

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 10**

**SUBJECT: CONTINUED ITEM FROM 05/10/2022 (09):  
PROMOTING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH BOARDS, COMMITTEES,  
AND COMMISSIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On May 10, 2022 (09), the Board of Supervisors continued the item to May 24, 2022.

The County of San Diego has over 100 boards, committees, commissions, and task forces that serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors and County staff. Some of these boards, committees, and commissions (BCCs) make decisions on behalf of the Board and others serve as a bridge to the community. Examples include the Assessment Appeals Boards, Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board, Community Planning Groups, Parks Advisory Committee, and Social Services Advisory Board.

These Boards and Commissions serve a vital role, and the purpose of today's action is to strengthen their ability to serve our community.

This action builds on the County's current efforts to assess BCCs for diversity of appointees and update the application process to be more accessible. The recommendations herein call for an assessment of diversity, language accessibility, and the availability of sufficient staff support required for their success. Furthermore, this action advances a concerted effort to improve civic engagement through participation on the County's BCCs. The effort will include actions to improve outreach and accessibility of the application and onboarding process to lower barriers to entry, as well as the creation of a standard training and onboarding process.

On January 12, 2021 (9), the Board of Supervisors (BOS) supported actions to ensure transparency and open government in San Diego County. Under the County's Framework for the Future, the foundation for County operations must be transparent, participatory, and collaborative. The County's BCCs are a prime example of where we can improve in all three principles. I urge your support for this proposal.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**SUPERVISOR TERRA LAWSON-REMER**

1. Approve amendments to Board Policy A-74, "Citizen Participation in County Boards, Commissions and Committees," to codify the recommendations in this Board Letter. In general, the revisions reflect the following: a clarification on nomination authority, orientation for new appointees, and an enhanced Sunset Review assessment.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop a baseline assessment of the diversity of appointees, language accessibility, transparency efforts, and staff time. The assessment shall include recommendations as necessary to address gaps, shortcomings, and room for improvement in alignment with the County's new strategic plan. This baseline will be used to inform subsequent Sunset Review assessments.

3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work with staff to develop a Code of Conduct for all appointees that promotes civil discourse including, but not limited to the Board's previously adopted Rules of Procedure and conduct described in the "Code of Civil Discourse" from the National Conflict Resolution Center. Staff shall return back to the Board of Supervisors for approval within 120 days and the approved Code of Conduct shall be included in the Orientation in A-74 Section E.5.
4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work with departments to develop an outreach strategy to encourage civic participation and transparency with a particular focus on youth and underrepresented populations.
5. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to implement all recommendations and return back to the Board of Supervisors with the baseline assessment, outreach strategy and report within nine months.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

BCCs are a mechanism for civic engagement. Racial and socioeconomic disparities exist across the nation in voter participation and public engagement. Trends show that white people, older adults, and people with higher incomes and education levels vote at higher rates and are more likely to be reflected in elected officials. The disparity continues when we consider that the residents who need policies to support them are less likely to receive support through representation. A 2019 review by the RAND Corporation found that civic engagement, through voting or other activities such as membership in civic organizations is associated with better health outcomes. Civic participation is a key issue in the social and community context domain of Healthy People 2030, an initiative to improve health and well-being through data-driven national objectives. The proposed action will reduce process barriers, evaluate the diversity of representation, and invest in the outreach necessary to encourage civic participation among underrepresented groups.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's recommended actions though they may result in future fiscal impacts. Staff will return to the Board for consideration and approval of any such impacts.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Vargas, seconded by Supervisor Fletcher, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

ABSENT: Anderson

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
**by** Andrew Potter

MAY 24, 2022