

BYLAWS OF THE
CONTRA COSTA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS
ADOPTED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DECEMBER 2021

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1.

The name of this body shall be the Contra Costa Commission for Women and Girls, hereinafter referred to as “the Commission.”

Section 2.

This body was formed in 1984 as an advisory committee. In 1999, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors approved the Contra Costa County Women’s Advisory Committee’s request that it be renamed the Contra Costa Commission for Women. In May 2019, the Board adopted revised bylaws that changed the name to Contra Costa Commission for Women and Girls.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The Commission shall provide information and advice to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and other entities, as necessary, relating to the health and welfare of women and girls in the county. The Commission will strive to increase awareness of women’s and girls’ issues, celebrate the achievements of local deserving women, champion opportunities for women and girls, and recommend legislative solutions at the city, county, state and federal levels. Areas of focus will include, but are not limited to, socio-economic conditions, workplace issues, social treatment of gender issues, and health and safety for women and girls.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Members

The Commission shall not exceed fifteen (15) members plus one Alternate At-Large member, and the membership shall be broadly representative of the diversity of the community at large. Members must be at least 18 years of age and work and/or reside in Contra Costa County.

The Alternate At-Large member is a non-voting member except that he/she shall fill in for a regular At-Large member when that member is absent from part or all of a meeting, during which time the alternate member shall constitute a voting member.

Section 2. Member Responsibilities. Each member is expected to:

- Attend meetings of the Commission. Members are expected to notify the Chair in advance of any absence from a meeting. Members may be excused by the Chair for authorized absences.
- At-Large Members of the Commission will endeavor to attend one (1) Board of Supervisor’s meeting a year on behalf of the Commission, resulting in an additional commitment of approximately two (2) hours throughout the entire year.

- Be an ambassador and proponent of the Commission and engage people from all cultural and ethnic groups in women’s and girls’ issues and in the work of the Commission.
- Comply with the Contra Costa County policy for Board Appointees concerning Conflict of Interest and Open Meetings, Resolution No. 2002/376.
- All members will be expected to serve on at least one standing and/or special committee annually and actively participate in meetings and events.
- Should a member take on a leadership role within a Standing or Special Committee (Chair or Vice-Chair), the member shall commit to working to as many hours as is needed to complete the work undertaken by the committee.
- For those members appointed to the specific district for the Board of Supervisors in which the member works or resides, i.e.: District I, II, III, IV, and V; also referred to as “District Members”, meet and/or communicate regularly with the Supervisor for the member’s District. District Members shall commit to meeting quarterly with the Supervisor for the member’s District.

Section 3. Appointment

District Members and At-Large Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the County Board of Supervisors for fixed, staggered terms. Incumbents may be appointed to successive terms.

Section 4. Terms of Appointment

All seat terms are for a period of four (4) years with staggered expiration dates for five (5) seats at the end of the first (1) year, five (5) seats plus the alternate at the end of the second (2nd) year and five (5) seats at the end of the third (3rd) year. Appointments to seats shall begin on the effective date of appointment and end on the scheduled expiration date for the seat to which the appointment is made. Starting in 2021, the Year 1 seats expire.

Seats expiring in Year 1	Seats expiring in Year 2	Seats expiring in Year 3
1. At-Large 1	1. At-Large 5	1. At-Large 3
2. At-Large 2	2. At-Large 6	2. At-Large 8
3. At-Large 4	3. At-Large 10	3. At-Large 9
4. At-Large 7	4. District 3	4. District 1
5. District 5	5. District 4	5. District 2
	6. Alternate	

Section 5. Vacancies

Recruitment: The Membership Committee shall monitor scheduled and unscheduled membership vacancies and promptly recruit to fill vacancies. The Membership Committee shall consider community experience, and the criteria outlined in Article III (Membership), Section 1 (Members) in formulating a recommendation for recruitment by the Commission.

Recommendation of Applicants: The Membership Committee will recommend applicants to the District Supervisors or the Board's Family and Human Services Committee for appointment. The Commission Chair shall report to the County Board of Supervisors any unscheduled membership vacancy as it occurs.

Onboarding: The Membership Committee shall also engage in onboarding of new members, as well as monitoring of the terms of appointment and meeting attendance.

Section 6. Removal

Members of the Commission serve at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors. The following circumstances may be grounds for removal from the Commission:

1. **Voluntary Resignation.** Members who wish to resign shall address a written notice of resignation to the Commission Chair. The Chair will notify the Board of Supervisors of the vacancy.
2. **Meeting Attendance Recommendation.** Members whose attendance rate falls below forty-five percent (45%) of the previous twelve regularly scheduled meetings will trigger an automatic meeting attendance recommendation notice to the Executive Committee.
3. **Constructive Resignation.** A member who is absent from three (3) consecutive scheduled meetings without authorization from the Chair will be considered to have resigned from the Commission, and the Chair will notify the Board of Supervisors of the vacancy.
4. **Monitoring.** The Membership Committee shall monitor meeting attendance.
5. **Lack of participation on Standing and Special Committees.** The Commission Chair shall request information from Committee Chairs regarding member participation at the conclusion of each quarter. The Commission Chair and Vice Chair will take this information into consideration should a meeting attendance recommendation be triggered under Article III Section 6.2.
6. **Poor Conduct.** Behavior that violates state law or the County's policies, as prescribed in the County's Advisory Body Handbook may be grounds for removal from the Commission. The Chair will notify the Board of Supervisors of the poor conduct and recommendation for removal.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

The officers of the Commission shall comprise the Executive Committee and shall include a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. In the event that the responsibilities of a designated office would be best served by two individuals, those individuals elected to that position will share the position as cooperative officers.

