



San Mateo County Charter Review Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
500 County Center, Manzanita Hall, Redwood City, CA 94063

FINAL MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rosanne Foust at 5:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

In-Person Present:

Committee Members: Tom Adams, Liliam Perez Avila, Karen Chapman, Rosanne Foust, Mark Haesloop, Nathan Healy, Julie Lind, George Smith

Virtual Present:

Committee Members: Talavou Aumavae, Eddie Flores, Monica Mejia, Kathleen Wheeler, Kimberly Woo

Absent:

Committee Members: Jacquelyn Foust, Lynette Garcia, Iliana Rodriguez, Dana Johnson, Daniela Jonguitud

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

Commissioner Jim Lawrence has resigned. The Charter Review Committee now has 18 seated members. 10 affirmative votes are still required to recommend approval of Charter amendments to the Board of Supervisors.. All other votes require an affirmative vote from the majority of those member's present to pass.

Commissioners joined online at 5:33 P.M.: Jacquelyn Foust, Dana Johnson & Daniela Jonguitud

2. Approval of February 3, 2026 Minutes

15 RESULT:	Approved
MOTION:	Julie Lind
SECOND:	George Smith

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

Total: Aye (15), No (0), Abstain (1), Absent (2)

3. General Public Comment

Speakers: None

4. Presentation of Additional Recommendations from Committee Members and Supplemental Information on Supervisor Recommendations not Previously Approved

Speakers:

Brian Pettit, Deputy County Attorney
 Chair Rosanne Foust
 Rocio Kiryczun, Deputy County Executive

Question from last meeting: When was the title of Chief Elections Officer added to the public office of the County Assessor-Clerk-Recorder? The Clerk by statute is responsible for administering elections in the County and that function that has always been a part of the office of the County Clerk. In 1993, the office of the Clerk-Recorder was consolidated by vote of the electorate with the office of the Assessor, which was an amendment to the County Charter, and how we ended up with one elected position which includes the Chief Elections Officer being a part of this single County office of Assessor-Clerk-Recorder.

Additional information on Supervisor Mueller's recommendation: *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.* Mr. Pettit shared that he was

previously asked to research how other counties refer to presiding officers in their county charters. He reported at the last meeting that county charters refer to presiding officers as Chair and/or President. However he had received additional information showing that LA County has an ordinance which provides that the Board Chair is also called “Mayor” in that county. There is opportunity for the Committee to revisit any of the previous Supervisor recommendations that were not previously moved forward to subcommittee for further consideration.

Commissioner Dana Johnson left meeting at 6:10 P.M.

Additional Recommendations:

Committee Member: Karen Chapman

15. 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.

16. 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

17. Veteran's Health Care

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 LGBTQI+ veterans to inclusive health care Veterans services help LGBTQI+ 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 LGBTQI+ veterans navigate systems that may not always feel welcoming. By understanding military culture and LGBTQI+ 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 Jongitud

18. 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.

Ex.

Ensuring that commissions charged with bringing proposals to the BOS are actually tackling community concerns and presenting proposals in a given timeframe according to those needs.

Public Comment: None

5. Discussion

Commissioners discussed how to proceed with the four potential Charter Amendments identified by Supervisors. Several Committee members asked clarifying questions regarding the potential Charter Amendment identified by Supervisor Mueller. The committee decided not to revisit any of the potential Amendments identified by Supervisors, all of which were discussed at the last meeting.

6. Motions

- a. *Vote to approve any additional potential Charter Amendments Committee will consider*

Speakers:

- Chair Rosanne Foust
- Brian Pettit, Deputy County Attorney
- Commissioner Tom Adams
- Commissioner Eddie Flores
- Commissioner Mark Haesloop
- Commissioner Karen Chapman
- Commissioner Julie Lind
- Commissioner Liliam Perez Avila
- Commissioner Daniela Jongitud
- Commissioner Monica Mejia
- Commissioner Kimberly Woo

15. 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.

RESULT: **Failed**

MOTION: **Tom Adams**
SECOND: **Karen Chapman**

Member	Vote
Tom Adams	Aye
Talavou Aumavae	No
Liliam Perez Avila	No
Karen Chapman	Aye
Eddie Flores	No
Jacquelyn Foust	No
Rosanne Foust	Aye
Lynette Garcia	Absent

Member	Vote
Mark Haesloop	Aye
Nathan Healy	Aye
Dana Johnson	Absent
Daniela Jonguitud	No
Julie Lind	No
Monica Mejia	No
Iliana Rodriguez	Absent
George Smith	Aye
Kathleen Wheeler	No
Kimberly Woo	Aye

Total: Aye (7), No (8), Absent (3)

16. 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.

