

Instructions: Grand Jury Petition, Shawnee County, Kansas

Citizen Grand Jury Petition Kit · v4 · September 27, 2026

Already collecting on an earlier version? Every sheet in one petition must carry the same text, so finish on the version you started with. Before you file, read your county's entry in the change log for anything you need to do.

The number

1. **1,419 valid signatures:** 100 plus 2 percent of the total votes cast for governor in the county in the last preceding election (K.S.A. 22-3001(c)(1)).
2. On the 2022 canvass used in this kit, Shawnee County cast 65,914 votes for governor.
3. The number stays 1,419 while the county's certified vote for governor is 65,950 or fewer. If the Shawnee County Election Office certifies a higher total, the number is 100 plus 2 percent of that total, rounded up to the next whole signature. Confirm the number with the Election Office before the first signature.
4. Kansas elects a governor on November 3, 2026, and K.S.A. 22-3001 does not say whether the filing date or the certification date fixes which election counts. K.S.A. 22-3001(c)(1) ties the number to a petition "presented to the district court." That wording supports measuring a petition filed before November 3, 2026 against the 2022 vote. A petition filed or certified after November 3, 2026 may be measured against the 2026 vote and should carry enough valid signatures to meet the number on both the 2022 and the 2026 vote.
5. How many more to collect is the petitioner's call. People generally treat 10 to 20 percent over the number as best practice: 1,561 to 1,703.

To do, by stage

Before the first signature

1. This kit has two documents: the petition, with its signature page, and these instructions. Only the petition and its signature pages are filed.
2. The petition text is final. Collect every signature on this version, and do not change the text.
3. The filer, a registered voter of Shawnee County, fills in the filing block on the first page of every copy of the petition. K.S.A. 22-3001(c)(2) requires the petition to state on its face "the name, address and phone number of the person filing the petition." The filer's name also goes in the "Filed by" blank of the caption. The petition and its signature pages become public court records when filed.
4. Copy the filing block onto the "Person filing this petition" lines of every signature page. K.S.A. 22-3001(c)(2), (c)(3)(B)(iii).
5. Print signature pages only from the petition file, so every page carries the statutory heading at its top and the verification block below the signature lines. K.S.A. 22-3001(c)(3)(A), (c)(3)(B)(i).
6. Staple each packet, petition first and signature pages behind. Signature pages never circulate alone.

While collecting

1. **Say this before anyone signs:** This petition asks the Shawnee County grand jury to inquire whether Social Security records of county residents were shared or copied outside the agency's approved systems, and whether anyone who did so broke Kansas computer-crime law.
2. **If they want more:** The government told a federal court that DOGE staff shared agency data through a third-party server the agency had not approved, and that the agency "has not been able to determine exactly what data were shared." The agency's own chief data officer also disclosed that a copy of the master Social Security file was placed in a cloud environment lacking independent security controls. The petition asks a grand jury of this county to find out whether residents' records were in that data and whether anyone broke this state's law. It names no defendant.
3. **What if officials say no data was shared?** On February 10, 2026, the Social Security commissioner wrote to the Senate Finance Committee that "there is no evidence that data was shared with the referenced

outside organization." That statement covers only the political advocacy group in the government's court filing and rests on the agency's own review. It says nothing about the unapproved server or the copy of the master file. The agency has also disputed the chief data officer's account of the cloud environment, and the petition reports what his disclosure says. A grand jury can subpoena records and question witnesses under oath.

4. Every signer is a registered voter of Shawnee County, and each person signs once. Ask before they sign.
5. Each signer prints their name legibly, as it appears on their voter registration, and signs in the circulator's presence. On the same line the signer writes their residence address, with the street and number or rural route number, and their city. Then the signer dates the line. A post office box is not a residence address. K.S.A. 22-3001(c)(3)(B)(i).
6. One of the signers of each page verifies it upon oath, swearing that every signature on the page is genuine and that the verifier believes the statements in the petition are true. K.S.A. 22-3001(c)(3)(B)(i). The circulator, who watches every person sign the page, is its verifier. The circulator is therefore a registered voter of Shawnee County and signs a line on the page as well. The circulator reads the whole petition before verifying any page, because the verifier swears to believing the statements in the petition are true.
7. No signature goes on a page its verifier did not witness. The verification is sworn, and a knowingly false verification is perjury. K.S.A. 21-5903(a).
8. Each page is sworn before a notary after its last signature. The notary cannot be the circulator who swears to the page. No names are added to a page after it is sworn.
9. Everything said or written about the petition, at the table or anywhere else, says only what the petition says and names no person as having committed a crime. Write nothing on a signature page except what its lines ask for.

