



# 2026 CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

## AGENDA

Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

In-person Participation:

500 County Center, 1st Floor

Manzanita Hall

Redwood City, California 94063

Zoom Participation: <https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/92824420168>

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of February 3, 2026 Minutes
3. General Public Comment  
*This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee on any Committee-related topics that are not on the agenda. If your subject is not on the agenda, the Chair will recognize you at this time.*
4. Presentation of Additional Recommendations from Committee Members and Supplemental Information on Supervisor Recommendations not Previously Approved
5. Discussion
6. Motions
  - a. *Vote to approve any additional potential Charter Amendments Committee will consider*
  - b. *Vote to approve any additional ad-hoc subcommittees to focus on individual issues*
7. Informational Reports: Ad Hoc Committees
  - a) Procedures for Board Appointments to Fill Vacancies in Elected Office
  - b) Annual Review of Board Governance Practices
  - c) Independent District Lines Commission
  - d) Row Officer Consolidation / Language Access & Equity
  - e) Human Rights & Equity Commission
8. Adjourn

### ADA Requests:

*Meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation (including auxiliary aids or services) to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the agenda, meeting notice, agenda packet or other writings that may be distributed at the meeting, should contact Kim Boverio, Assistant Clerk of the Board, at least two working days*

*before the meeting at [kboverio@smcgov.org](mailto:kboverio@smcgov.org). Notification in advance of the meeting will enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting and the materials related to it.*

*\*Additional Information:*

*Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular committee meeting are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to all members, or a majority of the members of the Committee. The Board has designated the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, located at 500 County Center, 5th Floor, Redwood City, CA 94063, for the purpose of making those public records available for inspection. Documents and upcoming meetings are also available on the Committee's website at:  
<https://www.smcgov.org/ceo/2026-charter-review-committee>*



**San Mateo County Charter Review Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 5:30 p.m.**  
500 County Center, Manzanita Hall, Redwood City, CA 94063

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**DRAFT MINUTES**

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Rosanne Foust at 5:33 p.m.

1. Roll Call

**In-Person Present:**

Committee Members: Tom Adams, Liliam Perez Avila, Karen Chapman, Eddie Flores, Jacquelyn Foust, Rosanne Foust, Mark Haesloop, Jim Lawrence, Iliana Rodriguez, Kathleen Wheeler

**Virtual Present:**

Committee Members: Talavou Aumavae, Dana Johnson, Daniela Jonguitud, Julie Lind, Monica Mejia, Kimberly Woo

**Absent:**

Committee Members: Lynette Garcia, Nathan Healy, George Smith

**Staff:** Brian Pettit, Deputy County Attorney; Rocio Kiryczun, Deputy County Executive and Kim Boverio, Assistant Clerk of the Board

The Committee would like to have dinner served at 5:00-5:15pm.

Commissioner Lynette Garcia joined online at 5:35 P.M.

2. Approval of January 26, 2026 Minutes

**17 RESULT:**           **Approved**  
**MOTION:**           Iliana Rodriguez  
**SECOND:**           Daniela Jonguitud

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Tom Adams	Aye
Talavou Aumavae	Aye
Liliam Perez Avila	Aye
Karen Chapman	Aye

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Eddie Flores	Aye
Jacquelyn Foust	Aye
Rosanne Foust	Aye
Lynette Garcia	Aye
Mark Haesloop	Aye
Nathan Healy	Absent
Dana Johnson	Aye
Daniela Jonguitud	Aye
Jim Lawrence	Aye
Julie Lind	Aye
Monica Mejia	Aye
Iliana Rodriguez	Aye
George Smith	Absent
Kathleen Wheeler	Aye
Kimberly Woo	Aye

3. General Public Comment

Speakers: None

Commissioner George Smith arrived at 5:48 P.M.

Commissioner Mark Haesloop taught Business Administration Law at Notre Dame de Namur University brought a one page handout of analysis of ordinances, resolutions and proposals to help center conversation.

4. Presentation of Recommendations

- a. *Presentation of recommendations of potential Charter Amendments for Committee to consider made by individual members of the Board of Supervisors*
- b. *Presentation of recommendations of potential Charter Amendments for Committee to consider from Charter Review Committee Members. In an effort to give all ideas an opportunity to be heard, each recommendation will be limited to a 5-minute presentation.*

Speakers:

Brian Pettit, Deputy County Attorney  
 Chair Rosanne Foust

Presentation materials were provided to the Commission and are on file.

