

2026 Charter Review Committee Recommendations

Rosanne Foust, Chair
2026 Charter Review Committee

*County of San Mateo
May 5th, 2026*

2026 CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

- Responsible for reviewing the Charter and recommending any amendments or revisions to the Board of Supervisors
- Charter Review Committee formed in January 2026 and held eight public meetings through April 2026
- Comprised of 19 members
- Considered individual Board member recommendations and committee member recommendations
- Formed six subcommittees to further review and identify recommendations
- Identified six recommended changes to the County's Charter for the Board's consideration

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

NAME	REPRESENTATIVE SEAT	NAME	REPRESENTATIVE SEAT
Rosanne Foust (Chair)	District 4	Karen Chapman	Environmental Groups
Julie Lind (Vice Chair)	Organized Labor	Kimberly Woo	Immigrants' Rights Groups
Tom Adams	District 1	Kathleen Wheeler	League of Women Voters
Jacquelyn Foust	District 2	Dana Johnson	LGBTQI+ Community
Iliana Rodriguez	District 3	Lynette Garcia	Schools
Daniela Jonguitud	District 5	Monica Mejia	Underserved Communities
Talavou Aumavae	At-Large/Intersectional	Liliam Perez Avila	Voting Rights Organizations
Mark Haesloop	Businesses	Nathan Healy	Youth
Eddie Flores	Cities	Jim Lawrence (resigned)	Seniors
		George Smith (resigned)	Veterans

Potential Charter Amendments Considered – Individual Board of Supervisors Members

- Procedures for Board Appointments to Fill Vacancies in Elected Office
- Board President Powers and Title
- Annual Review of Board Governance Practices
- Elected vs. Appointed County Offices
- Sunset of Board Authority to Remove an Elected Sheriff for Cause
- Procedures When an Elected Official May Be Incapacitated

Potential Charter Amendments Considered – Committee Members

- Accountability & Transparency of Public Funds
- Senior Dignity & Economic Security
- Independent District Lines Commission
- Row Officer Consolidation and Language Access & Equity
- Human Rights Commission
- Charter Review Process and Framework
- Dedicated Funding for Community Centers for Underserved Communities
- Adopt Non-Discrimination & Gender Identity Protections
- County Resilience to Extreme Weather Events
- Dedicated Funding for County Parks
- Veterans' Healthcare

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Policy Statement on Resilience to Extreme Weather: Amend the Charter Preamble to add language “designating long-term resilience against extreme weather events - including fire, flood, wind, rain, heat, drought, and sea level rise - as a County priority, to be undertaken collaboratively with cities, districts, and other public entities.”
2. Policy Statement on Rights and Equity: Amend the Charter Preamble to add language stating that “the San Mateo County affirms its commitment to the dignity, civil rights, and equal participation of all residents in a manner that promotes equity, fairness, inclusion, belonging, accessibility, and opportunity.”
3. Independent Redistricting Committee: Amend Article II (Board of Supervisors) of the Charter to add a new Section creating an Independent Redistricting Commission pursuant to California Elections Code Section 23003, which shall have the power to approve the reapportionment of supervisorial districts (i.e., set district boundaries) following each federal decennial census in a manner consistent with general law.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Board Governance Handbook: Amend Section 206(a)(6) (Board of Supervisors – Powers and Duties) of the County Charter to replace the existing provision with one requiring the Board of Supervisors to adopt a Governance Handbook specifying the powers, duties, procedures, rules of operation, code of conduct, and ethical policies of the Board and County employees, and that the Governance Handbook be reviewed no less than every two years and appropriate amendments be adopted by the Board.
5. Report on Climate Change Impacts: Amend Section 206 (Board of Supervisors – Powers and Duties) of the Charter to add a provision requiring that an annual report to the Board of Supervisors be prepared on climate change impacts, emergency preparedness, the adequacy and effectiveness of resiliency policies and actions, and the state of coordination on these matters among County departments, cities, and public districts.
6. Board Process for Filling Vacancies in Elected Offices: Amend Section 415 (Vacancies) of the Charter to state that in the event of a vacancy in an elected office other than the Board of Supervisors, the Board shall either make an appointment or order the calling of a special election, but not both, and in the event that the Board makes an appointment, requiring the appointment be made within 60 days of the effective date of the vacancy (currently 30 days), and requiring that the Board hold at least one publicly noticed meeting for the purpose of receiving public input regarding the appointment and qualifications of potential candidates.

Thank you and Questions