Filing day

1. Before filing, confirm the number with the Shawnee County Election Office (The number, items 3 and 4), and confirm that the count of signatures, with duplicates removed, meets that number.
2. Every signer line has a residence address. Every page carries a verification sworn before a notary, and no page has a signature its verifier did not witness.
3. Every signature page is stapled behind a full copy of the petition, and its "Person filing this petition" lines match the first page. Number the signature pages on their "Signature page _____ of _____" lines.
4. The filer signs and dates the "Signature of person filing" line at the end of the petition.
5. Photocopy every page.
6. File with the Clerk of the District Court at the Shawnee County Courthouse in Topeka.
7. Obtain a file-stamped copy or a dated receipt with the case number. Record the date 60 days after filing.
8. Name one person as the filer. The petition states on its face the name of "the person filing the petition," and the right to appeal a dismissal for form belongs to that person. K.S.A. 22-3001(c)(2), (c)(3)(B)(iii).

After filing

1. The Clerk sends the petition to the Shawnee County Election Office, which determines whether each signer is a qualified elector of the county. Only those signatures count. The office returns the petition with a certificate stating the number of qualified electors who signed and the county's total vote for governor in the last preceding election. K.S.A. 22-3001(c)(3)(B)(ii). The statute sets the office no deadline. Compare both figures to the figures confirmed before filing.
2. The judges of the district court then consider the petition. If "the petition is in proper form and bears the signatures of the required number of electors, a grand jury shall be ordered to be summoned." K.S.A. 22-3001(c)(3)(B)(iii). Proper form includes "sufficient general allegations to warrant a finding that such inquiry may lead to information which, if true, would warrant a true bill of indictment." K.S.A. 22-3001(c)(2). The Kansas Court of Appeals has held: "The statute merely requires sufficient general allegations, not specific allegations as the district court held." In re Petition to Summon Grand Jury, No. 118,410 (Kan. Ct. App. June 8, 2018). No district attorney and no attorney general has any part in the

decision. The Kansas Supreme Court has held: "The citizen-petition grand jury statutes are not unconstitutionally infirm on their face." *Tiller v. Corrigan*, No. 99,951 (Kan. May 6, 2008).

3. If the court denies the petition as not in proper form, the filer may appeal the decision as a final judgment under K.S.A. 22-3601. File the notice of appeal within 14 days of the order, which meets the 14-day deadline for criminal appeals in K.S.A. 22-3608 and any longer civil deadline. Serve notice of the appeal on the Kansas Attorney General. In the case the Court of Appeals decided in 2018, the decision came ten months after the petition was filed, and seventeen months passed from filing to a sitting grand jury. In that case the petitioner gave the Attorney General notice of the appeal, and the Attorney General did not seek to intervene. The petitioner appealed without a lawyer.
4. If the court denies the petition for the signature count, the statute provides no appeal.

Grand jury

1. Once ordered, the grand jury is summoned within 60 days after the petition was filed. K.S.A. 22-3001(c)(1).
2. After hearing the filer, the grand jury may vote, with the court's approval, to employ special counsel and investigators, who may work instead of or alongside the county prosecutor. Shawnee County pays them from its general fund. K.S.A. 22-3001(c)(4)(C); K.S.A. 22-3006. The county also pays the grand jurors and the court reporter from its general fund. K.S.A. 22-3006(a), (b).
3. The grand jury serves until it tells the court in writing that its investigation is complete, but no longer than three months unless the court extends its term by up to three more months. K.S.A. 22-3013.
4. The grand jury returns either a true bill, which is an indictment, or a no bill, which is a decision not to indict. K.S.A. 22-3001(c)(4)(G).