Deputy County Attorney Brian Pettit provided a presentation on Home Rule Authority, what is currently in the County Charter 2026 Charter Review Process Timeline, and Charter Amendments for Committee to consider.

a. *by individual members of the Board of Supervisors*

1. Whether Section 415 of the County Charter should be amended to further specify Board procedures in the event that the Board makes an appointment to fill a vacancy in an elected office.
2. Whether (and how) to amend the Charter to give the Board President greater stature/influence (e.g., title) when interacting with executive leaders of regional partners, e.g., mayors of Cities of San Jose and San Francisco
3. Whether the County Charter should be amended to add a new Section requiring the Board of Supervisors to annually review the Board's governance processes and practices, such as requiring the creation of a governance handbook, amending the handbook, and inclusion of a demographic report.
4. Whether any currently-elected County offices should be appointed rather than elected.
5. Whether County Charter Section 412.5 (Removal of Elected Sheriff for Cause) should be amended to delete subsection e, which currently states that Section 412.5, which vests the Board with authority to remove a Sheriff for cause, shall sunset and be of no further force and effect as of December 31, 2028.
6. Whether the County Charter should be amended to identify procedures in the event that the Board has cause to believe that an elected office has been or should be vacated because the incumbent official has become physically, mentally, or otherwise incapacitated. Any such procedures should bear in mind the confidentiality, dignity, and legal rights of the official.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions, which were addressed by Mr. Pettit.

- Could the Board of Supervisors have the authority to remove any of the County's elected officers? Yes, County Charters may include provision for Board removal of elected officers for cause. Currently, the San Mateo County Charter only includes provision for removal of elected Sheriff for cause.
- When was elections portion assigned to the Assessor-Clerk? Mr. Pettit will research and will get back to Committee.

The Charter is 16 pages long, and Chair Rosanne Foust encourages Commissioners to print it out and highlight key sections while reading to better understand its contents.

b. *Charter Review Committee Members Recommendations*

Committee Member: **Jim Lawrence**

7. Accountability & Transparency of Public Funds

Whether the County Charter should be amended to require clear accountability and transparency standards for all public funds.

8. Senior Dignity & Economic Security

Whether the County Charter should explicitly recognize “Senior Dignity and Economic Security” as a County responsibility.

Committee Member: **Kathleen Wheeler**

9. Whether to amend the Charter to include an independent District Lines Commission to be formed of county citizens after each federal census (every ten years). Such a commission would be tasked to create new supervisorial districts as specified by general state and local law. The new map would not be subject to supervisorial approval. (within the scope of the Charter)

Committee Member: **Jacquelyn Foust**

Committee Member Jacquelyn Foust would like to strike these three recommendations below or they can be included in the committees if these topics are studied-

Area of Amendment	Recommendation	Suggested Implementation Location
<b>Sheriff Removal Authority</b>	Amend to <b>delete subsection (e)</b> of Section 412.5, which currently sunsets the Board’s authority to remove the Sheriff for cause as of December 31, 2028.	Charter Section 412.5
<b>Board Vacancy Procedures</b>	<b>Standardize the process</b> by modernizing the language to provide a <b>strict 60-day window for appointments</b> and clearly define the criteria for triggering a special election. Additionally, <b>adopt a "45-day Trigger"</b> where appointment power shifts to the Governor if the Board fails to act within that timeframe, ensuring a district is never unrepresented.	Charter Section 204 and Section 415 (for general vacancy procedures)
<b>Incapacity &amp; Removal</b>	<b>Codify a "Fitness for Duty" process</b> for elected officials, requiring an independent medical evaluation triggered by a 4/5 Board vote. Implement a <b>tiered removal process</b> that establishes a "Leave of Absence" protocol for mental health issues before any "Removal for Cause" action.	New Section in County Charter

	<b>Board Governance Review</b>	Add a new section requiring the Board of Supervisors to <b>annually review its governance processes and practices</b> , including the creation and maintenance of a governance handbook and inclusion of a demographic report.	New Section in County Charter
10.	<b>Row Officer Consolidation</b>	Require a " <b>professional qualifications audit</b> " before any two unrelated offices (like Treasurer and Tax Collector) are consolidated to ensure technical expertise is maintained.	Charter Section 401
	<b>Definition of "Emergency"</b>	Define what constitutes an " <b>Emergency</b> " (e.g., natural disaster, public health crisis) and mandate a " <b>Sunset Clause</b> " requiring a weekly 4/5 re-affirmation by the Board to keep emergency executive powers active.	Charter Section 303
	<b>Language Access &amp; Equity</b>	<b>Mandate linguistic rights</b> by requiring all "essential public notices" and Charter-mandated hearings to be provided in the county's threshold languages (Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog).	New Section/Article in County Charter (Formalizing Language Access)
11.	<b>Human Rights Commission</b>	<b>Codify a Human Rights &amp; Equity Commission</b> directly into the Charter to provide "Constitutional" weight to the body overseeing DEI initiatives and equity in service delivery.	Charter Article VI/VII (New Section/Article)
	<b>Environmental Bill of Rights</b>	Integrate a " <b>Sustainability and Climate Resilience</b> " clause that mandates every major capital project undergo a " <b>Climate Impact Assessment</b> " before approval.	New Clause/Article in County Charter

Committee Member: **Liliam Perez Avila**

12. Clarifying and formally articulating the Charter Review Committee’s framework, including the overall timeline, meeting structure, approach to developing recommendations, and public outreach and engagement related to the review process.

