



# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 11/28/2023

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File #: 23-1534

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**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** Clerk/Recorder

**Agenda Section:** Consent

**Vote Requirement:** Majority

**SUBJECT:**

Appointment of Special District Directors

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive staff report; and
2. Appoint attached slates of individuals to special district governing boards, pursuant to California Elections Code, Sections 10515 and 10517.

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

General Fund (1100)

Special Districts

**DISCUSSION:**

Humboldt County currently has 47 special districts with elected governing boards, including community services, fire, water, and other districts. Special district boards are typically comprised of three or five positions, including two-year and four-year positions. In years past, all district board terms would expire biennially in odd-numbered years. With the shift by most special districts to even-numbered year elections, there are only seven special districts, including four community services districts, two fire protection districts, and one park district participating in this year's odd-numbered year election.

The elections process commences with a candidate filing period during which time qualified Humboldt County residents can file candidacy papers to serve on a district board in the jurisdiction in which they live. Pursuant to California Elections Code, Section 10517, when the number of qualified candidates filing for a position exceeds the number of seats available, the county elections official, the Registrar of Voters, will conduct a uniform district election to fill the available seats. When the number of qualified candidates filing for a seat equals the number of seats available and no petition requesting an election has been filed, California Elections Code, Section 10515(a) directs the officer conducting the

election, the Registrar of Voters, to request the supervising authority, the Board of Supervisors, appoint qualified candidates who have filed candidacy papers; the supervising authority will make these appointments in lieu of an election. However, when the number of qualified candidates is fewer than the number of seats available, California Elections Code, Section 10515(b) directs the supervising authority to appoint a person who is qualified as of the date an election would have been held.

The candidacy filing period for the 2023 Uniform Districts Election was held from July 17, 2023, through August 11, 2023. At the close of the filing period, only one of the seven districts received a greater number of candidate filings as seats available for one or more open seats and as such went to ballot for the November 7<sup>th</sup> Election.

At the close of the filing period, five of the seven districts received the same or fewer number of candidate filings as seats available for one or more open seat(s). California Elections Code, Section 10515(a), directs the Board of Supervisors to appoint these qualified candidates in lieu of an election. Attachment 1 summarizes qualified candidates who have filed candidacy papers.

At the close of the filing period, six of the seven districts received fewer candidate filings than seats available for one or more open seat(s). California Elections Code, Section 10515(b), directs the Board of Supervisors to appoint a person who is qualified as of November 7, 2023, the date the Uniformed Districts Election. The Humboldt County Office of Elections notified districts of the status of available seats. Attachment 2 summarizes candidates who have been nominated by district governing boards; Attachment 3 provides copies of district recommendations for appointment.

As of the close of the filing period, one district still has one or more vacancies: Blue Lake Fire Protection District.

Of the district nominations received by the Office of Elections, all districts recommended people who meet minimum qualifications as prescribed by Government Code, Section 24001, which states “a person is not eligible to a county or district office, unless he or she is a registered voter of the county or district in which the duties of the office are to be exercised at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person or at the time of the appointment of the person.”

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

This action supports the following areas of your Board’s Strategic Framework.

Core Roles: Enforce laws and regulations to protect residents

New Initiatives: Invite civic engagement and awareness of available services

Strategic Plan: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Community Services Districts

Fire Districts  
Parks District

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Your board could choose to appoint qualified voters from the respective districts other than those listed in Attachments 1 and 2.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Appointments in Lieu

Attachment 2: District Recommendations of Qualified Candidates

Attachment 3: District Recommendation Letters for Appointment

Attachment 4: Vacancies

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.: N/A

Meeting of: N/A

File No.: N/A