

FILED

JUN 03 2026

Renee Covert
CIRCUIT CLERK

**FINAL REPORT
OF THE JUNE 2026 GRAND JURY
LAUDERDALE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

We, the Grand Jury of the June 2026 Term of the Circuit Court of Lauderdale County,

Mississippi, taken from the body of good and lawful men and women of said County and State,

present this our report of investigations and recommendations.

We were in session for two (2) days and examined twelve (12) witnesses; returned

ninety-five (95) true bills of indictment to open Court; returned six (6) no true bills.

Lauderdale County Detention Facility

The Grand Jury toured the Lauderdale County Detention Facility and submit the

following recommendations:

1. Booking area has a restraint chair with a raised toilet seat stacked on top of it. The toilet seat has fecal matter all over the lid. Please clean and disinfect the raised toilet seat and clean and disinfect the restraint chair.
2. Next to door number 15 hangs a broken plastic wall mount that once was for fling papers or folders. Plastic is protruding and appears to be at risk for an inmate to grab and break off shards of plastic as contraband.
3. The medical room has what appears to be an inoperable electromagnetic door locking mechanism at the top of the door. The device appears to be loose and has wires hanging out. If it is inoperable, please consider removing as it appears to be at risk of falling or providing loose parts to inmates.
4. Please examine all sharps containers. There were several sharps containers that were overflowing, not present in the container holding location, or sitting on random loose surfaces with open lids where the containers could be knocked over and spilled.
5. The Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors should consider moving the jail outside of the downtown business district.

Lauderdale County Justice Court

The Grand Jury toured the Lauderdale County Justice Court, met with Justice Court Judge Paul Earley and Justice Court Clerk Nikita Wilkens. The information provided was informative. The Grand Jury submit the following recommendations:

1. Add signage and/or a document in the affidavit packet that indicates to the plaintiff that they are responsible for following up with the court regarding the status of the case. Provide a phone number for follow-up.
2. Add signage and/or a document in the affidavit packet that informs the public that there is access to investigative assistance for identifying a defendant.

Respectfully submitted this on the 2nd day of June 2026.


Paige Parker, Foreperson

AFFIDAVIT OF THE
FOREPERSON OF THE
JUNE 2026
LAUDERDALE COUNTY GRAND JURY

Comes now Paige Parker, Foreperson of the June 2026 Grand Jury of Lauderdale County, Mississippi, swears or affirms that the indictments presented to this court were concurred by twelve (12) or more members of the Grand Jury and that at least fifteen (15) members of the Grand Jury were present during all deliberations.

Paige Parker
Paige Parker, Foreperson

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me the 2nd day of June 2026.



Renee Covert, Circuit Clerk
By: Renee Covert