Providing transparency around how deadlines and the number of meetings are determined, including election-related considerations, to ensure clarity for committee members and the public.

Establishing a clear framework at the outset would support transparency, consistency, and meaningful public participation throughout the Charter review process.

Committee Member: **Dana Johnson**

13. Review funding allocation to provide Dedicated Funding for Community Centers serving the most vulnerable marginalized communities (i.e. LGBTQI+ communities, underserved communities, and marginalized groups)

Establish a charter-recognized funding mechanism that allows funding and/or grants to have allocated dollars supporting Community Centers serving the LGBTQI+ community, underserved community and marginalized groups in the County of San Mateo.

#### 14. Adapt Non-Discrimination & Gender Identity Protections

Explicitly add community members that identify with having a diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression as protected classes in the County of San Mateo.

Committee Member: **Karen Chapman**

15. The only reference to the environment in San Mateo County's Charter is in the brief preamble. Add language to be determined to require the County to consider environmental impacts in its decision-making. Language could include for example building resilience for sea level rise and wildfire rise, the prevention of offshore oil and gas development and the designation of the Santa Cruz Mountains located in San Mateo County, as defined, as a landscape of county significance that requires special protection.

16. SMC Parks does not have a dedicated source of funding, unlike Santa Clara County and many others. Add language to the Charter dedicating direct funding for County Parks similar to what Santa Clara County has done in its Charter.

Parks historically struggled to address long-overdue capital project needs. At one point, a former Parks Director did a study and found a huge amount of funds were needed to address long-term deteriorating facilities in County Parks. While Parks has been very well supported by current County leadership and the Board of Supervisors, what happens when Measure K sunsets or if a "unfriendly" County Executive and Board drastically cuts the funding?

Committee Member: **George Smith**

#### 17. Veteran's Health Care

### CRC Timeline

- November 3, 2026 – election day
- Election materials must be submitted 88 days in advance of election
- August 7, 2026 – last day for Board to submit Charter Amendment
- BOS – July recess
- Ordinance – two reading required
- May 1, 2026 – CRC report deadline

Public Comment: None

5. Discussion

Commissioners discussed how to proceed with the 17 proposed Charter Amendments, motion, discussion and then vote to occur for each item.

6. Motions

*a. Vote to approve which potential Charter Amendments Committee will consider*

**Speakers:**

Chair Rosanne Foust

Brian Pettit, Deputy County Attorney

**MOTION: Tom Adams    SECOND: Mark Haesloop  
To move all six recommendations from the Board of Supervisors**

**Motion withdrawn.**

1. Whether Section 415 of the County Charter should be amended to further specify Board procedures in the event that the Board makes an appointment to fill a vacancy in an elected office.

**18 RESULT:    Approved**

**MOTION:**        George Smith

**SECOND:**        Iliana Rodríguez

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Tom Adams	Aye
Talavou Aumavae	Aye
Liliam Perez Avila	Aye
Karen Chapman	Aye
Eddie Flores	Aye
Jacquelyn Foust	Aye
Rosanne Foust	Aye
Lynette Garcia	Aye
Mark Haesloop	Aye
Nathan Healy	Absent
Dana Johnson	Aye
Daniela Jonguitud	Aye
Jim Lawrence	Aye
Julie Lind	Aye
Monica Mejia	Aye
Iliana Rodriguez	Aye
George Smith	Aye
Kathleen Wheeler	Aye

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Kimberly Woo	Aye

2. Whether (and how) to amend the Charter to give the Board President greater stature/influence (e.g., title) when interacting with executive leaders of regional partners, e.g., mayors of Cities of San Jose and San Francisco

**Motion to not move forward-**

**MOTION:** Mark Haesloop  
**SECOND:** Kathleen Wheeler

Chair confirmed that a motion was not required to not move an issue forward, and the motion-maker agreed. No motion was made to approve Issue #2.

3. Whether the County Charter should be amended to add a new Section requiring the Board of Supervisors to annually review the Board's governance processes and practices, such as requiring the creation of a governance handbook, amending the handbook, and inclusion of a demographic report.

