



**HUMBOLDT**  
*Local Agency Formation Commission*  
670 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 202, Arcata, CA 95521  
(707) 445-7508 / (707) 825-9181 fax  
[www.humboldtlaaco.org](http://www.humboldtlaaco.org)

Date: May 8, 2026  
To: Board of Directors of Independent Special Districts  
From: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer  
**Subject: OFFICIAL BALLOT – Independent Special District Election**

The term of office for one (1) regular and one (1) alternate special district member on LAFCo expires on June 30, 2026. All terms are four years and end on June 30. There are no term limits.

### Current Special District Terms

Designation	Current Member	Term of Office (ends on June 30)
Regular Member	Heidi Benzonelli, Humboldt Community Services District	2024 - 2028
Regular Member	Troy Nicolini, Peninsula Community Services District	2022 - 2026
Alternate Member	David Couch, McKinleyville Community Services District	2022 – 2026

The basic process for selecting special district members to LAFCo is set forth in Government Code Section 56332, which provides for a meeting to be convened among representatives from each of the 48 independent special districts in Humboldt County, unless the Executive Officer determines that a meeting is not feasible. Based on Government Code Section 56332, it has been determined that a meeting of this “Independent Special District Selection Committee” for the purpose of selecting special district members is not feasible due to the likelihood that a quorum would not be achieved. As such, both the nominating process and the election itself will be conducted by mail on behalf of the Independent Special District Selection Committee by the LAFCo Executive Officer.

**Previously, a request for nominations was sent on March 11, 2026, which provided the opportunity for the presiding officer of each independent special district to nominate candidates to fill the special district member vacancies.** The nomination period ended on May 1, 2026.

Two nominations were received, both for the regular special district member seat. Enclosed is an official ballot for the regular special district member seat. **The candidate receiving 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 the alternate special district member.** Terms begin on July 1, 2026 and expire June 30, 2030.

Please mark selection directly onto the ballot, voting for no more than one (1) candidate. Formal board action to vote for a candidate is not required under Government Code Section 56332(f); however, districts may choose to confirm selections through action of their governing board. **Ballots must be returned to LAFCo, 670 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 202, Arcata, CA 95521 or emailed to [amber@humboldtlaaco.org](mailto:amber@humboldtlaaco.org) on or before 5:00 p.m. on June 26, 2026.**

Your district is encouraged to participate in this election process. For an election to be valid, at least a quorum of the special districts must submit valid ballots. There are 49 independent special districts, therefore a majority vote constitutes 25. Any nomination and ballot received by the Executive Officer after the date specified is invalid, provided, however, that if a quorum of ballots is not received by that date, the Executive Officer shall extend the date to submit ballots by 60 days and notify all districts of the extension.

Please contact LAFCo staff at [amber@humboldtlaaco.org](mailto:amber@humboldtlaaco.org) (preferred) or call (707) 445-7508 with any questions.

## Election Schedule

LAFCo call for nominations letter emailed & mailed	Wednesday, March 11, 2026
Nominations due to LAFCo	By 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 1, 2026
Ballots mailed from LAFCo via certified mail	No later than Friday, May 8, 2026
<b>Election Day – Ballots due to LAFCo</b>	<b>By 5:00 p.m., Friday, June 26, 2026</b>
Election results mailed from LAFCo	No later than Friday, July 3, 2026

## Independent Special Districts

Big Lagoon Community Services District	Arcata Fire Protection District
Briceland Community Services District	Blue Lake Fire Protection District
Carlotta Community Services District	Briceland Fire Protection District
Fieldbrook-Glendale Community Services District	Bridgeville Fire Protection District
Humboldt Community Services District	Ferndale Fire Protection District
Loleta Community Services District	Fruitland Ridge Fire Protection District
Manila Community Services District	Garberville Fire Protection District
McKinleyville Community Services District	Humboldt No. 1 Fire Protection District
Miranda Community Services District	Kneeland Fire Protection District
Orick Community Services District	Myers Flat Fire Protection District
Orleans Community Services District	Petrolia Fire Protection District
Palmer Creek Community Services District	Redway Fire Protection District
Patrick Creek Community Services District	Rio Dell Fire Protection District
Peninsula Community Services District	Salmon Creek Fire Protection District
Phillipsville Community Services District	Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District
Redway Community Services District	Willow Creek Fire Protection District
Riverside Community Services District	
Scotia Community Services District	Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District
Weott Community Services District	Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
Westhaven Community Services District	North Humboldt Recreation and Park District
Willow Creek Community Services District	Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare District
	Fortuna Cemetery District
Alderpoint County Water District	Petrolia Cemetery District
Hydesville County Water District	
Jacoby Creek County Water District	
Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District	
Garberville Sanitary District	
Resort Improvement District No. 1	



**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT ELECTION**  
**REGULAR MEMBER**

Mark selection directly onto the ballot, voting for no more than one (1) candidate. Formal board action to vote for a candidate is not required under Government Code Section 56332(f); however, districts may choose to confirm selections through action of their governing board.

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. Ballots must be returned to the LAFCo office at 670 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 202, Arcata, CA 95521 or emailed to [amber@humboldtlaftco.org](mailto:amber@humboldtlaftco.org) on or before 5:00 p.m. on June 26, 2026.

**Please vote for one of the following candidates for REGULAR special district member:**

- MEGHAN RYAN**  
District Affiliation: Manila Community Services District
  
- DAVID COUCH**  
District Affiliation: McKinleyville Community Services District

**VOTING DISTRICT AUTHORIZATION**

Name of Voting District: \_\_\_\_\_

District Address: \_\_\_\_\_

District Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Presiding Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Presiding Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Signature Required<sup>1</sup>)*

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<sup>1</sup> All ballots must be signed by the district's presiding officer or the presiding officer's alternate as designated by the governing body. If an alternate has been designated by the governing body pursuant to Government Code Section 56332(f), documentation of the designation (e.g., meeting minutes or minute order) may be included.