RESULT: **Failed**

MOTION: **Karen Chapman**

SECOND: **Tom Adams**

Member	Vote
Tom Adams	Aye
Talavou Aumavae	Aye
Liliam Perez Avila	No
Karen Chapman	Aye
Eddie Flores	No
Jacquelyn Foust	Aye
Rosanne Foust	No
Lynette Garcia	Absent
Mark Haesloop	Aye
Nathan Healy	No
Dana Johnson	Absent
Daniela Jonguitud	No
Julie Lind	No
Monica Mejia	No
Iliana Rodriguez	Absent
George Smith	Aye
Kathleen Wheeler	No
Kimberly Woo	No

Total: Aye (6), No (9), Absent (3)

17. Veteran's Health Care

MOTION: To fold into existing subcommittee.
RESULT: Approved

MOTION: George Smith
SECOND: Julie Lind

Member	Vote
Tom Adams	Aye
Talavou Aumavae	Aye
Liliam Perez Avila	Aye
Karen Chapman	Aye
Eddie Flores	Aye
Jacquelyn Foust	Aye
Rosanne Foust	Aye
Lynette Garcia	Absent
Mark Haesloop	Aye
Nathan Healy	Aye
Dana Johnson	Absent
Daniela Jonguitud	Aye
Julie Lind	Aye
Monica Mejia	Aye
Iliana Rodriguez	Absent
George Smith	Aye
Kathleen Wheeler	Aye
Kimberly Woo	Aye
Total: Aye (15), Noe (0), Absent (3)	

18. Augment Boards and Commissions

Rocio offered to work with Daniela to possibly revise County's Boards and Commissions Handbook.

RESULT: Failed

MOTION: George Smith
SECOND: Rosanne Foust

Member	Vote
Tom Adams	Aye
Talavou Aumavae	Aye
Liliam Perez Avila	No

Member	Vote
Karen Chapman	Aye
Eddie Flores	No
Jacquelyn Foust	No
Rosanne Foust	No
Lynette Garcia	Absent
Mark Haesloop	No
Nathan Healy	No
Dana Johnson	Absent
Daniela Jonguitud	Aye
Julie Lind	No
Monica Mejia	No
Iliana Rodriguez	Absent
George Smith	Aye
Kathleen Wheeler	No
Kimberly Woo	Aye
Total: Aye (6), Noe (9), Absent (3)	

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

Updated Subcommittee List, Check in with absent members if they would like to join groups 1-4 (group 5 is full).

2026 Charter Review Committee
Summary of Subcommittees - update 2/18/2026

Chair: Rosanne Foust

#	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 Kimberly Woo

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#	Subcommittee	Description	Subcommittee Chair	Subcommittee Members
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
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 George Smith Jacquelyn Foust Daniela Jongitud

7. Informational Reports: Ad Hoc Committees

Reminder: Any legal questions or meetings, please have Chair reach out to staff. Any additional research is the responsibility of subcommittee.

a) Procedures for Board Appointments to Fill Vacancies in Elected Office
Commissioner Julie Lind: Committee met last week, discuss fourteen other counties for reference. Working with legal team on some questions to expand on current procedures.

b) Annual Review of Board Governance Practices

Commissioner Eddie Flores: Started communication via email with staff committee to get meetings setup. Reviewing already passed Resolution on Board decorum and leadership transitions. Looking through samples of other counties board guidance to review.

c) Independent District Lines Commission

Commissioner Kathleen Wheeler: Collating the internet searches for examples of what other counties are doing and specificity on re-districting committees for advisory and independent. Committee to meet and discuss next steps.

d) Row Officer Consolidation / Language Access & Equity

Commissioner Jacquelyn Foust: Reviewed documents and working on scheduling committee meeting.

e) Human Rights & Equity Commission (take in other groups i.,e, Seniors, Veterans, LGTBQI+)

Commissioner Monica Mejia: Collected information and started research and will get committee meeting scheduled. Working on questions for legal team.

Public Comment: None

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.