**17 RESULT:** Approved

**MOTION:** Julie Lind  
**SECOND:** Eddie Flores

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Tom Adams	Aye
Talavou Aumavae	Aye
Liliam Perez Avila	Aye
Karen Chapman	Aye
Eddie Flores	Aye
Jacquelyn Foust	Aye
Rosanne Foust	Aye
Lynette Garcia	Aye
Mark Haesloop	Noe
Nathan Healy	Absent
Dana Johnson	Aye
Daniela Jonguitud	Aye
Jim Lawrence	Aye
Julie Lind	Aye
Monica Mejia	Aye
Iliana Rodriguez	Aye
George Smith	Aye
Kathleen Wheeler	Aye
Kimberly Woo	Aye

Total: Aye (17), Noe (1), Absent (1)

4. Whether any currently-elected County offices should be appointed rather than elected.

**RESULT:**           **Failed**

**MOTION:**           Tom Adams  
**SECOND:**           Rosanne Foust

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Tom Adams	Aye
Talavou Aumavae	Aye
Liliam Perez Avila	Noe
Karen Chapman	Noe
Eddie Flores	Noe
Jacquelyn Foust	Noe
Rosanne Foust	Noe
Lynette Garcia	Aye
Mark Haesloop	Noe
Nathan Healy	Absent
Dana Johnson	Noe
Daniela Jonguitud	Noe
Jim Lawrence	Noe
Julie Lind	Noe
Monica Mejia	Noe
Iliana Rodriguez	Noe
George Smith	Noe
Kathleen Wheeler	Noe
Kimberly Woo	Noe

Total: Aye (3), Noe (15), Absent (1)

5. Whether County Charter Section 412.5 (Removal of Elected Sheriff for Cause) should be amended to delete subsection e, which currently states that Section 412.5, which vests the Board with authority to remove a Sheriff for cause, shall sunset and be of no further force and effect as of December 31, 2028.

**RESULT:**           **Failed**

**MOTION:**           Mark Haesloop  
**SECOND:**           Jim Lawrence

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Tom Adams	Aye
Talavou Aumavae	Aye

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Liliam Perez Avila	Noe
Karen Chapman	Noe
Eddie Flores	Noe
Jacquelyn Foust	Aye
Rosanne Foust	Noe
Lynette Garcia	Aye
Mark Haesloop	Aye
Nathan Healy	Absent
Dana Johnson	Noe
Daniela Jonguitud	Noe
Jim Lawrence	Noe
Julie Lind	Noe
Monica Mejia	Noe
Iliana Rodriguez	Noe
George Smith	Noe
Kathleen Wheeler	Noe
Kimberly Woo	Aye

Total: Aye (6), Noe (12), Absent (1)

6. Whether the County Charter should be amended to identify procedures in the event that the Board has cause to believe that an elected office has been or should be vacated because the incumbent official has become physically, mentally, or otherwise incapacitated. Any such procedures should bear in mind the confidentiality, dignity, and legal rights of the official.

**RESULT:**           **Failed**

**MOTION:**           Iliana Rodriguez  
**SECOND:**           Rosanne Foust

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Tom Adams	Noe
Talavou Aumavae	Noe
Liliam Perez Avila	Noe
Karen Chapman	Noe
Eddie Flores	Noe
Jacquelyn Foust	Noe
Rosanne Foust	Noe
Lynette Garcia	Noe
Mark Haesloop	Noe
Nathan Healy	Absent
Dana Johnson	Noe
Daniela Jonguitud	Noe

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Jim Lawrence	Noe
Julie Lind	Noe
Monica Mejia	Noe
Iliana Rodriguez	Aye
George Smith	Noe
Kathleen Wheeler	Noe
Kimberly Woo	Noe

Total: Aye (1), Noe (17), Absent (1)

#### 7. Accountability & Transparency of Public Funds

Whether the County Charter should be amended to require clear accountability and transparency standards for all public funds.

**RESULT:**            **Failed**

**MOTION:**            Jim Lawrence  
**SECOND:**            Rosanne Foust

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Tom Adams	Noe
Talavou Aumavae	Noe
Liliam Perez Avila	Noe
Karen Chapman	Noe
Eddie Flores	Noe
Jacquelyn Foust	Noe
Rosanne Foust	Noe
Lynette Garcia	Noe
Mark Haesloop	Noe
Nathan Healy	Absent
Dana Johnson	Noe
Daniela Jonguitud	Noe
Jim Lawrence	Aye
Julie Lind	Noe
Monica Mejia	Noe
Iliana Rodriguez	Noe
George Smith	Noe
Kathleen Wheeler	Noe
Kimberly Woo	Noe

Total: Aye (1), Noe (17), Absent (1)

#### 8. Senior Dignity & Economic Security

Whether the County Charter should explicitly recognize “Senior Dignity and Economic Security” as a County responsibility.

