



AGENDA ITEM 8B

MEETING: March 18, 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 will expire on June 30, 2026. LAFCo staff initiated the election process on March 11, 2026, by distributing a Request for Nominations to all independent special districts within Humboldt County. Nominations are due by May 1, 2026. Following the close of the nomination period, an official ballot will be prepared and mailed to all independent special districts for voting.

Public Member Selection:

The term of Alternate Public Member Commissioner Johnson is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2026. LAFCo staff will issue a public notice and press release by the end of March to solicit applications for the expiring alternate public member seat. A Public Member Selection Committee will be appointed by the Commission at its May meeting to review applications and conduct interviews in June, as necessary. Following the interview process, the Selection Committee will provide its recommendation to the Commission for consideration at the Commission's July 15, 2026 regular meeting. The appointment will become effective upon expiration of the current term or upon the qualification of the successor, whichever occurs later.

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	1/06/2026	By Annual appointment
Steve Madrone	Regular/County	1/06/2026	By Annual appointment
Mike Wilson	Alternate/County	1/06/2026	By Annual appointment
Kimberley White (City of Arcata)	Regular/City	1/12/2026*	2024-2028
Cheryl Kelly (City of Trinidad)	Regular/City	8/14/2024*	2022-2026
Debra Garnes (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