

Mayor
Gabe Quinto
Mayor Pro Tem
Rebecca Saltzman



Councilmembers
William Ktsanes
Lisa Motoyama
Carolyn Wysinger

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING (6:00 PM)
Hillside Conference Room - 10890 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito

Join Via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83874265564?pwd=COS7C6nC8kw0cKXUw5GXR4eq4talCW.1>

Meeting ID: 838 7426 5564 **Passcode:** 320716 **Dial in:** 1-408-638-0968

Public Comments:

1. In-person, by submitting a request to speak to the City Clerk.
2. Via Zoom, using the "[Raise Hand](#)" feature to request to speak.
3. By phone, dialing *9 to "raise your hand", and *6 to unmute.
4. Online, using the "[Submit Comments](#)" feature on the [meeting event](#).
5. Via email to cityclerk@elcerrito.gov indicating **Public Comments – Agenda Item #**.

Written comments received by **2:00 PM** the day of the meeting will be provided to the City Council and posted online in advance of the meeting. Comments received after the deadline will be provided to the City Council and posted after the meeting.

Accommodations: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at 510-215-4305. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable accommodations. Closed Captions are available via zoom.

Conduct: Pursuant to the El Cerrito City Council [Rules of Order and Procedure](#).

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6:00 PM ROLL CALL - CONVENE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

1. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

All persons wishing to speak should sign up with the City Clerk. Remarks are typically limited to 3 minutes per person and to items on the special meeting agenda only.

2. COMMISSION INTERVIEWS, STATUS AND APPOINTMENTS

Action Proposed: Staff requests that City Council conduct interviews and, at the conclusion of interviews, confer with staff regarding the ongoing recruitments, any remaining vacancies, and the scheduling of further special meetings to conduct interviews (if applicable). Council may decide to make appointments at the conclusion of the meeting.

Contact: Holly M. Charléty, City Clerk, City Management

3. ADJOURN SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City of El Cerrito serves our diverse community by providing exceptional services that create a safe and resilient future for all.



AGENDA BILL

Agenda Item No. 2.

Date: February 24, 2026
To: El Cerrito City Council
From: Holly M. Charléty, City Clerk, City Management
Subject: COMMISSION INTERVIEWS, STATUS AND APPOINTMENTS

ACTION PROPOSED

Staff requests that City Council conduct interviews and, at the conclusion of interviews, confer with staff regarding the ongoing recruitments, any remaining vacancies, and the scheduling of further special meetings to conduct interviews (if applicable). Council may decide to make appointments at the conclusion of the meeting.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

City staff continues to publicize board, commission and committee vacancies as they occur. Vacancies are published on the City’s website and in the West County Times; posted at City Hall, the Community Center, the Library and other various locations throughout the City including Little Libraries. Staff continues to utilize the City Manager's Update, social media outlets, and press releases to increase awareness and opportunities for residents to participate by attending meetings and/or serving on a Board, Commission or Committee.

Interview Schedule

Interviews scheduled for this meeting are as follows:

Interview Time	Applicant	Interviewing for:
6:00 PM	Lillia Refes	Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging
6:15 PM	Lillia Refes	Civil Service Commission
6:30 PM	Drew Cruz Patterson	Planning Commission
6:45 PM	Drew Cruz Patterson	Design Review Board
7:00 PM	Benedicto Vega	Planning Commission
7:15 PM	Benedicto Vega	Design Review Board
7:30 PM	Julia Salinas	Park and Recreation Commission
7:45 PM	Mordecai Stayton	Planning Commission
8:00 PM	Joanna Pace	Contra Costa Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee
8:15 PM	Carol Kehoe	Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging

8:30 PM	Council Discussion on Appointments	N/A
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In addition to the interviews listed above, interviews were held on [Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 6:00 PM](#). An up-to-date list of pending applications and list of appointments for consideration are attached to the meeting materials.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

This action supports the [City's Strategic Plan Goal\(s\)](#) of:

- *High Performing Organization by increasing communication and public engagement to ensure access to services and promote community events.*

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

This section is not applicable to this agenda item.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This section is not applicable to this agenda item.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

This section is not applicable to this agenda item.

Reviewed by:



Holly Charléty, City Clerk

Attachments:

1. Commissioner Interview Worksheet
2. List of Pending Applications

**EL CERRITO BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENT WORKSHEET
SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Legend

<i>ACC = Arts and Culture Commission</i>	<i>EDC = Economic Development Committee</i>
<i>COA = Committee on Aging</i>	<i>FAB = Financial Advisory Board</i>
<i>CCCA = Contra Costa Council on Aging</i>	<i>HRC = Human Resources Commission</i>
<i>CCTA CAC = Contra Costa Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee</i>	<i>PC = Planning Commission</i>
<i>CSC = Civil Service Commission</i>	<i>PRC= Park and Recreation Commission</i>
<i>DOA = Date of Appointment Indicates a PARTIAL TERM</i>	<i>UFC = Urban Forest Committee</i>

