**Choosing Which Complaints to Investigate**

Most grand juries receive more complaints or requests for investigation than they have the time or resources to investigate. While the grand jury *is not required to investigate any complaint,* here are some suggestions for prioritizing complaints:

The grand jury should identify and discuss any legitimate reasons why it *should not*investigate. Consider these points:

* Does the GJ have subject matter and geographic jurisdiction over the topic of the complaint?
* Does the complaint involve a policy determination (which would be outside the jury’s jurisdiction)?
* How important is the topic of the complaint to the community?
* Does the grand jury have the time or resources to pursue it?
* Are enough jurors even interested in the subject matter of the complaint to do the work?
* Would it require too many grand juror recusals?
* Is the matter being addressed in another forum: in the courts or on the ballot?
* Is it an anonymous complaint? If yes, the jury might not be able to determine its credibility.
* Does the complainant have a connection to the allegations in the complaint that tend to suggest the underlying allegations are not credible?
* Does the complaint appear to be politically or personally motivated?

Then identify and discuss whether there are legitimate reasons why the grand jury*should* investigate. In addition to the above, consider (for example):

* Does the complaint describe a serious problem in the operations of a local government entity?
* Does the topic concern health/safety risks for residents or public employees?
* Does it appear that the entity may not be complying with the law, regulations, or its own policies?
* Could an investigation result in improvements in government transparency or ethics?
* Is there a possibility of identifying significant cost savings?
* Does the topic of the complaint have a high media profile?
* Is the complaint about something that has caused public controversy, or is likely to?
* Does the complaint raise unresolved issues addressed by earlier grand jury reports?
* Is the complaint about timely matters (not matters that are stale or likely to be stale by the time a report is issued)?

Finally, weigh the complaints and (maybe) score them, and see where they fall on the list.