**RESULT: Failed**

**MOTION:** Jim Lawrence  
**SECOND:** Rosanne Foust

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Tom Adams	Noe
Talavou Aumavae	Noe
Liliam Perez Avila	Noe
Karen Chapman	Noe
Eddie Flores	Noe
Jacquelyn Foust	Noe
Rosanne Foust	Noe
Lynette Garcia	Abstain
Mark Haesloop	Noe
Nathan Healy	Absent
Dana Johnson	Noe
Daniela Jonguitud	Noe
Jim Lawrence	Aye
Julie Lind	Noe
Monica Mejia	Noe
Iliana Rodriguez	Noe
George Smith	Aye
Kathleen Wheeler	Noe
Kimberly Woo	Noe

Total: Aye (2), Noe (15), Absent (1), Abstain (1)

9. Whether to amend the Charter to include an independent District Lines Commission to be formed of county citizens after each federal census (every ten years). Such a commission would be tasked to create new supervisorial districts as specified by general state and local law. The new map would not be subject to supervisorial approval. (within the scope of the Charter)

**14 RESULT: Approved**

**MOTION:** Mark Haesloop  
**SECOND:** George Smith

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Tom Adams	Aye
Talavou Aumavae	Aye
Liliam Perez Avila	Aye
Karen Chapman	Aye
Eddie Flores	Noe
Jacquelyn Foust	Aye

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Rosanne Foust	Aye
Lynette Garcia	Aye
Mark Haesloop	Aye
Nathan Healy	Absent
Dana Johnson	Aye
Daniela Jonguitud	Noe
Jim Lawrence	Aye
Julie Lind	Noe
Monica Mejia	Noe
Iliana Rodriguez	Aye
George Smith	Aye
Kathleen Wheeler	Aye
Kimberly Woo	Aye

Total: Aye (14), Noe (4), Absent (1)

10. **Row Office Consolidation-** Require a "professional qualifications audit" before any two unrelated offices (like Treasurer and Tax Collector) are consolidated to ensure technical expertise is maintained. **Language Access & Equity-** Mandate linguistic rights by requiring all "essential public notices" and Charter-mandated hearings to be provided in the county's threshold languages (Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog).

**17 RESULT:    Approved**

**MOTION:**       Jacquelyn Foust  
**SECOND:**       Rosanne Foust

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Tom Adams	Aye
Talavou Aumavae	Aye
Liliam Perez Avila	Aye
Karen Chapman	Aye
Eddie Flores	Aye
Jacquelyn Foust	Aye
Rosanne Foust	Aye
Lynette Garcia	Abstain
Mark Haesloop	Aye
Nathan Healy	Absent
Dana Johnson	Aye
Daniela Jonguitud	Aye
Jim Lawrence	Aye
Julie Lind	Aye
Monica Mejia	Aye

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Iliana Rodriguez	Aye
George Smith	Aye
Kathleen Wheeler	Aye
Kimberly Woo	Aye

Total: Aye (17), Noe (0), Absent (1), (1)

11. **Human Rights Commission-** Codify a Human Rights & Equity Commission directly into the Charter to provide "Constitutional" weight to the body overseeing DEI initiatives and equity in service delivery.

**17 RESULT: Approved**

**MOTION:** Jacquelyn Foust  
**SECOND:** Monica Mejia

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Tom Adams	Aye
Talavou Aumavae	Aye
Liliam Perez Avila	Aye
Karen Chapman	Aye
Eddie Flores	Aye
Jacquelyn Foust	Aye
Rosanne Foust	Aye
Lynette Garcia	Aye
Mark Haesloop	Aye
Nathan Healy	Absent
Dana Johnson	Aye
Daniela Jonguitud	Noe
Jim Lawrence	Aye
Julie Lind	Aye
Monica Mejia	Aye
Iliana Rodriguez	Aye
George Smith	Aye
Kathleen Wheeler	Aye
Kimberly Woo	Aye

Total: Aye (17), Noe (1), Absent (1)

12. Clarifying and formally articulating the Charter Review Committee's framework, including the overall timeline, meeting structure, approach to developing recommendations, and public outreach and engagement related to the review process.

Providing transparency around how deadlines and the number of meetings are determined, including election-related considerations, to ensure clarity for committee members and the public.

Establishing a clear framework at the outset would support transparency, consistency, and meaningful public participation throughout the Charter review process.

