



**The Superior Court**  
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**2017-2018 SAN JOAQUIN GRAND JURY  
RELEASES REPORT ON  
EIGHT MUNICIPALITIES' ETHICS POLICIES**

Today, the San Joaquin County 2017-2018 Civil Grand Jury released its report investigating the ethics policies of San Joaquin County and the cities within its geographical boundaries. The Civil Grand Jury's duty is to address citizens' concerns regarding the operation of local government entities.

The Grand Jury was presented with a complaint describing a perceived conflict of interest in the City of Tracy. The conflict was ultimately determined to be unfounded, based on an analysis and opinion issued by the California Fair Political Practices Commission. The Grand Jury decided to investigate and determine if the adoption of an ethics policy could provide the necessary guidance to help avoid such missteps, real or perceived, from occurring in the future. The Grand Jury expanded the scope to include all municipalities within the county of San Joaquin (Tracy City Council, San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, Escalon City Council, Lathrop City Council, Lodi City Council, Manteca City Council, Ripon City Council and Stockton City Council).

The Grand Jury requested and reviewed each municipality's copy of their conflict of interest and ethics policies. The Grand Jury also researched municipal ethics policies. Thirty-three (33) officials representing each of the eight San Joaquin County municipalities were interviewed, including representatives from the County Board of Supervisors.

The findings of the investigation centered on whether the municipalities had ethics policies for their elected and appointed officials and senior staff. The recommendations were directed towards the writing of ethics policies for the elected and appointed officials and senior staff. The Grand Jury found that four of the eight municipalities did not have a written and approved ethics policy for elected officials and a majority did not have a policy for appointed officials and senior staff. Most of the recommendations asked the municipality's governing body to bring the developed ethics policies to a vote by October 31, 2018.

The eight municipalities are required to submit a response to the Presiding Judge of San Joaquin County Superior Court within 90 days as to each finding and recommendation contained in the Grand Jury's report.

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