



Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board 2026 Elections

October 23, 2025

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

The annual elections for the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board are now open. This year, **five seats** will be filled with new members:

- **Three seats** elected by the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Voting Members
- **One seat** elected by the Lived Experience Advisory and Planning (LEAP) Board
- **One seat** elected by the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Tribal Leadership Committee

This memo outlines the **2026 election process** for selecting representatives to the Homeless Coalition Board. It includes:

- A description of the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition
- A list of the seats up for election
- A Nomination Form and Statement of Interest Form

The [Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Governance Charter](#) defines the Board's composition, voting eligibility, and nomination requirements. Please review this memo carefully for details on the election process.

The Homeless Coalition Board serves as the **decision-making body of the Sonoma County Continuum of Care**. Meetings are open to the public, and all may participate in discussion; however, voting authority is limited to designated seats as established in the Governance Charter.

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

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. Those being nominated are not required to attend the virtual election meetings, but it is highly preferred. If nominees are unable to attend, staff will read the nomination and statement of interest form provided notice.

Nominations and Statement of Interest must be received by 5:00 pm on November 20th, 2025, to Jynessa.Lazzaroni@Sonomacounty.gov or can be dropped off at 1450 Neotomas Ave., Suite 200, Santa Rosa, CA 95405, with "Attention: Jynessa Lazzaroni." Electronic submissions are highly preferred.

Seats Available for Election by Homeless Coalition Voting Members (December 4, 2025)

- **One (1) At Large Seat:** No Homeless Coalition membership requirements and any one can apply; elected by voting members.
- **One (1) Homeless Advocacy/Homeless Service Provider Seat:** One homeless advocate or representative of a homeless advocacy organization; elected by the voting members.
- **One (1) Licensed Healthcare Organization Seat:** A representative from a licensed health care organization; elected by voting members.

Nominations are hereby invited for three (3) seats to be chosen by eligible Homeless Coalition Voting Members at the Special Homeless Coalition Membership **virtual meeting on December 4, 2025, from 1:00pm – 2:30pm.**

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. Self-nominations are permissible.

Meeting login information can be found on our website by using the following link:

[https://sonomacounty.gov/homeless-coalition-board-elections-2026-\(virtual\)](https://sonomacounty.gov/homeless-coalition-board-elections-2026-(virtual))

Seats Available for Election by the LEAP Board (December 12, 2025)

- **One (1) Adult Lived Experience:** Adult individual currently experiencing homelessness or who has experienced homelessness within five years (at the time of election) prior to the Board election; elected by the LEAP Board.

Nominations are hereby invited for one (1) seat to be chosen by the Lived Experience Advisory Board during a closed session meeting on **Friday, December 12th at 12:15pm.**

If you are being nominated, please reserve this time on your calendar to ensure you can attend the election meeting. This meeting will not be open to the public. Nominees will receive a virtual meeting link following the nomination closing date.

Seats Available for Election by the Homeless Coalition Tribal Committee

- **One (1) Tribal Designated Seat:** This seat will be elected through a separate process as approved by the Homeless Coalition Tribal Committee. Public nominations are not accepted through this process.

General Homeless Coalition Board Information

Homeless Coalition Board meetings are scheduled monthly (2026 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. 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 20th at 5pm.** Note, these forms do not apply to the Tribal Designated seat.

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 as a Homeless Coalition Voting Member?

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 an approved Sonoma County organization can vote. For more information, including a list of current approved voting members, please visit our website at: <https://sonomacounty.gov/health-and-human-services/health-services/divisions/homelessness-services/get-involved/homeless-coalition-quarterly-meetings>

The Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Governance Charter can be found on our website using the following link: <https://sonomacounty.gov/health-and-human-services/health-services/divisions/homelessness-services/resources/compliance>

Voting

The elections for 2026 are scheduled to occur in a virtual format. Homeless Coalition Voting Members 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 11th, 2025, by 5pm.**

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 21st, 2024, at 5:00pm.** If you have any questions, please send them to the Community Development Program Specialist Jynessa Lazzaroni at jynessa.lazzaroni@sonomacounty.gov or by telephone at 707-565-7067.