

Citizens' Petition Seeks Grand Jury Investigation of Tulsa County District Attorney's Office

Grand Jury Justice, an organization of Tulsa County registered voters, has filed a petition in Tulsa County District Court, Case No. GJ-2026-2, asking the court to approve a citizens' grand jury petition for circulation. If enough qualified voters sign it, the petition asks that a grand jury be convened to investigate District Attorney Stephen A. Kunzweiler, the Tulsa County District Attorney's Office, and people acting under the District Attorney's direction or in concert with the Office.

The petition raises questions about the handling of criminal cases, conflicts of interest, evidence, public records, employee supervision, and the use of taxpayer-funded resources. It asks whether the matters described reflect neglect of official duties, favoritism, concealment, misuse of authority, or other misconduct warranting further legal action.

PURPOSE

Why a grand jury?

The petition asks for a grand jury because of what a grand jury can do. It can obtain records, hear sworn testimony, and examine communications. From there, it can determine whether criminal charges or removal proceedings are warranted.

The petition says the allegations are based on public court records, government records, published reporting, open records responses, and information from people claiming personal knowledge.

SCOPE

The eleven areas of inquiry

A**Tulsa County Juvenile Detention Center**

The petition asks what the Office knew, and when, about reported assaults, sexual misconduct allegations, staffing failures, and state inspection findings at the facility from 2022 through 2024; whether the Office's Civil Division advised county commissioners that the county bore no legal responsibility; and whether that advice delayed intervention, affected evidence preservation, or increased county liability.

B***State v. Hankins* and employee credibility**

The petition requests examination of testimony and communications in the Hankins matter, along with the Office's handling of employee credibility concerns, internal reviews, promotions, and obligations to disclose relevant information in other cases.

C**April Wilkens proceedings**

The petition asks whether two assistant district attorneys purchased a home formerly owned by Ms. Wilkens while the Office was litigating her case, whether that created a conflict requiring disclosure or recusal, whether the District Attorney sent a text reportedly saying he was "busy keeping April Wilkens in prison," and whether any judge communicated with the Office about the case outside the presence of Ms. Wilkens and her counsel.

D**Rosario Chico prosecution**

The petition seeks examination of the source of charging decisions, possible personal or political influence, and the handling of potentially favorable evidence. It also asks how allegations of domestic violence, coercive control, and efforts to protect children were evaluated.

E**Henry Jamerson and post-conviction review**

The petition asks how the Office handled biological evidence, a witness recantation, DNA results, and claims of innocence. It seeks examination of whether the conviction was fairly reassessed and whether the Office's actions unnecessarily prolonged proceedings or delayed relief.

F**Open records and private communications**

The petition asks whether the Office has delayed, narrowed, or inadequately searched for public records; whether public business was conducted on personal phones, private email, or encrypted apps that were not searched; and whether records were deleted or improperly withheld. It references a pending 2026 lawsuit, *McDugle and Humphrey v. Kunzweiler*.

G**Oklahoma Survivors' Act waivers**

The petition asks whether plea documents required defendants to give up future relief under the Act, who approved that language, how often it was used, and whether defendants, judges, and counsel were informed.

H**Public employees and resources in the 2026 re-election campaign**

The petition asks whether employees did campaign work on county time or equipment and whether they were pressured to participate. It specifically distinguishes this from voluntary political activity on employees' own time.

I**Office administration and supervision**

The petition asks how often the District Attorney is present performing his duties, whether major decisions were delegated without adequate supervision, and whether any lack of oversight contributed to the other matters.

J**Tulsa Little League litigation**

The petition asks whether legal advice, litigation timing, or executive-session discussions involving Tulsa Little League and LaFortune Park were influenced by electoral considerations rather than the county's litigation interests.

K**Campaign relationships and case outcomes**

The petition asks whether campaign contributions or endorsements from defense attorneys influenced outcomes for their clients, focusing on the *Binney* and *Cole* cases, and whether victims were properly notified. It states that these relationships do not, by themselves, establish improper influence.

RELIEF SOUGHT

Requested safeguards

The petition asks the court to disqualify the Tulsa County District Attorney’s Office from advising the grand jury and to have the Attorney General appoint outside counsel instead. It asks that the proceeding be assigned to a judge who has not presided over any of the matters identified, including a judge from outside Tulsa County if necessary. It also asks for protection of witnesses from retaliation, preservation of relevant records, and sealing or redaction of signers’ private information to the extent the law allows, while keeping the Election Board’s access for signature verification. These are requests; none has been granted in this filing.

PROCESS

What happens next

1	COURT REVIEW	Within 4 days of filing (excluding weekends and holidays). Any deficiencies must be listed; petitioners get 2 days to amend.
2	CIRCULATION	If approved, circulators have 45 days to gather signatures from qualified Tulsa County voters.
3	CERTIFICATION	The Election Board has 7 business days to certify the signature count.
4	GRAND JURY	If enough valid signatures are certified, the judge must order a grand jury to convene within 30 days.