



## Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board 2025 Extended Elections

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January 29, 2025

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

FROM: Jynessa Lazzaroni, Community Development Program Specialist, [Jynessa.Lazzaroni@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Jynessa.Lazzaroni@sonoma-county.org)

RE: Extended Elections to the Homeless Coalition Board

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### Overview

This memo describes the procedure for choosing elected representatives to the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board for seats where extensions have been granted following primary elections conducted in December 2024.

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 three (3) seats that are currently vacant. Two (2) up for election by the Homeless Coalition Voting Membership and one (1) up for election by the Lived Experience Advisory Planning (LEAP) Board.

The Homeless Coalition Membership will conduct a virtual special meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 10AM to hold extended elections for the remaining seats. The LEAP Board will hold its election for the lived experience seat during a closed session on February 21, 2025, at 12 PM.

The Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Governance Charter describes the composition 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 extended Elections process for 2025, please read it carefully.

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

1. Expanding the age range for Transition Aged Youth to include youth up to aged 18- 30 so long as they were homeless or had experience homelessness within the past 5 years.

This notice includes a list of the seats up for election, a Nomination Form, and a Statement of Interest form.

### 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 region, via our Coalition, have a system of care that ensures that all persons experiencing homelessness have a safe, supportive and permanent place to call home.
- The people of our region 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 programming, coordination and collaboration with mainstream partners, policy and resource advocacy, and comprehensive community education.
  - 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.
  - Commits to equity and inclusion to engage all community members, regardless of background, throughout Sonoma County, especially those whose voices have been traditionally marginalized.
  - Is transparent and clear when it comes to funding and funding decisions.

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 three (3) vacant seats. Eligible nominees will be given two minutes, prior to voting, in a virtual meeting to speak on why they are interested in being on the board. Although attendance is not required, it is highly recommended that nominees be present to speak.

- Two (2) to be chosen by eligible Homeless Coalition voters at the Special Homeless Coalition virtual Zoom meeting on **February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, from 10:00am to 11:00am**. 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>

- You can also access the meeting directly by using the following link:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/94045140515?pwd=1ZonH3CWntzme0E1lps2fjqPuYrWPE.1>

- One (1) seat to be chosen by the Lived Experience Advisory Planning (LEAP) Board during their meeting on **February 21, 2025, at 12PM**. Note, LEAP Board meetings are not open to the public. Nominees will be sent a virtual invite to the closed meeting prior to meeting date. 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.

For each category of elected seat, the nominee receiving the highest number of votes will be elected. The Transitional Age Youth Lived Experience and BIPOC Led/Serving Organization seats are open for two-year terms, ending in December of 2026. The Licensed Health Care Organization seat is vacant due to a recent resignation, and the term of this seat will end in December of 2025. There are no limits on how many terms one can serve, and indefinite reelection is allowed, provided the person is still eligible for that category of elected seat.

Homeless Coalition Board meetings are scheduled monthly. The 2025 meeting dates are calendared for the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month from 1 – 5PM. Meetings are held virtually in via Zoom. 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.

Please visit our website for access to a list of current board members and a schedule of upcoming events: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/health-and-human-services/health-services/divisions/homelessness-services/sonoma-county-homeless-coalition/homeless-coalition-board>

Seats Available for Election (February 24, 2025)

Three (3) seats are available:

**One (1) Licensed Health Care Organization:** One representative from a licensed health care organization, as elected by Coalition voting members.

- This seat is currently vacant due to a resignation. Election is for a partial term ending December 2025.

**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 the Lived Experience Advisory Planning (LEAP) Board.

- Qualifying TAY age has increased from 24 to 30 years old.

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 February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 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 invite from staff for a one-on-one meeting to answer any questions and will also be provided training materials related to their role on the board.

## 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 open year-round. However, the timeframe to sign up to vote in this year's election has passed. Given this is an extended election for 2025, Coalition staff will use the same list of approved individuals to vote on behalf of their organization confirmed in December of 2024. For more information, including a list of current approved voting members and the membership application, please visit our website:

<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>

## Voting Ballots

The extended elections for 2025 are scheduled to occur in a virtual format. Homeless Coalition Voting 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 **February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 5pm.**

Ballots can be emailed to Jynessa Lazzaroni at [Jynessa.Lazzaroni@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Jynessa.Lazzaroni@sonoma-county.org) or delivered in person to:

Attn: Jynessa Lazzaroni  
Homeless Services Division, Department of Health Services  
1450 Neotomas Ave., Suite 120  
Santa Rosa, CA, 95405

Please note, only Homeless Coalition voting members will utilize ballots for voting. The LEAP Board will run their own election process and will confirm the results of the TAY Lived Experience Advisory Seat during their meeting.

### **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 February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 5:00pm.** If you have any questions, please send them to the Community Development Program Specialist, Jynessa Lazzaroni at [Jynessa.Lazzaroni@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Jynessa.Lazzaroni@sonoma-county.org) or 707-565-7067.