

# Overview of San Mateo County Boards & Commissions

Board of Supervisors Presentation- January 27, 2025  
Connie Juarez-Diroll, Chief Legislative Officer



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

# Meet the Team Supporting County Boards, Commissions, Committees & Councils

## County Executive's Office, Intergovernmental & Public Affairs Unit:

- Connie Juarez-Diroll, Chief Legislative Officer
- Michael Barber, Management Analyst
- Sherry Golestan, Deputy Clerk of the Board

## County Attorney's Office:

- Tim Fox, Lead Deputy County Attorney
- Brian Wong, Lead Deputy County Attorney

# What are Boards and Commissions?

**Mission**: To advise the County and the Board of Supervisors in decision-making, service delivery, spending priorities, and program direction.

Boards and Commissions are groups of residents who address a specific area of interest with the expertise and the lived experience they possess. Some have advisory capacity, and some make legally binding decisions.

Boards and Commissions do not make policy decisions, manage or direct programs, commit County resources, or take an official position that has not been approved by the Board of Supervisors.

# Requirements for Service

- **Living in San Mateo County is the sole requirement for service** on most County Boards and Commissions.
- Certain Boards and Commissions may have additional requirements.
- County employees are permitted to serve, provided there is no conflict of interest.

# Types of Boards and Commissions



## Advisory

Provide recommendations or advice to the Board of Supervisors



## Decision-Making

Make final County decisions



## Other Agencies

Directly or indirectly associated with the County

## What Determines Type?

State or federal law,  
County Charter, or Board  
action (ordinance or  
resolution)

# Advisory Bodies:

- Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Arts Commission
- Behavioral Health Commission
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Commission on Aging
- Commission on Disabilities
- Commission on the Status of Women
- Farmworker Advisory Commission
- Independent Civilian Advisory Commission on the Sheriff's Office
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual Plus (LGBTQIA+) Commission
- Measure K Oversight Committee
- North Fair Oaks Community Council
- Parks Commission
- Veterans Commission
- Youth Commission

**\*All appointed by the Board of Supervisors**

## Decision-Making Bodies:

- Assessment and Appeals Board
- Board of Building Permit Appeals
- Civil Service Commission
- Design Review Committee – Bayside
- Design Review Committee – Coastside
- Law Library Board of Trustees
- Planning Commission
- Charter Review Committee
- San Mateo County Employees Retirement Association (SamCERA)

## Elected Bodies:

- Midcoast Community Council
- Pesacedro Community Council

\*Appointments are made to fill vacancies, as needed.

## Other Bodies:

- Emergency Medical Care Committee
- First 5 Commission
- Housing and Community Development Committee
- Joint Powers Financing Authority Board
- Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission
- Public Authority Advisory Committee
- San Mateo County Health Care for the Homeless/Farmworkers Health Program
- San Mateo Health Commission
- San Mateo Childcare Partnership Council
- Resource Conservation District

# 2025 Membership Snapshot

- In May 2025, the Intergovernmental & Public Affairs Unit worked with the Office of Racial and Social Justice to conduct an unscientific survey of the demographic makeup of the “core” advisory boards and commissions
- Questions included: age, race(s)/ethnicity, education level, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, household income, rent/own, employment status, supervisorial district, citizenship status, and native language
- Board and Commission member responses were anonymous
- 175 responses were submitted

# 2025 Membership Snapshot

When compared with the latest ACS/Census Data, the survey revealed the following notable takeaways about Board and Commission Members:

- Older, more likely to be white, more educated, more likely to own a home, more likely to be born in the U.S., and more likely to consider English their native language than the county population as a whole
- More likely to identify as Female than the population at large (58.29% for commissioners vs. 50.01% for the county population)
- More likely to identify as having a disability than the population at large (18.29% for commissioners vs. 10.00% for the county population)
- Have higher median incomes than the population at large (\$180,000-\$199,999 for commissioners vs. \$151,485 for the county population)
- District Count: D3=26%, D2=21%, D4=16%, D1=14%, and D5=13%; 10% of respondents indicated other or declined to state

# Advisory Bodies Annual Reports

**The following Boards and Commissions typically provide annual reports to the Board:**

- Arts Commission
- Commission on Aging
- Commission on Disabilities
- Commission on the Status of Women
- Independent Civilian Advisory Commission on the Sheriff's Office
- LGBTQIA+ Commission
- Measure K Oversight Committee
- Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission
- Veterans Commission
- Youth Commission

# Brown Act Changes

## Senate Bill 707 (Chapter 327, Statutes of 2025)

- Effective January 1, 2026
- Authorizes local agencies to permit remote attendance at meetings of “eligible subsidiary bodies” (non-decision advisory bodies) when doing so would enhance public access and promote the attraction, retention, and diversity of the members of the eligible subsidiary bodies
- The Board of Supervisors must take action, every six months, to give permission (may be on consent) to its advisory commissions to hold fully online meetings
- Some boards and commissions are ineligible for various reasons (e.g., not purely advisory, but decision-making, primary subject matter jurisdiction, or consist entirely of elected officials)
- The County must continue to provide a physical location for the public to make public comment, even for a fully online meeting, and provide at least one staff member present in the room

# Brown Act Changes

**The following list of advisory commissions meets the newly established criteria to meet entirely remotely:**

- Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Arts Commission
- Behavioral Health Commission
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Commission on Aging
- Commission on Disabilities
- Commission on the Status of Women
- Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee
- Emergency Medical Care Committee
- Farmworker Advisory Commission
- Housing and Community Development Committee
- Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual Plus Commission
- North Fair Oaks Community Council
- Parks Commission
- Public Authority Advisory Committee
- Child Abuse Prevention Council
- Child Care Partnership Council
- Veterans Commission
- Youth Commission

# Accomplishments

- Revised Commissioner Handbook
- Commissioner Demographic Survey
- Staff Operations Survey
- Staff Operations Workgroup
- Equity-based application & interview questions/guidance
- Recruitment process review
- Facilitator Services
- B&C Member and Staff Trainings
- Manzanita Hall Access & Use Guidelines
- Legislative Engagement Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Updated logos & branding

# New Boards & Commissions Handbook



## San Mateo County Boards and Commissions Handbook

A publication of the Intergovernmental and Public Affairs Unit,  
County Manager's Office



**COUNTY OF  
SAN MATEO**

# Next Steps

- Audit Report of Boards & Commissions
- Staff & Liaisons Handbook
- New Commissioner Onboarding, Training & Offboarding
- Ongoing Staff Training
- Detailed Review of Applicant Demographics
- Recruitment Process Improvements
- Consolidation of Boards & Commissions Websites

# Boards & Commissions, Recognition & Gratitude Reception – January 28, 2026

YOU ARE INVITED

To the County of San Mateo  
Boards, Commissions, Committees, & Councils

RECOGNITION &  
GRATITUDE RECEPTION  
ROC, 501 Winslow St. Redwood City

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January 28, 2026  
5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM



Join fellow Board, Commission,  
Committee, and Council members  
for an evening of connection and  
conversation!

Enjoy food, wine, and refreshments  
while sharing ideas and learning  
from one another, with remarks  
from the Board of Supervisors.

Please RSVP by Jan 26, 2026

# Thank you



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