**RESULT:**            **Failed**

**MOTION:**            Liliam Perez Avila

**SECOND:**            Rosanne Foust

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Tom Adams	Noe
Talavou Aumavae	Noe
Liliam Perez Avila	Aye
Karen Chapman	Aye
Eddie Flores	Noe
Jacquelyn Foust	Aye
Rosanne Foust	Noe
Lynette Garcia	Aye
Mark Haesloop	Noe
Nathan Healy	Absent
Dana Johnson	Noe
Daniela Jonguitud	Aye
Jim Lawrence	Noe
Julie Lind	Noe
Monica Mejia	Noe
Iliana Rodriguez	Noe
George Smith	Noe
Kathleen Wheeler	Noe
Kimberly Woo	Noe

Total: Aye (5), Noe (13), Absent (1)

13. Review funding allocation to provide Dedicated Funding for Community Centers serving the most vulnerable marginalized communities (i.e. LGBTQI+ communities, underserved communities, and marginalized groups). Establish a charter-recognized funding mechanism that allows funding and/or grants to have allocated dollars supporting Community Centers serving the LGBTQI+ community, underserved community and marginalized groups in the County of San Mateo.

**RESULT:**            **Failed**

**MOTION:**            Dana Johnson

**SECOND:**            Rosanne Foust

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Tom Adams	Noe
Talavou Aumavae	Aye
Liliam Perez Avila	Noe
Karen Chapman	Aye
Eddie Flores	Noe
Jacquelyn Foust	Noe
Rosanne Foust	Noe
Lynette Garcia	Aye
Mark Haesloop	Noe
Nathan Healy	Absent
Dana Johnson	Aye
Daniela Jonguitud	Noe
Jim Lawrence	Noe
Julie Lind	Noe
Monica Mejia	Aye
Iliana Rodriguez	Noe
George Smith	Noe
Kathleen Wheeler	Noe
Kimberly Woo	Aye
Total: Aye (6), Noe (12), Absent (1)	

14. Adapt Non-Discrimination & Gender Identity Protections

Explicitly add community members that identify with having a diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression as protected classes in the County of San Mateo.

**RESULT:**           **Failed**

**MOTION:**           Dana Johnson

**SECOND:**           Jacquelyn Foust

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Tom Adams	Aye
Talavou Aumavae	Aye
Liliam Perez Avila	Noe
Karen Chapman	Aye
Eddie Flores	Noe
Jacquelyn Foust	Aye
Rosanne Foust	Aye
Lynette Garcia	Aye
Mark Haesloop	Noe

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Nathan Healy	Absent
Dana Johnson	Aye
Daniela Jonguitud	Noe
Jim Lawrence	Noe
Julie Lind	Noe
Monica Mejia	Aye
Iliana Rodriguez	Noe
George Smith	Noe
Kathleen Wheeler	Noe
Kimberly Woo	Aye
Total: Aye (9), Noe (9), Absent (1)	

**Chair confirmed by consent items #15-17 will be take up for discussion at the next meeting.**

15. The only reference to the environment in San Mateo County’s Charter is in the brief preamble. Add language to be determined to require the County to consider environmental impacts in its decision-making. Language could include for example building resilience for sea level rise and wildfire rise, the prevention of offshore oil and gas development and the designation of the Santa Cruz Mountains located in San Mateo County, as defined, as a landscape of county significance that requires special protection.

16. SMC Parks does not have a dedicated source of funding, unlike Santa Clara County and many others. Add language to the Charter dedicating direct funding for County Parks similar to what Santa Clara County has done in its Charter.

17. Veteran’s Health Care

*b. Vote to approve ad-hoc subcommittees to focus on individual issues*

**Speakers:**

Chair Rosanne Foust

**Subcommittees:**

(1.) Whether Section 415 of the County Charter should be amended to further specify Board procedures in the event that the Board makes an appointment to fill a vacancy in an elected office.

**Chair:** Iliana Rodriguez

**Members:** Liliam Perez Avila, Julie Lind

(3.) Whether the County Charter should be amended to add a new Section requiring the Board of Supervisors to annually review the **Board's governance processes and practices**, such as requiring the creation of a governance handbook, amending the handbook, and inclusion of a demographic report.

**Chair:** Eddie Flores

**Members:** Talavou Aumavae, Lynette Garcia, Mark Haesloop, Daniela Jonguitud,

(9.) Whether to amend the Charter to include an **independent District Lines Commission** to be formed of county citizens after each federal census (every ten years). Such a commission would be tasked to create new supervisorial districts as specified by general state and local law. The new map would not be subject to supervisorial approval. (within the scope of the Charter)

**Chair:** Kathleen Wheeler

**Members:** Karen Chapman, Mark Haesloop, Jim Lawrence, Nathan Healy

(10.) **Row Office Consolidation-** Require a "professional qualifications audit" before any two unrelated offices (like Treasurer and Tax Collector) are consolidated to ensure technical expertise is maintained. **Language Access & Equity-** Mandate linguistic rights by requiring all "essential public notices" and Charter-mandated hearings to be provided in the county's threshold languages (Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog).

