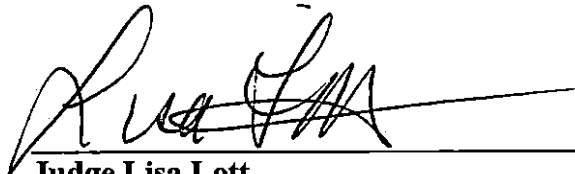


GEORGIA

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

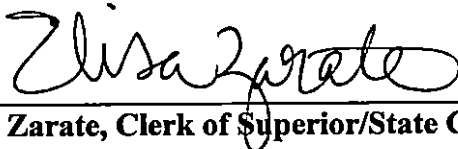
It is ordered that the foregoing presentments of the Grand Jury empanelled for the 2026 July Term of the Superior Court of Athens-Clarke County be entered on the minutes of the Court and published at the expense of the County in the official organ of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia. Exhibits are not to be published, but shall be available for inspection and reproduction in the Office of Clerk of Superior Court Athens-Clarke County.

This 6th day of October, 2026.



**Judge Lisa Lott
Superior Court, Athens-Clarke County
Western Judicial Circuit**

Filed in Open Court this 6th day of October, 2026.



Elisa Zarate, Clerk of Superior/State Court

**Clerk Superior Court, County, Ga.
Bk 02026 Pg 5061-5064
Penalty:**

**MIN Doc MIN
Recorded 10/06/2026 02:27PM**



General Presentments and Reports
Athens-Clarke County Grand Jury
July Term 2026

On Monday July 13th, 2026, twenty five jurors, including two alternates, were selected to serve as members of the Grand Jury for the Athens-Clarke County Superior Court for the July 2026 term. Honorable Judge Lawton E. Stephens administered the oath to the jurors and charged them with their responsibilities.

Jade Archuleta was selected as Foreperson and Laurel Palmer as Assistant Foreperson. Kelly McCrum was selected as Secretary and Chantella Jefferson as Assistant Secretary.

The remaining jurors were:

Ryley Hamilton, Emily Card, Melissa Hunt, Haley Misseri, Antonious Graham Jr., Kevin Nix, Jordan Barr, John Bazzle, May Rozier, Eric Horvath, Salam Mahmoud, Nicole Vargas, Barbara McQuire, Shambrina Davis, Samantha Alex, Matthew Stoyak, Eric Buckingham, Percy Thompson, Jeffrey Conte, Sinnie Wilbon (Alternate), Kiara Gresham (Alternate)

Recommendations

The Grand Jury respectfully makes the following recommendations:

- Many jurors had issues being summoned on Monday and having to come back the very next day. They suggest the court summons take place a week before the Grand Jury term begins.
- Provide a brief explanation for the responsibilities of Foreperson and Secretary as well as their Assistants before moving them to voting these roles among themselves, so they may choose people they deem capable of those responsibilities.
- Have the Assistants of the Foreperson and Secretary observe the tasks they will need to complete during meetings so they are prepared to replace a Foreperson or Secretary if they are absent.
- Define Probable Cause to the Grand Jury so they can easily determine their vote on each bill.
- Make sure indictments are correct and have no errors before presenting them to the Grand Jury
- Present indictments and officers with consistency. (Make sure the jurors have no biases or relations towards prosecutors or defendants consistently when introducing each

indictment)(Have each officer identify their department, shift, assigned location and training/qualifications)

- If video/audio evidence is present during an officer's testimony, the jurors would like to examine it.
- The jurors would appreciate if the officers had microphones they could speak into when giving their testimonies so everyone can hear them clearly.

The jurors would like to commend Bailiff Linda on her hospitality, being prepared, organized and efficient. The jurors would also like to commend the District Attorney's Office and Jeff Burks for being knowledgeable, gracious, and thorough in assisting the Grand Jury with hearing and processing each indictment, as well as making sure to address any questions after each testimony. We thank the officers of the Athens-Clarke County Police Department, Sheriff's Office, UGA Police Department, and Georgia State Patrol for their professionalism, honesty and thorough testimonies. We appreciate the law enforcement agencies mentioned for the hard work they provide serving our community.