Section 1. Nomination and Election of Officers

A Membership Committee and Chair shall be nominated and elected by Commission members at the regularly scheduled Commission meeting each February.

Election of officers from among the members of the Commission shall be held each February. Terms of office shall begin as of the regular meeting in March of each year.

Should vacancies occur, officers may also be appointed at the discretion of the Chair to fulfill the remaining term of the vacant officer position(s).

The election will be conducted publicly at the February Commission meeting. The election of each officer will carry with a majority vote. In the case of a tie vote, the Commission may re-vote until the tie is broken. If, in the opinion of the Chair, the tie will not be broken within a reasonable number of attempts, the election may be deferred until the next scheduled Commission meeting and the current seated officer will remain in office until a new officer is elected.

No Commission Member shall serve on the Executive Committee until he/she has served 12 consecutive months of his/her term as a Commission Member.

Section 2. Term of Office

The officers of the Commission shall hold office for a term of one (1) year, twelve (12) consecutive months beginning in March of the year of election. In the event elections are held after February in any given year, officers will serve their terms until elections the following year. Officers may serve consecutive terms.

No Commission Member shall serve on the Executive Committee for more than two consecutive years.

In the event the Chair is unable to complete her term of office, the Vice Chair will succeed the Chair and fulfill the Chair's remaining term of office as the presiding officer. The membership will conduct an election to fill the resultingly vacant position of Vice Chair. The Vice-Chair's successor will serve the remaining term of office.

A vacancy in any office may be filled by a majority vote of the members attending a special or regular Commission meeting.

Section 3. Duties

1. Chair

The Chair shall conduct meetings, develop agendas, ensure the full participation of the Commissioners present during a duly held meeting, and serve as the official spokesperson for the Commission.

The Chair shall also prepare Annual Reports for the County Board of Supervisors and ensure that all members have completed the Brown Act and Better Government Ordinance training annually.

2. Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair shall maintain the historical record of the Commission and manage time at regular or special Commission meetings. The Vice-Chair shall also assist the Chair as directed by the latter and shall assume all the obligations and authority of the Chair in the absence of the latter.

3. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall prepare the annual Commission budget, receive and account for donations and fundraising proceeds, and shall forward all receipts to the County Administrator's Office for deposit in the County Treasury. The Treasurer shall track and report monthly on the financial activity of the Commission and liaise with the County Administrator's Office to arrange authorized disbursements from the Commission's account.

4. Secretary

The Secretary shall handle any regular or special administrative duties, which may include the following tasks:

- Take minutes at regular or special Commission meetings and send draft minutes to the Chair at least ten (10) calendar days before the next Commission meeting.
- File approved minutes and related handouts for the Commission's records.
- Ensure that agendas and minutes are uploaded to the Commission's website within a month of being approved.
- Ensure that the Commission's calendar is up to date on its website within a month of the next scheduled Commission meeting.
- Maintain a record of attendance of Commissioners as provided by the Membership Committee.
- In consultation with the Public Relations Subcommittee, maintain a subscription (distribution) list of individuals who have elected to receive the Commission's meeting notices and agenda.
- Check the Commission's email account at least twice a week.
- Check the Commission's mailbox at least once a week.
- Create, update, and keep name tents of each member for Commission meetings.

Section 4. Removal

The Commission, by a majority vote, may remove the Chairperson and/or Vice-Chairperson from office and relieve them of their duties. In the event of removal of the Chairperson and/or Vice Chairperson, the Membership Committee shall meet and present nominations for the vacant position(s) at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Commission shall be held at 7:00 pm on the fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month. **Exception:** The Commission generally does not meet one month out of the year.

Notice of regular meetings of the Commission and an accompanying agenda shall be emailed to each member and publicly noticed on the Commission webpage and at the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 1025 Escobar Street, 1st Floor, Martinez, CA., at least ninety-six (96) hours prior to the meeting date. Agendas shall be posted, mailed and made available to the public in accordance with the Brown Act and Contra Costa County Better Government Ordinance.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Commission may be called at any time by the Chair. Notice of a special meeting will include the time, date, place, and purpose. Notice of special meetings of the Commission and an accompanying agenda shall be emailed to each member and publicly noticed on the Commission webpage and at the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 1025 Escobar Street, 1st Floor, Martinez, CA., at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting date.

Section 3. Action at a Meeting: Quorum and Required Vote

A quorum must be present to conduct a meeting. A quorum is one Member more than one-half of the authorized Members, or 8 members. Each Member present shall have one vote on motions. Members must offer disclosure and abstain from voting or recuse themselves upon issues in which a conflict of interest may constrain impartiality.

