

November-December 2007 Grand Jury Report

We, the members of the November/December 2007 Grand Jury, would like to summarize our experience of serving on the Christian County Grand Jury. In addition, we would like to address some of the specific areas that this Grand Jury found to be significant during our term of service.

First, the current remuneration of \$12.50 per day is inadequate for all aspects of jury duty. Jurors are some of the most important people in the criminal justice system, and they should be compensated more adequately for their service. It is apparent that lawmakers have not considered the increase in the cost of living, since juror pay has remained the same for decades.

Also during our term of service on the Grand Jury, we learned that compensation for poll workers is relatively low for the service that they perform. The November 2007 Election Report was presented to us by Christian County Clerk Mike Kem. No major election irregularities were detected or reported by poll workers. Mr. Kem reported a serious shortage of election poll workers in Christian County. This shortage is compounded by the increasing age of long time poll workers. Mr. Kem reported that for the November 2008 General Election, his office will require approximately 200 poll workers to fully staff all voting precincts. Mr. Kem stated that the major problem in attracting and retaining qualified poll workers is low pay.

The members of the Grand Jury valued the professionalism and efficiency of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office Staff. Grand Jury members appreciated the knowledge and experience gained from Ms. Pryor and her staff regarding the criminal justice process.

The members of the Christian County Grand Jury would also like to express their gratitude to the men and women of all area law enforcement agencies, city, county, and state, for their untiring efforts to improve the quality of life for all county residents by performing their duties in an efficient and professional manner.

In conclusion, it was a pleasure to serve our community as members of the November/December 2007 Grand Jury. We would like to encourage others to serve as jurors or poll workers whenever they have the opportunity.