



AGENDA ITEM 8A

MEETING: May 20, 2026
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 were made at the first meeting of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors on January 6, 2026, with no changes to the existing appointments.

City Member Selection:

The terms of Commissioner Kelly and Alternate Commissioner Garnes are scheduled to expire on June 30, 2026. A City Selection Committee meeting is anticipated in June 2026 to consider appointments for the regular and alternate city member seats for the 2026–2030 term.

Special District Member Election:

The terms of Commissioner Nicolini and Alternate Commissioner Couch are scheduled to expire on June 30, 2026. Two nominations were received for the regular special district member seat from current Alternate Commissioner Couch (McKinleyville CSD) and Meghan Ryan (Manila CSD). Ballots have been distributed to all 49 independent special districts via certified mail, and a quorum of ballots must be returned to LAFCo by June 26, 2026.

The candidate with the highest number of votes will serve as the regular special district member and the candidate receiving the second-highest number of votes will serve as alternate special district member. Election results will be mailed no later than July 3, 2026. The candidates will be seated at the July 15, 2026, Regular Commission meeting.

Public Member Selection:

The term of Alternate Commissioner Johnson is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2026. LAFCo staff have issued a public notice and press release to solicit applications for the expiring alternate public member seat. To date, no applications have been received. Staff will work to circulate the notice and press release in alternate avenues to expand its reach and encourage applications to be submitted. The application period will be extended as necessary and the position is open until filled.

A Public Member Selection Committee (see Agenda Item 7A) will review applications and conduct interviews as necessary. The Committee's recommendation will be provided to the full Commission for consideration at the next available Commission meeting. If timely applications are received, the recommendation is anticipated at the July 15, 2026, regular meeting. The appointment will become effective upon expiration of the current term, with the current member continuing to serve until a successor is appointed and qualified, if necessary.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission receive and file this report.