Time limits

1. K.S.A. 22-3001 sets no deadline for gathering signatures, and signatures do not expire. The general petition law and its 180-day limit do not apply to a grand jury petition. K.S.A. 25-3601(f); K.S.A. 25-3602(d).
2. The offense in Counts 1 and 2, unlawful acts concerning computers, is a severity level 8 nonperson felony, or severity level 5 when the monetary loss to the victims is more than \$100,000. K.S.A. 21-5839(b). At either level, prosecution must be commenced within five years after the crime is committed, not counting any time the accused is absent from Kansas. The earliest act alleged was in March 2025. K.S.A. 21-5107(d), (e)(1).

Objections you may hear

1. **Isn't this federal?** The agency's computers are federal, but Kansas and the United States are separate sovereigns, each enforcing its own criminal law. *Gamble v. United States*, 587 U.S. 678 (2019). The petition asks whether Kansas computer-crime law reaches the handling of Shawnee County residents' records, and it cites no federal criminal statute.
2. **Aren't federal officers immune?** A federal officer who is charged may claim immunity under the Supremacy Clause, the part of the United States Constitution that makes federal law supreme, for an act that federal law authorized, if the officer did no more than was necessary and proper. In *re Neagle*, 135 U.S. 1 (1890). Federal defenses come later, when a subpoena is issued or a charge is filed, and they do not stop the grand jury from sitting. 28 U.S.C. sec. 1442(a), (d)(1).
3. **Didn't this happen outside Kansas?** Kansas has jurisdiction when any logical effect or consequence of an act that is a material element of a crime occurs in Kansas, and a prosecution for unlawful acts concerning computers may be brought in the county where the victim resides. K.S.A. 21-5106(a)(1), (b)(3), (h); K.S.A. 22-2619. The petition alleges, on information and belief, that the copying or disclosure of Shawnee County residents' records is such an effect, and it cites *State v. Rozell*, No. 121,094 (Kan. Apr. 22, 2022), which reinstated the prosecution of a defendant who, while in Missouri, submitted an allegedly false claim on a Kansas resident's insurance policy.
4. **Where is the harm?** The offense in Counts 1 and 2 needs no dollar loss, and a loss over \$100,000 only raises its severity level. K.S.A. 21-5839(a)(1), (a)(3), (b). The petition alleges, on information and belief, that the victims include Shawnee County residents whose records were copied or disclosed, and finding out whether that happened is the grand jury's work.

A prosecutor's decision not to bring a case does not stop a citizen petition. The court decides whether to summon the grand jury. K.S.A. 22-3001(c)(3)(B)(iii).

What the filer does after filing

1. The filer may witness the judge's instructions to the grand jury. K.S.A. 22-3001(d).
2. The filer is the grand jury's first witness and appears when summoned, to present evidence and testimony on the petition's subject matter and allegations. The court instructs the grand jury that the filer "must be the first witness you call." The same instructions provide: "If any witness duly summoned to appear and testify before you fails or refuses to obey, compulsory process will be issued by this court to enforce the witness' attendance." K.S.A. 22-3001(c)(4)(B), (D).
3. The filer, like any grand jury witness, may have counsel present while testifying. A witness who cannot afford a lawyer and asks for one gets a court-appointed lawyer. K.S.A. 22-3009(a), (b).
4. The filer has no part in the grand jury's vote on special counsel and investigators. The filer does not prosecute the case or question other witnesses.
5. Grand jury proceedings are secret under K.S.A. 22-3012. The filer makes no public statement about the content of their testimony.

Can I stop?

Yes, until the petition is filed. K.S.A. 22-3001 sets no deadline for filing and no penalty for a drive that stops. To stop, do not file, and keep the signed pages private, because they show signers' names and addresses. Once the petition is filed, the statute has no step for withdrawing it, and the filer remains the grand jury's first witness, who appears when summoned (What the filer does after filing, item 2).

About this kit

The Existentialist Republic publishes this petition as a template, with the allegations drafted and cited, and these instructions. The petitioner decides whether to file and when. This kit is activist material. Nothing in it is legal advice, and The Existentialist Republic does not act as legal counsel for anyone who uses the kit. A lawyer is not required under K.S.A. 22-3001, and petitioners commonly go through this process without one.