The Foreperson would like to thank everyone who served during this term for their time, attendance, and attentiveness. He would like to praise the Athens Courthouse for its cleanliness, accessibility, and the staff for their kindness.

In conclusion, serving on a Grand Jury is an important civic responsibility that contributes to the fair and effective administration of justice. Grand jurors play a vital role in carefully reviewing evidence, protecting individual rights, and helping ensure that the legal process is upheld. Through their service, Grand Jurors help strengthen public trust and support a fair and accountable justice system.

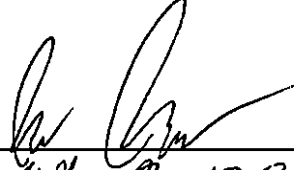
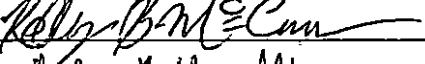
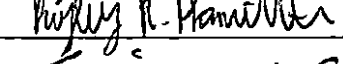
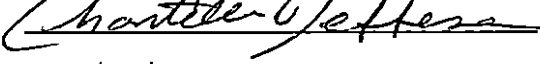
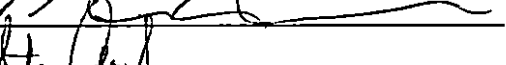
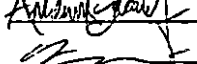
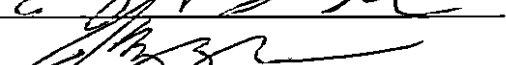
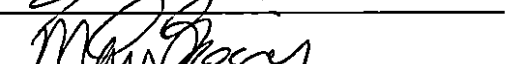
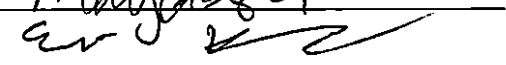
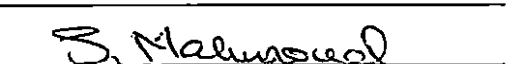
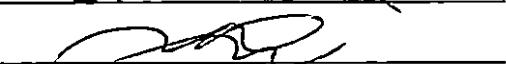
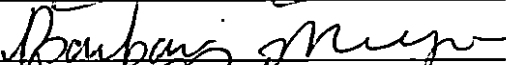
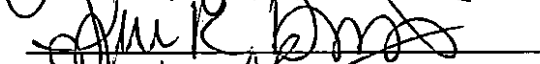
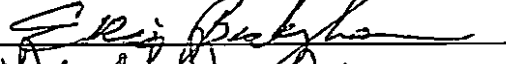
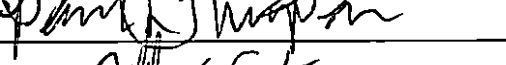
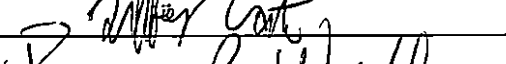
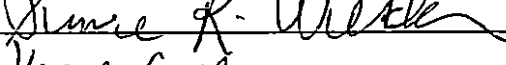
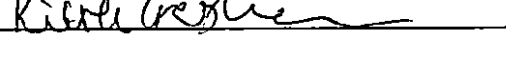
Respectfully Submitted,

Jade Archuleta, Foreperson

Athens-Clarke County Grand Jury

July Term 2026

July 2026 Term – Clarke County Grand Jury

	Jade E. Archuleta, Foreperson
	Kelly B. McCrum, Secretary
	Ryley R. Hamilton
	Emily M. Card
	Chantella T. Jefferson
	Melissa Hunt
	Haley T. Misseri
	Antonious D. Graham, Jr.
	Kevin W. Nix
	Jordan A. Barr
	John B. Bazzle
	May F. Rozier
	Eric J. Horvath
	Salam Mahmoud
	Nicole X. Vargas
	Barbara A. McGuire
	Laurel L. Palmer
	Shambrina R. Davis
	Samantha L. Alex
	Matthew D. Stovak
	Eric B. Buckingham
	Percy L. Thompson
	Jeffrey Conte
	Sinnie R. Wilbon
	Kiara N. Gresham