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GEORGIA

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

Clerk Superior Court, County, Ga
Bk 02026 Pg 1698-1701
Penalty

It is ordered that the foregoing presentments of the Grand Jury empanelled for the 2026 January Term of the Superior Court of Athens-Clarke County be entered on the minutes of the Court and published at the expense of the County in the official organ of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia. Exhibits are not to be published, but shall be available for inspection and reproduction in the Office of Clerk of Superior Court Athens-Clarke County.

This 7th day of April, 2026.

**Judge Eric W. Norris
Superior Court, Athens-Clarke County
Western Judicial Circuit**

Filed in Open Court this 7th day of April, 2026.

Tiffany Treadway, Chief Deputy Clerk

General Presentments and Reports

Athens-Clarke County Grand Jury

January Term 2026

On Monday January 12th, 2026, twenty-five (25) jurors, including two alternates, were selected to serve as members of the Grand Jury for the Athens-Clarke County Superior Court for the January 2026 term. Judge Lisa Lott administered the oath to the jurors and charged them with their responsibilities.

David Hunt was selected as Foreperson and Katherine Culpepper as Assistant Foreperson. Dawn Doty-Marikis was selected as Secretary and Parissa Larsen as Assistant Secretary. The remaining jurors were, Brian Jackson, Peter Cates Jr, Clinton Wilson, Susan Thackeray, Jacob Page, Cassandra Smith, Nina Brooks, Trevor Lewellyn, Jesus Alvear-Renteria, Pedita Maxey, Miles Peavyhouse, Cedric Allen, Sylvia Leitch, Polly Jenkins, Darryl Fleming, Hadley Seufert, John Coffee, Denisse Guerrero, along with two alternate jurors, Sarah Hardell, and Megan Lee.

Civic Functions

The current courthouse, built in the early 20th century is in disrepair and in need of replacement. Funds have been approved for the replacement, however, no movement seemed to be made toward the project. The current courthouse has HVAC issues, elevator issues, and storage issues. The county has resorted to renting space to hold Juvenile Court due to the lack of heating and air. This leaves the courthouse a difficult location to serve its purpose for the community. There are questions of safety and security due to the current state of the facilities. Recognizing and experiencing the disrepair in multiple areas of the courthouse and hearing from the staff employed at the courthouse, the jurors requested to meet with Mayor Girtz. We submitted questions to the Mayor related to the circumstances related to the lack of repair, the delay in replacing the building, and how the county can best proceed. The Mayor explained the problems that began with locating land (now acquired), but also involved the lack of progress during the 2020 pandemic, and the rising costs of construction. The county currently has a plan to be implemented in the next couple of years that includes a bond issue to go to the voters to cover increased costs and a plan to begin the project at the appropriate time.

Acknowledgements

We extend our sincere appreciation to District Attorney Kalki Yalamanchili and his staff for their guidance and support throughout our term. We are especially grateful to Assistant District Attorney Jeff Burks for his patience, clarity in explaining the law, professionalism in presenting each case, and steady leadership in

moving the process forward. We also thank the officers of the Athens-Clarke County Police Department, along with other local and state law enforcement agencies, for their professionalism, their thoughtful responses to our questions, and their honest and thorough testimony.

We would also like to recognize Bailiff Linda for her diligence in preparing the jury room, ensuring that proceedings operated smoothly and securely, and that all necessary arrangements were in place for each session.

We further express our appreciation to the Athens-Clarke County Police Department and all participating law enforcement agencies for their continued dedication, hard work, and service to the citizens of Athens-Clarke County.

Serving on the Grand Jury is a meaningful civic responsibility, and each member of this panel considered it an honor to fulfill that duty. We are grateful to the court and the broader community for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

The Foreman would also like to extend his sincere thanks to this panel of jurors. At a time when differences can too often divide, this group demonstrated that diversity and unity can coexist. Each member showed mutual respect, cooperation, patience, and perseverance throughout the process. In an era when agreement and understanding can be difficult to achieve, this panel worked together exceptionally well, ensuring that our responsibilities to the community were carried out with care and integrity.

Respectfully submitted, this 7th day of April, 2026

David Hunt

Foreperson

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