to information which, if true, would warrant a true bill of indictment). You are charged with making inquiry with regard to this subject matter and determining whether the facts support allegations warranting a true bill of indictment.

(B) The person filing the citizens' petition filed in this court must be the first witness you call for the purpose of presenting evidence and testimony as to the subject matter and allegations of the petition.

(C) You may, with the approval of this court, employ special counsel and investigators, and incur such other expense for services and supplies as you and this court deem necessary. Any special counsel or investigator you employ shall be selected by a majority vote of your grand jury. You may make such selection only after hearing testimony from the person who filed the citizens' petition. You may utilize the services of any special counsel or investigator you employ instead of, or in addition to, the services of the prosecuting attorney.

(D) If any witness duly summoned to appear and testify before you fails or refuses to obey, compulsory process will be issued by this court to enforce the witness' attendance.

(E) If any witness appearing before you refuses to testify or to answer any questions asked in the course of the witness' examination, you shall communicate that fact to this court in writing, together with a statement regarding the question the witness refuses to answer. This court will determine and inform you of whether the witness is bound to answer or not. However, no witness appearing before you can be compelled to make any statement which will incriminate such witness.

(F) Any person may file a written request with the prosecuting attorney or with the foreman of the grand jury and request to testify or retestify in an inquiry before a grand jury or to appear before a grand jury. Any written request shall include a summary of such person's written testimony.

(G) At the conclusion of your inquiry and determination, you will return either a no bill of indictment or a true bill of indictment.

(d) The grand jury shall consist of 15 members and shall be drawn, qualified and summoned in the same manner as petit jurors for the district court. Twelve members thereof shall constitute a quorum. The judge or judges ordering the grand jury shall direct that a sufficient number of legally qualified persons be summoned for service as grand jurors. In the case of grand juries impaneled pursuant to subsection (c), the judge or judges ordering the grand jury shall allow the person that filed the petition under the provisions of subsection (c)(2), and such person's attorney, to witness the instructions to the grand jury regarding its conduct and deliberations pursuant to subsection (c)(4).

History: L. 1970, ch. 129, § 22-3001; L. 1976, ch. 163, § 12; L. 1986, ch. 115, § 61; L. 2005, ch. 189, § 1; L. 2011, ch. 100, § 8; L. 2013, ch. 85, § 2; L. 2014, ch. 50, § 1; L. 2016, ch. 87, § 3; July 1.