CITIZEN STREET OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (5 Seats)

Name	Term
Jia Ma	3/1/2026 - 3/1/2030
Kathy Fleming	3/1/2026 - 3/1/2030
	3/1/2026 - 3/1/2030
	DOA – 3/1/2028
	DOA – 3/1/2027

Eligible Applicants
Jia Ma (incumbent) <i>appointed 2/10/26</i>
Kathy Fleming (incumbent) <i>appointed 2/10/26</i>

Hill termed out, 2 existing vacancies

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (2 Seats)

Name	Term
	DOA – 3/1/2029
	DOA - 3/1/2027

Eligible Applicants
Lillia Refes (also pursuing CCCA)

2 existing vacancies

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD (3 Seats)

Name	Term
	3/1/2026 - 3/1/2030
	3/1/2026 - 3/1/2030
	DOA – 3/1/2027

Eligible Applicants
Drew Cruz Patterson (also pursuing PC)
Benedicto Vega (also pursuing PC)

Chuaqui termed out, 2 existing vacancies

FINANCIAL ADVISORY BOARD (2 Seats)

Name	Term
Kimberly White	3/1/2026 – 3/1/2030
	DOA – 3/1/2029

1 existing vacancy

Eligible Applicants
Kimberly White (incumbent) <i>appointed 2/10/26</i>
Justin Van Zerber <i>interviewed 2/10/26</i>

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (3 Seats)

Name	Term
Melissa Newton	DOA – 3/1/2027
	DOA – 3/1/2027
	DOA – 3/1/2027

3 existing vacancies

Eligible Applicants
Melissa Newton (pursuing COA) <i>appointed 2/10/26</i>

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION (5 Seats)

Name	Term
	DOA – 3/1/209
	DOA – 3/1/2027

2 existing vacancies

Eligible Applicants
Anne Perkins <i>interviewed 2/10/26</i>
Julia Salinas (also pursuing EDC)

PLANNING COMMISSION (2 Seats)

Name	Term
	3/1/2026 – 3/1/2030
	3/1/2026 – 3/1/2030

Navarrete termed out

Eligible Applicants
Nathan Tinclair (incumbent) <i>interviewed 2/10/26</i>
Mordecai Stayton (also pursuing EQC)
Benedicto Vega (also pursuing DRB)
Drew Cruz Patterson (also pursuing DRB)

CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON AGING (1 Seat)

Name	Term
	6/21/2026 -6/21/2028

Eligible Applicants
Lillia Refes (also pursuing CSC)
Carol Kehoe (incumbent)

CONTRA COSTA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (1 Seat)

Name	Term
	3/1/2026-3/1/2030

Incumbent did not re-apply

Eligible Applicants
Joanna Pace

Pending Applications as of 2/18/2026

Name	Board Name	Application Status	Application Date	Interview Date
Lillia Refes	Civil Service Commission	Active	01/21/2026	02/24/2026
Howard Hickman	Community Safety Committee	Active	01/06/2026	
Wayne Coburn	Community Safety Committee	Active	01/05/2026	
Carol Kehoe	Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging	Active	02/18/2026	02/24/2026
Lillia Refes	Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging	Active	01/21/2026	02/24/2026
Joanna Pace	Contra Costa Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee	Active	02/18/2026	02/24/2026
Benedicto Vega	Design Review Board	Active	01/27/2026	02/24/2026
Drew Cruz Patterson	Design Review Board	Active	01/23/2026	02/24/2026
James Takano (youth applicant)	Design Review Board	Active	02/02/2026	
Ann Lehman	Economic Development Committee	Active	07/07/2025	
Beverly Green	Economic Development Committee	Active	10/22/2025	
Jonathan Stern	Economic Development Committee	Active	01/20/2026	
Julia Salinas	Economic Development Committee	Active	01/29/2026	
Rahul Iyer	Economic Development Committee	Active	07/14/2025	
Sandra Mayithara	Economic Development Committee	Active	01/15/2026	
Han Miao	Environmental Quality Committee	Active	06/25/2025	
Mordecai Stayton	Environmental Quality Committee	Active	01/29/2026	
Sasha Hahn	Environmental Quality Committee	Active	01/22/2026	
Justin Van Zerber	Financial Advisory Board	Active	01/05/2026	02/10/2026
Beverly Green	Human Relations Commission	Active	10/22/2025	
Anne Perkins	Park and Recreation Commission	Active	01/12/2026	02/10/2026
Julia Salinas	Park and Recreation Commission	Active	01/29/2026	02/24/2026

Name	Board Name	Application Status	Application Date	Interview Date
Benedicto Vega	Planning Commission	Active	01/27/2026	02/24/2026
Drew Cruz Patterson	Planning Commission	Active	01/23/2026	02/24/2026
James Takano (youth applicant)	Planning Commission	Active	02/02/2026	
Mordecai Stayton	Planning Commission	Active	01/29/2026	02/24/2026
Nathan Tinclair	Planning Commission	Active	01/14/2026	02/10/2026