



AGENDA ITEM 9C

MEETING: January 21, 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. In addition, the City Mayors' Selection Committee met on January 12, 2026, and appointed Kimberly White, Mayor of the City of Arcata, to fill the remainder of the 2024–2028 term vacated by Arcata Councilmember Meredith Matthews. 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. 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 election to fill both seats.

Public Member Selection:

The term of Alternate Commissioner Johnson is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2026. In February 2026, LAFCo staff will issue a public notice and press release to solicit applications for the expiring public member seat. The Commission will appoint a Public Member Selection Committee at the March LAFCo meeting to review applications and conduct interviews. Following the interview process in April/May, the Selection Committee will provide its recommendation to the Commission for consideration. Final appointment is anticipated at the Commission's May 20, 2026 Regular Meeting and will be effective upon the 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
Kimberly 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*