DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board 2027 Elections

October 22, 2026

TO: The Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board and Homeless Coalition Members

FROM: Jynessa Lazzaroni, Community Development Program Specialist,
Jynessa.Lazzaroni@Sonomacounty.gov

RE: Elections to the Homeless Coalition Board

Overview

This memo describes the process for choosing elected representatives for the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board at the December 7th, 2026, virtual Special Homeless Coalition Membership meeting and includes a description of the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition, a list of seats up for election, a Nomination Form, and a Statement of Interest form.

The Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Governance Charter describes the makeup of the Homeless Coalition Board, who is eligible to vote, and who may be nominated to serve on the Homeless Coalition Board. This memo describes the Elections process for 2027, please read it carefully.

The Homeless Coalition Board is the decision-making body of the Sonoma County Continuum of Care. Its meetings are open to the public and anyone may speak, but the governance charter establishes voting seats. The 17-member Board currently has one (1) seat up for election by the Homeless Coalition Membership and one (1) seat up for election by the LEAP Board.

Recently the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board approved a change to the Governance Charter.

1. Replacing Homeless Advocate Seat with One representative from the Human Services Department. This seat will be Appointed by the Director of the Human Services Department.

Sonoma County Homeless Coalition

Mission

The Sonoma County Homeless Coalition addresses the problems of housing and homelessness by having a countywide, community-informed, and person-centered Homeless Coalition system that is compassionate, inclusive, financially responsible, equitable, coordinated, and outcomes based.

Vision

Our vision for the Homeless Coalition in Sonoma County is that:

- We have a unified, coordinated, equitable, and integrated system with a clear vision across the community to reduce homelessness.

- The people of our county, via our Homeless Coalition, have a system of care in that ensures that all persons experiencing homelessness have a safe, supportive, and permanent place to call home.
- The people of our county are collectively building a future in which there are sufficient resources, political leadership, and community involvement to end homelessness as a permanent fixture in our social landscape.
- Our system ensures quick access to permanent housing, stable and increased income for participants, strength-based consumer relationships, effective and financially responsible services and programing, coordination and collaboration with mainstream partners, policy and resource advocacy, and comprehensive community education.
- Our system provides for programming and services in all regions of Sonoma County.
- Supports policies that address the disparity we have experienced in Sonoma County, between community members' financial resources and housing costs.
- Our commitment to equity and inclusion at the Homeless Coalition strives to engage all community members, regardless of background, throughout Sonoma County, especially those whose voices have been traditionally marginalized.

The Homeless Coalition is committed to upstream investments before problems occur, to reduce overall societal costs, including:

- Diverting those at imminent risk of homelessness from entering shelters;
- Engaging and empowering people who are experiencing homelessness, to reclaim their dignity and to regain housing stability;
- Avoiding high criminal justice and hospital costs, and negative health outcomes, with appropriate housing, income, and access to health services.
- Aligning public and private efforts to address the problems we share.

Nominations

Nominations are hereby invited for one (1) seat to be chosen by eligible Homeless Coalition voters at the Special Homeless Coalition meeting on **December 7, 2026, from 1:00pm – 2:30pm** and one (1) seat to be chosen by the LEAP Board (**Meeting date TBD**). Due to the large number of participants, these meetings shall take place virtually via Zoom. If you are an individual being nominated, please reserve this time on your calendar to ensure you are able to attend the meeting for elections.

Meeting login information can be found on our website by using the following link:
https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/sonoma-county-homeless-coalition-special-membership-meeting

For each category of elected seat, the nominee receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to a full two-year term. There are no term limits and indefinite reelection is allowed, provided the person is still eligible for that category of elected seat. Homeless Coalition Board meetings are scheduled monthly (2025 dates to be determined). With occasional cancellations and special meetings, the time commitment is normally about 12-18 meetings per year and approximately three to five hours at length.

Seats Available for Election (December 7, 2026)

Two (2) seats are available:

- **One (1) BIPOC Led/Serving Organizations**: One representative from organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other People of Color, as elected by the Coalition's voting members.
- **One (1) Transitional Age Youth Lived Experience**: Any individual who is 18-30 years of age that is currently experiencing homelessness or who has experienced homelessness within five years (at the time of election) prior to the Board election; elected by Youth Advisory Board (YAB), in the event that YAB is not operational the Lived Experience Advisory Planning Board (LEAP) shall assume responsibility for electing the individual to this seat.

Candidates may run for no more than one (1) seat.

Under the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Governance Charter, nominees are not required to have voting rights, or even to have been regular participants in Homeless Coalition activities, if they provide the needed representation for the designated seat. Attached to this memo is a Nomination and Statement of Interest forms for this purpose. **Nominations and Statement of Interest forms will be accepted until November 19th at 5pm**.

In making nominations, please consider geographic representation, representation of various homeless sub-populations, and diversity—including the criminal justice system, BIPOC and LGBTQ+ serving organizations, housing development or property management, business interests, private hospitals, or health agencies. Newly elected members will receive an email notification after elections for scheduling of the new Homeless Coalition Board meetings.

Who Can Vote?

Homeless Coalition voting membership has been established as follows:

As outlined in the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Governance Charter, only one individual on behalf of a Sonoma County organization can apply to vote. Applications are currently being accepted, for more information, including a list of current approved voting members, please visit our website at: https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/health-and-human-services/health-services/divisions/homelessness-services/sonoma-county-homeless-coalition/homeless-coalition-quarterly-meetings

The Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Governance Charter can be found on our website using the following link: https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/health-and-human-services/health-services/divisions/homelessness-services/sonoma-county-homeless-coalition/coc-governance-and-compliance

While Homeless Coalition Membership applications remain open all year long, if you are an organization that wishes to vote in the 2025 Homeless Coalition Board election, the **deadline to submit your application for Voting Membership is on November 2nd, 2026, at 5pm**.

Voting

The elections for 2027 are scheduled to occur in a virtual format. Homeless Coalition Membership will cast votes using email or drop-off ballots. Email Submission strongly encouraged. In the event of a tie, a runoff vote will be initiated. Votes will only be counted if ballots are received by **December 14th, 2026, at 5pm.**

Ballots can be emailed to Jynessa Lazzaroni at Jynessa.Lazzaroni@SonomaCounty.gov

or delivered in person to:

Attn: Jynessa Lazzaroni
1450 Neotomas Ave., Suite 120
Santa Rosa, CA, 95405

Nomination and Statement of Interest Form Notes

The Nomination and Statement of Interest forms will be posted on our website and noticed through the Homeless Coalition Listserv. Personal contact information will be redacted for privacy.

If you are nominating someone other than yourself, please forward the Statement of Interest form to the individual being nominated for completion. **Both forms are due by November 19th, 2026, at 5:00pm**. If you have any questions, please send them to the Community Development Program Specialist Jynessa Lazzaroni at Jynessa.Lazzaroni@SonomaCounty.govor 707-565-7067.