

THE PANEL

PUBLICATION OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GRAND JURY ASSOCIATION

Educating the public on the **duties** and **obligations** of the 23-member **county Grand Jury**—
our most effective weapon against corrupt corporations, bureaucrats and politicians.

Unleashing the Grand Jury

By Jason Gerhard

The “powers that ought not be” have attempted to hide from The People’s Panel, as the Grand Jury has been called, their duty and obligation to hold politicians, bureaucrats and corporations accountable. *The Panel* seeks to reverse this trend.

Thankfully articles such as, *The People’s “Big Stick”*, by J.C. Furnas, published in *The Reader’s Digest* of October 1937 give us a glimpse of the power that lies dormant.

“How does it happen, then, that this potent weapon has not been used more often before? Because ordinary citizens, swept as grand jurors into an unfamiliar world of juridical procedure, are not aware of their powers. Judges and district attorneys frequently take pains to see that they remain uninformed, for nothing can throw a well-greased political machine so completely out of kilter as a grand jury that knows its strength.”

CONCORD BUDGET WOES RAISE
TAXES AND QUESTIONS
(ON BACK)

“Today its use for the routine indictment of criminals is familiar. But its potentially greater function, as an independent body of representative citizens inquiring into the condition of their government, has been too commonly neglected. As a board of inquiry, it may summon witnesses and public officials, who, because the sessions are secret, may testify freely without fear of reprisal. It may instruct the district attorney to gather evidence; it can call him in and kick him out of its sessions; it can go over his head, and, if his conduct is wholly improper, indict him for malfeasance in office. So long as it is looking for evidence of crime—which takes in immense territory—it can dig into anything without so much as by your leave from judge, district attorney, governor or political boss.”

Grand Juror Notebook:

History, Duties, and Obligations



You are the People’s Sword and
Shield. Protecting against unjust
prosecutions while
simultaneously investigating
government to uncover
corruption.



New Hampshire Grand Jury Association

Given that Concord is the state capitol and largest city in Merrimack county it is imperative that regular investigations into their books are conducted by the Grand Jury to ensure taxpayers are not being exploited.

WARD 5 COUNCILOR STACEY BROWN RAISES CONCERNS OVER CITY FINANCES

The following are excerpts from Councilor Brown's blog posts on her website Stacey4Concord.com

1. Mismanagement of City Finances

- The city has experienced persistent budget deficits resulting in tax increases. These increases have occurred even with the use of capital reserves as a revenue stream for operational costs. The improper use of capital reserve funds reduces and hides the actual financial cost of ongoing and embedded operational costs to the taxpayers. Over the past decade, trust funds and capital reserve accounts exceeding \$5.4 million were withdrawn in violation of the specific purposes for which those accounts were created. Of this amount \$2.3 million was withdrawn from the Recreation Reserve for the vague purpose of "budget."

- The proposed FY 2026 budget included the golf clubhouse while the police station was initially omitted. Both were later bonded together with \$10 million in other previously approved projects. The bonding occurred concurrent with the Concord School District bonding of \$94.5 million and was done without apparent comprehensive debt sequencing or taxpayer impact analysis.
- The City Manager's compensation significantly exceeds salaries of other town and city managers in New Hampshire and is now approximately three times the median household income in the city ($\approx$ \$84,900). This high salary persists even as taxpayers endure repeated tax increases and strained reserves.

These patterns reflect weak financial oversight, excessive compensation, and reactive rather than strategic fiscal planning. The end result is that Concord taxpayers are now faced with an almost unsustainable tax burden.



Councilor Brown with WIN-Waste Plant Manager Kevin Wing. Credit: Ward 5 Newsletter

If you live in the one of the 25-towns or 2-cities that make up Merrimack County and would like the Grand jury to conduct an investigation contact your state representative(s) and senator and demand accountability. Please visit NHGrandJury.com for more information.

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