**Chair:** Jacquelyn Foust

**Members:** Tom Adams, George Smith

(11.) **Human Rights Commission-** Codify a Human Rights & Equity Commission directly into the Charter to provide "Constitutional" weight to the body overseeing DEI initiatives and equity in service delivery.

**Chair:** Monica Mejia

**Members:** Dana Johnson, Kimberly Woo

If any additional items to consider, please submit them ahead of the next meeting on Feb 17<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

2026 Charter Review Committee  
Summary of Subcommittees Formed on 2/3/2026

#	Subcommittee	Description	Subcommittee Chair	Subcommittee Members
1.	Procedures for Board Appointments to Fill Vacancies in Elected Office	Whether Section 415 of the County Charter should be amended to further specify Board procedures in the event that the Board makes an appointment to fill a vacancy in an elected office.	Iliana Rodriguez	Lilliam Perez-Avila Julie Lind
2.	Annual Review of Board Governance Practices	Whether the County Charter should be amended to add a new Section requiring the Board of Supervisors to annually review the Board's governance processes and practices, such as requiring the creation of a governance handbook, amending the handbook, and inclusion of a demographic report.	Eddie Flores	Daniela Jongitud Lynette Garcia Talavou Aumavae Mark Haesloop
3.	Independent District Lines Commission	Whether to amend the Charter to include an independent District Lines Commission to be formed of county citizens after each federal census (every ten years). Such a commission would be tasked to create new supervisorial districts as specified by general state and local law. The new map would not be subject to supervisorial approval.	Kathleen Wheeler	Mark Haesloop Karen Chapman Nathan Healy
4.	Row Officer Consolidation / Language Access & Equity	Whether to require a "professional qualifications audit" before any two unrelated offices (like Treasurer and Tax Collector) are consolidated; and Whether to mandate linguistic rights by requiring all "essential public notices" and Charter-mandated hearings to be provided in the county's threshold languages (Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog).	Jacquelyn Foust	Tom Adams George Smith

#	Subcommittee	Description	Subcommittee Chair	Subcommittee Members
5.	Human Rights & Equity Commission	Whether to codify a Human Rights & Equity Commission directly into the Charter to provide "Constitutional" weight to the body overseeing DEI initiatives and equity in service delivery. (Chair: Monica Mejia)	Monica Mejia	Dana Johnson Kimberly Woo

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**2026 Charter Review Committee**  
**Recommendations from Committee Members**  
*(as of Friday, February 13, 2026)*

Committee Member: **Karen Chapman**

**1. Prioritizing Addressing Environmental Threats**

The only reference to the environment in San Mateo County’s Charter is in the brief preamble.

**Recommendation for Subcommittee Study: add language in the Charter (to be determined by Subcommittee) underscoring a County priority should be to formulate policies and programs providing additional long-term resilience against the growing threats from fire, flood, wind, drought and sea level rise. As much as possible these policies and programs should be developed collaboratively with the cities, districts, and other public entities in the County.**

**2. Dedicated Funding for County Parks**

San Mateo County Parks does not have a dedicated source of funding, unlike Santa Clara County and other counties. It has historically struggled to address long-overdue capital project needs. At one point, a former Parks Director did a study and found a huge amount of funds were needed to address long-term deteriorating facilities in County Parks due to lack of funding. While Parks has been very well supported by current County leadership and the Board of Supervisors, what happens when Measure K sunsets or if a “unfriendly” County Executive and Board drastically reduces funding?

San Mateo County Parks are our collective treasures. Every group represented on the Charter Review Committee benefits from parks. Parks enhance our economy and attract citizens and businesses to the County helping to provide jobs and promote community. The Parks Department conducts preventative work in anticipation of wildfire, flooding and other natural disasters as learned with the recent CZU fire. Health professionals encourage us to spend time in parks. Educators use our parks to teach about our natural environment, science, the arts as well as the history of our land and other key subjects. Our parks provide joy and fun including sports and recreation to communities all over the County including access to green open spaces for all citizens.

**Recommendation for Subcommittee Study: add language (to be determined by Subcommittee) in the Charter dedicating direct funding for County Parks similar to what Santa Clara County has done in its Charter in Section 603, page 20 of the Charter of the County of Santa Clara.**

Committee Member: **George Smith**

The County of San Mateo has a long and proud tradition of service in the Armed Forces during times of both peace and war. Veterans comprise an essential part of our community, distinguished by their sacrifices and the meaningful contributions they continue to make after returning from service. Their qualities strengthen local workplaces, civic institutions, and volunteer organizations.