1. The work of the Commission may proceed by consensus as long as there is no objection from a Member to proceeding in this manner.
2. On any matter where a Member requests a recorded vote, the matter may only be approved if it is approved by at least a simple majority of the total number of voting members (and no fewer than 5 Members).
3. Proxy voting is not permitted.
4. The Alternate At-Large Member may only vote in the absence of one At-Large Member.
5. Commissioners who also have membership in an organization that provides funding to the Commission must recuse themselves from any discussion and/or vote pertaining to the use of those funds.

Section 4. Open Meetings

All meetings of the Commission and all meetings of the standing and special committees shall comply with the Brown Act and the County's Better Government Ordinance.

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and shall be established to provide cohesive leadership to the Commission.

Section 2. Standing Committees

The Executive Committee and/or a majority of the Members may form Standing Committees to manage ongoing functions of the Commission and research and explore specific issues in-depth that come before the Commission. The goal of a committee is to provide a working forum for interaction and information exchange among members and the public focusing on issues needing in-depth consideration.

The Standing Committees are: Legislative, Membership, and Public Relations.

The Standing Committees shall be formed of, at minimum, two (2) members and, maximum, four (4) members, unless otherwise approved by the Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair of a Standing or Special Committee shall be responsible for scheduling and presiding over Committee meetings, serve as a point of contact for the Commission, and ensure that the Committee is fulfilling its goals.

All Standing Committees shall make progress reports to the Commission at each of the Commission's regular meetings.

1. **Legislative Committee.** The Legislative Committee's responsibilities are as follows:

- Identify and recommend legislative initiative priorities to the Executive Committee.
- Monitor Contra Costa County legislative agendas for Federal, State and County Legislation:
 - Board of Supervisors 'State and Federal Legislative Platforms.
 - Board of Supervisors and Board Legislation Committee Actions, Minutes and/or Memorandums.
 - If not within expressed Platforms and/or expressed actions by Board, present formal request to the Board of Supervisors seeking Request for Support on behalf of the Commission. Commission members to approve formal requests by majority vote.
- Serve as liaison to Commission in women's legislative and policy initiatives.
- Disseminate information to Commission membership, including legislative updates and alerts; prepare legislative materials for advocacy purposes; and monitor federal and state legislation, funding and policy initiatives that affect women's rights in California.

2. **Membership Committee.** The Membership Committee shall consist of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of four (4) members of the Commission who choose not to be considered for election as Commission officers. The Membership Committee's responsibilities are as follows:

- Annually in January, solicit nominations for the election of Commission officers, obtain the nominees 'consent to serve, and provide the slate of nominees to the Commission in February
- Interview Commission applicants and make recommendations to the Commission regarding applicants.
- Onboard new Members.
- Recommend policies, procedures, and strategies for enhancing Commission membership, both numerically and qualitatively, to assure a growing and vital organization.
- Monitor meeting attendance as well as report to the Executive Committee should an attendance violation occur.
- Maintain current membership roster.

3. **Public Relations Committee.** The Public Relations Committee's responsibilities are as follows:

- Serve as a link between the public and the Commission.
- Maintain the Commission's social media presence by posting information relevant to women in Contra Costa County.
- Prepare and send out quarterly newsletter.
- Maintain subscription (*Listserv*) of individuals interested in the Commission's work, in consultation with the Secretary.
- Create and send out press releases to media outlets in Contra Costa County as needed.
- Maintain the Commission's website.
- Design and update the Commission's logo as needed.

Section 3. Special Committees

The Chair of the Commission and/or the majority of the members may also form Special Committees. Special Committees ("ad hoc" or "select" committees) may be formed for a specific purpose and cease to exist after completion of a designated task.

Section 4. Terms of Committee Membership

The terms of membership for members of Standing Committees of the Commission shall be one year, twelve (12) consecutive months from appointment. Each March membership of standing or special Committees will be reviewed and confirmed..

Section 5. Accountability of Committees

All Chair and/or Vice Chair of Committees shall present to the Commission Chair monthly activity reports due one (1) week prior in writing to the regularly scheduled meetings and shall have authority to make recommendations to the Commission on matters within the Committee's area of expertise. Only the Commission may take action on Committee recommendations.

ARTICLE VII. GOVERNANCE

The operations of the Contra Costa Commission for Women and Girls shall be governed by its bylaws. To the extent there are any inconsistencies between these bylaws and the resolutions creating the Commission or countywide advisory body policies, the resolutions and countywide advisory body policies will govern.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Proposals to amend the Commission Bylaws shall be presented at a regular Commission meeting and voted on at the following regular Commission meeting. These bylaws and any bylaw amendments shall be recommended by the Commission and be effective upon approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Originally adopted by majority membership vote at the regular Meeting of the Contra Costa County Women's Advisory Committee on May 18, 1993, and amended on September 21, 1993, March 19, 1996, April 16, 1996, November 21, 2000, April 17, 2007, February 17, 2010, December 11, 2010, 2017, May 7, 2019, and December 7, 2021