

**From:** [Neysa Hinton](#)  
**To:** [-- City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Request for Support to Measure H Citizen's Oversight Committee  
**Date:** Monday, April 7, 2025 11:26:48 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[3.14.25 Ltr for Appointment for Measure H Oversight Committee.SonomaCounty.Hinton.pdf](#)

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Dear Mayor and Petaluma Councilmembers,

On council agenda tonight you will be taking up the matter- Item #6: "Resolution Recommending Appointments to the Mayors' and Councilmembers' Association to Fill Vacancies on Regional Bodies".

I have reached out to each member of your council and additionally am writing to ask for your support for my appointment to one of the two seats available on the Measure H Citizen's Oversight Committee to be appointed by the Mayor and Councilmembers Association later this week on Thursday.

As stated in the letter I submitted for a possible appointment on the Measure H committee, I have been deeply involved in our Sebastopol Fire Department reorganization throughout the past 8 years. The complex process is now making its way through the LAFCO process and with this experience I am well versed in this area of knowledge. With an appointment, the knowledge I have gained related to fire services would assist me in serving on the Measure H Citizen's Oversight Committee if appointed.

I just started my 3<sup>rd</sup> term in office so I have eight previous years of city budget experience. I have always been a strong voice for all 9 cities on previous Regional Boards I have served on and would be available to Petaluma with an open voice. if appointed. I believe the goal in addition to oversight is to make sure need funding provided goes back to each city as promised by the tax measure to address each judications most urgent needs.

My letter of interest is attached for your review.

I will be unable to attend this evening in person this evening but will be participating in the meeting via steaming online.

Best, Neysa

**Neysa Hinton**  
Councilmember  
City of Sebastopol



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March 14, 2025

**City of Sebastopol**

Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmember's Association  
c/o Mary Gourley

Re: Request for Appointment to the Measure H Oversight Committee

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I seek your support for my appointment by the Mayor and Councilmembers of Sonoma County to the Measure H Oversight Commission. It would be my honor to serve and represent our nine cities and our citizens on this oversight committee that has responsibility to review annual audits. These annual reports will include positions, equipment, and facilities funded, including activities related to fire prevention ensuring compliance with requirements of the Measure H sales tax.

I have been an elected councilmember in the City of Sebastopol since 2016. During that time my expertise in budgeting includes having served on my city's annual in-depth budgeting process for 5+ years. I also have served on various sub-committees related to our fire department over the past eight years as we discussed moving from a city department to joining the neighboring fire district of Gold Ridge Fire Protection District. Through this process, I have grown in my knowledge related to fire departments and believe this uniquely qualifies me as the right fit for one of the two appointments representing Sonoma County cities on this new oversight position.

I will come to this appointment position with experience in both city managed fire departments as well as a deep understanding of fire districts. The nine Sonoma County cities are almost equally split between the two types of structuring. Currently, the cities of Healdsburg, Petaluma, Rohnert Park and Santa Rosa have municipal fire departments, and the cities of Cloverdale, Cotati, Sonoma and Windsor are part of various fire districts. I currently sit on the Sebastopol Fire Sub-Committee and have spent hours in committee working on Sebastopol's plan to go from a municipal fire department run by City of Sebastopol to becoming part of the Gold Ridge Fire District. Sebastopol is going through the LAFCO process currently hoping to finalize the re-organization process with Gold Ridge Fire District by July 1, 2025.

Measure H funding is so important to our community and effort to increase fire services. Estimated at 62 million each year, annual reporting and oversight of these new dollars is a promise to the community and ourselves. With the past fires we have faced in recent years locally, not to mention throughout the State of California., additional dollars help us fund needed expansion of services due to changing climate conditions. The tax measure revenue with oversight assures funds to vital fire protection services and additional personnel and building upgrades help our community have the funds needed to provide vital fire services.

It would be my honor to have your support for appointment to the Measure H Oversight Committee, and I respectfully ask for your vote.

Sincerely,

Neysa Hinton  
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