



AGENDA ITEM 8A

MEETING: November 19, 2025
TO: Humboldt LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: **Status of Expiring Commissioner Terms**
The Commission will receive a report identifying members whose terms of office are scheduled to expire in 2026.

BACKGROUND

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 establishes that Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) generally consist of seven regular members: two county members, two city members, two independent special district members, and one public member. Each category is also represented by one alternate member.

Appointments for the county, city, and special district seats are made, respectively, by the Board of Supervisors, the City Selection Committee, and the Independent Special District Selection Committee (via a mailed ballot process administered by LAFCo). The public member and public alternate member are appointed by the other regular members of the Commission.

In accordance with Government Code Section 56334, each member serves a four-year term and continues to serve until their successor is appointed and qualified.

DISCUSSION

County Member Selection:

County member appointments are traditionally made at the first meeting of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors in January. Appointments for the upcoming term are anticipated on January 13, 2025.

City Member Selection:

The terms of Commissioner Kelly and Alternate Commissioner Garnes will expire in 2026. In early 2026, LAFCo staff will request that the City Mayors' Selection Committee convene to appoint a regular and alternate city member for the 2026–2030 term.

Special District Member Election:

The terms of Commissioner Nicolini and Alternate Commissioner Couch will expire in 2026. In early 2026, LAFCo staff will initiate the election process by distributing a Request for Nominations to all independent special districts within Humboldt County, followed by a mailed ballot process to elect both seats.

Public Member Selection:

The term of Alternate Commissioner Johnson will expire in 2026. LAFCo staff will issue a public notice and press release in February/March to solicit applications for the expiring seat. The Commission will appoint a Public Member Selection Committee to review applications and conduct interviews. The subcommittee will then bring forward a recommended candidate for Commission consideration. Final appointment is anticipated at the May 20, 2026 Regular Commission meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission receive and file this report.

Attachments

Attachment A: Current LAFCo Membership and Terms

ATTACHMENT A
Current LAFCo Membership and Terms

Member	Designation	Appointed	LAFCo Term (June 30)
Michelle Bushnell	Regular/County	1/14/2025	By Annual appointment
Steve Madrone	Regular/County	1/14/2025	By Annual appointment
Mike Wilson	Alternate/County	1/14/2025	By Annual appointment
Meredith Mattews (City of Arcata)	Regular/City	8/14/2024	2024-2028
Cheryl Kelly (City of Trinidad)	Regular/City	8/14/2024*	2022-2026
Debra Garne (City of Rio Dell)	Alternate/City	8/14/2024*	2022-2026
Heidi Benzonelli (Humboldt CSD)	Regular/District	8/9/2024	2024-2028
Troy Nicolini (Peninsula CSD)	Regular/District	10/28/2022	2022-2026
David Couch (McKinleyville CSD)	Alternate/District	8/9/2024*	2022-2026
Elaine Weinreb	Regular/Public	7/17/2024	2024-2028
Gordon Johnson	Alternate/Public	3/15/2023*	2022-2026

**Appointed to serve remainder of unexpired term*