**Veteran services are important in San Mateo County because:**

**They turn earned benefits into real-world stability**

Many veterans are eligible for VA health care, disability compensation, pensions, education benefits, home loans, and survivor benefits, but those systems are complex and intimidating. County Veteran services help veterans and families:

- Navigate VA and CalVet systems
- File accurate claims the first time
- Avoid delays, denials, and years of appeals

Unassessed benefits often mean untreated health conditions, financial stress, and isolation, key risk factors for crisis.

**They play a direct role in suicide prevention**

Veteran suicide is rarely caused by a single issue. It's often the result of compounding stressors: untreated mental health conditions, chronic pain, financial instability, housing insecurity, social isolation, and difficulty navigating systems. County veteran services reduce those risks by:

- Connecting veterans to VA mental health care and community-based providers
- Helping secure disability income that reduces financial pressure
- Serving as a trusted, human point of contact, often the first place a veteran opens up
- Identifying warning signs and linking veterans to crisis resources, including the Veterans Crisis Line

For some veterans, a conversation with a County Veteran Services Officer is the first time they feel heard since leaving the military.

**They support families who are often the first to notice trouble**

Spouses, partners, and caregivers are frequently the first to see signs of distress, but don't always know where to turn. County veteran services help families:

- Understand VA mental health and caregiver resources
- Access survivor and dependency benefits
- Navigate care during mental health crises
- Get guidance after a suicide attempt or loss

This family-centered approach strengthens the veteran's support network and reduces isolation.

### **They prevent homelessness and crisis escalation**

In a high-cost county like San Mateo, financial instability can quickly spiral into crisis.

Veteran services help prevent that escalation by:

- Securing income through VA compensation and pensions
- Supporting housing stability and coordination with housing programs
- Connecting veterans to emergency and supportive services before problems become catastrophic

Stable housing and income are among the strongest protective factors against suicide.

### **They provide local, trusted advocacy, not just referrals**

Veterans are more likely to seek help when it comes from someone who understands military culture and speaks plainly. County veteran services offer:

- In-person, local assistance
- Long-term relationships, not one-time transactions
- Advocacy that follows veterans through difficult periods

That trust is essential when dealing with stigma around mental health or asking for help.

### **They honor service with dignity and follow-through**

Veteran services are how the County ensures that service is met with action, not just appreciation. They demonstrate that:

- Veterans are not alone after service
- Their family's matter
- Their lives matter

### **They support all veterans**

County Veterans Services Offices offer a trusted, local space where LGBTQ veterans can seek help without fear of judgment. Trained staff can provide respectful, confidential assistance and ensure veterans are treated with dignity regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or family structure. Connecting LGBTQ+ veterans to inclusive health care Veterans services help LGBTQ+ veterans enroll in and navigate health care through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and community providers, including:

- Mental health care that addresses trauma, depression, and anxiety
- Gender-affirming care available through the VA
- Support for veterans affected by current and past policies such as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”

Veteran services help LGBTQ+ veterans navigate systems that may not always feel welcoming. By understanding military culture and LGBTQ+ specific challenges, they help ensure veterans are not excluded from benefits they earned through service.

### **Why this matters in San Mateo County**

San Mateo County's high cost of living, diverse population, and aging veteran community mean stressors can compound quickly. Veteran services ensure:

- Early intervention before crisis
- Culturally competent, local support
- A safety net that includes both benefits and human connection

Veterans are the only population whose needs arise directly from federal service on behalf of the public. Issues such as administrative support, service-connected disabilities, mental health conditions (including PTSD), housing instability, and transition challenges are not incidental—they are foreseeable outcomes of service. **Recognizing veterans in the San Mateo County Charter acknowledges a public obligation, not a special interest.**

**Committee Member: Daniela Jonguitud**

414. Boards and Commissions.

County boards and commissions are those required by general law and those established by ordinance.

Members of boards and commissions shall be County residents. If a member ceases to reside in the County, the seat becomes vacant. However, the Board of Supervisors may provide that less than a quorum of any advisory committee may be composed of members who are not County residents.

The Board of Supervisors, by ordinance, shall establish terms of office and may provide for the qualifications of members of boards and commissions and for their compensation. Qualifications for members of the Civil Service Commission are prescribed in Article V.

- San Mateo County currently holds 44 boards and commissions according to public information  
<https://sanmateocounty.granicus.com/boards/w/1adda2d08e9b063b/boards/17266>.

The charter will benefit from providing more robust guidance to the BOS when it comes to the duties and responsibilities of such bodies and ensuring that such members are following the objective and mission accordingly.

During our previous meeting, several issues were brought to this table that shall be addressed by those bodies. Ensuring accountability and providing more guidance into what each body shall pursue could help those bodies to function in a more efficient way to serve the community needs.

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Ensuring that commissions in charge to bring proposals to the BOS, are actually tackling community concerns and presenting proposals in a given timeframe according to those needs.