

**IN THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER S-2026-037
(Supersedes Administrative Order S-2025-051)**

GRAND JURY

Chapter 905 of the Florida Statutes is the governing law on the grand jury. This chapter empowers the circuit court with certain responsibilities concerning the grand jury. These responsibilities include: trying any challenges to an individual grand juror or the panel (section 905.06), excusing a grand juror related to a person being investigated (section 905.075), appointing a foreperson and alternate foreperson of the grand jury (section 905.08), extending the term of a grand jury upon proper petition (section 905.095), charging the grand jurors concerning their duties after the grand jurors are sworn (section 905.11), advising the grand jury about its legal duties when requested (section 905.18), and authorizing disclosure of grand jury testimony in limited circumstances (section 905.27).

By the power vested in the chief judge under article V, section 2(d), Florida Constitution; Florida Statutes section 43.26; and Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(2), it is ORDERED:

1. Grand Jury Terms

In accordance with Florida Statutes section 905.01(3), the grand jury will be convened for two six-month terms. The first term of the grand jury will be October 2, 2026, through April 1, 2027. The second term of the grand jury will be April 2, 2027, through October 1, 2027. The clerk will coordinate with the chief judge and a representative of the State Attorney's Office to select a date during the first week of each grand jury term for the issuance of summonses for prospective grand jurors to attend the beginning of each term of the grand jury.

2. Court Duties & Judicial Assignments

Unless the chief judge directs otherwise, the chief judge will personally participate in the impaneling of each grand jury and will appoint the foreperson and alternate foreperson of each grand jury in accordance with Florida Statutes section 905.08. Thereafter, the following circuit judges are assigned as delegates of the chief judge to handle the remainder of the court duties identified in the introductory paragraph of this administrative order during the terms below:

GRAND JURY TERM	ASSIGNED JUDGE
October 2, 2026 – April 1, 2027	Jennifer X. Gabbard
April 2, 2027 – October 1, 2027	Darren D. Farfante

If the assigned judge encounters a scheduling conflict at any time during the assignment period, it is that judge's responsibility to arrange for a substitute circuit judge to handle the matter. The substitute circuit judge should be a judge who is not assigned to the Circuit Criminal Division. If a substitution occurs, the assigned judge must notify the chief judge and the state attorney of the substitution.

3. Previous Administrative Order Superseded

This administrative order supersedes Administrative Order S-2025-051 (*Grand Jury*).

4. Effective Date

This administrative order is effective immediately for the purpose of authorizing the clerk to begin preparations for the summoning of the next grand jury. In all other respects, this administrative order is effective October 2, 2026.

ENTERED on July 14th, 2026.



Christopher C. Sabella, Chief Judge

Original: Victor Crist, Clerk of the Circuit Court
Copy: The Honorable Jennifer X. Gabbard
The Honorable Darren D. Farfante
Susan S. Lopez, State Attorney