

# **ATTENDANCE AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS**

## **INTRODUCTION**

During the 2002-2003 term of the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury, jurors attended a total of 126 public meetings of 24 of the 44 boards for county, cities and special districts. Typically the turnout of the general public for these meetings was very low, and in several cases the juror was the only member of the public in attendance.

## **OBJECTIVE**

Members of Grand Jury attended public meetings of county, cities and special districts as part of the Jury's overall monitoring responsibilities. At the regular weekly meeting of the Jury, a brief report was provided by the juror attending these public meetings. This process allowed the Jury to maintain awareness of various issues faced by the county, cities and special districts.

## **FINDINGS**

1. A majority of the meetings attended had a very low turnout by members of the public.
2. Most meetings are run in a very professional manner with members of the public afforded the opportunity to make public comments during the meetings.
3. Typically, agendas are available for the general public.
4. Copies of materials being reviewed by the board of directors or elected council members are not generally made available to the public.