

# City of Cotati

Sonoma County, California



12 August 2024

To: City Selection Committee  
Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Association

In Care of: Clerk of the Board  
County of Sonoma, Board of Supervisors  
575 Administration Drive, 100A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Attn: Michelle Norman [Michelle.Norman@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Michelle.Norman@sonoma-county.org)  
Kyreen Gonzalez [Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org)

Copy To: Lauren Berges, MCA Clerk [scmcaclerk@gmail.com](mailto:scmcaclerk@gmail.com)

Dear Colleagues:

I am happy to submit my name for reappointment to the Measure O Oversight Committee appointee. I have been representing the Cities on the Committee since its inception in 2021.

The Oversight Committee is not a decision-making body, nor does it have authority to direct county staff. Its role is to annually review revenue and expenditures from the Measure O transaction and use tax, and report its findings to the Board of Supervisors. This important function helps ensure that Measure O's implementation matches the intent of the 68% of county voters who voted "yes." In the last few years, this has sometimes meant making it clear to county staff that accumulating fund balances is *not* in accordance with the will of the voters.

Even without decision-making authority, the Committee plays an important role in ensuring that Measure O revenue is expended in ways that benefit *all* county residents' mental health needs (including those that live in incorporated areas), again matching the intent of the original language. As the County Health Department goes through a leadership change, my history with the Committee since the beginning might prove helpful.

I am comfortable with the kind of detailed budget work that the appointment entails.

I would be happy to answer any questions or to discuss further—feel free to contact me at [bford@cotaticity.org](mailto:bford@cotaticity.org) or 707-228-0685.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ben Ford'.

Ben Ford  
Cotati City Council



**City Council**

Susan Hollingsworth Adams  
Mayor

Gerard Giudice  
Vice Mayor

Jackie Elward  
Samantha Rodriguez  
Emily Sanborn  
Councilmembers

Marcela Piedra  
City Manager

Michelle Marchetta Kenyon  
City Attorney

Lee Burdick  
Assistant City Attorney

Cindy Bagley  
Director of Community Services

Jamie Cannon  
Director of Human Resources

Vanessa Garrett  
Director of Public Works

Alicia Giudice  
Director of  
Development Services

Sylvia Lopez Cuevas  
City Clerk

Tim Mattos  
Public Safety Director

Betsy Howze  
Acting Finance Director

July 9, 2024

Clerk of the Board  
County of Sonoma, Board of Supervisors  
575 Administration Dr, Room 100A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Attn: Michelle Norman [Michelle.Norman@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Michelle.Norman@sonoma-county.org) &  
Karen Gonzalez [Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org)

**Re: Measure O Citizens Oversight Committee Letter of Interest**

Dear City Selection Committee,

I am writing to respectfully request your support for the appointment to the Measure O Citizens Oversight Committee. My proactive representation makes me a strong advocate for our county. We must continue to work to ensure transparency and fiscal accountability.

Since 2020, I have been the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmember on the Rohnert Park City Council. For many years, I have served as a Director for the Sonoma County Transportation Authority/Regional Climate Protection Authority, and in 2022, I was appointed as Director for the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District Board. I believe the combination of my experiences will bring a unique perspective as member of the Measure O Citizens Oversight Committee.

Thank you for your consideration of my request for an appointment to the Measure O Citizens Oversight Committee. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions at (707) 899-3087, or by email at [ggiudice@rpcity.org](mailto:ggiudice@rpcity.org). I appreciate your support.

Kind Regards,

Gerard Giudice  
Vice Mayor, City of Rohnert Park

Cc: Rohnert Park City Council  
Cc: Lauren Berges, [scmcaclerk@gmail.com](mailto:scmcaclerk@gmail.com)



# CITY OF PETALUMA

POST OFFICE BOX 61  
PETALUMA, CA 94953-0061

**Kevin McDonnell**  
*Mayor/ Alcalde*

City Selection Committee Assignments

Deputy Clerk of the Board  
County of Sonoma, Board of Supervisors  
575 Administration Dr, Room 100A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Attn: Michelle Norman [Michelle.Norman@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Michelle.Norman@sonoma-county.org) and Kyreen Gonzalez  
[Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Kyreen.Gonzalez@sonoma-county.org)

Cc: Lauren Berges, [scmcaclerk@gmail.com](mailto:scmcaclerk@gmail.com)

Re: Appointment to the Sonoma County Measure O Oversight Committee

To the Board,

I would appreciate your consideration for appointment to the Sonoma County Measure O Oversight

I have been a member of the Committee for the past two years and have learned so much about the Mental Health needs in the County and the ways that Measure O is addressing the needs.

I feel that my efforts and the value of the Oversight Committee are instrumental in keeping the public voice engaged with the staff and Board's work.

I have a strong interest in seeing that the Measure's funds are used wisely and being used conforming with the Measure's mission.

Thanks for considering me.

Kevin McDonnell  
Mayor, City of Petaluma

*Petaluma City Hall  
11 English Street  
Petaluma, CA 94952*

*Phone (707) 778-4345  
Message Phone (707) 778-4525*

*E-Mail  
[kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org)*



**Stephen Zollman**  
Vice Mayor

**City of Sebastopol**  
7120 Bodega Avenue  
Sebastopol, CA 95472  
[www.cityofsebastopol.gov](http://www.cityofsebastopol.gov)

August 9, 2024

City Selection Committee  
Clerk of the Board  
County of Sonoma, Board of Supervisors  
575 Administration Drive, Room 100A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Attn: Michelle Norman and Kyreen Gonzalez

Dear Ms. Norman and Ms. Gonzalez:

Having provided representation both in the San Francisco and Sonoma County Mental Health Systems, I am excited to be applying for a Measure O Citizens Oversight Committee position.

Having been a member of the Cal Cities Community Services Policy Committee this past year and its Revenue and Taxation Committee the prior year, I am familiar with the different mental health models used up and down the state. As an alternate to our county's Homeless Coalition I am familiar with how our county continues to distribute federal dollars.

I am excited to implement the following recommendations that Santa Rosa's Captain Cregan provided for us at our last Mayor's and Council Members dinner:

- Continuing discussions on the equitable sharing of County Wide Measure O funds with local jurisdictions
- Highlighting the need for additional beds and staffing at our crisis stabilization unit to avoid visits to local emergency rooms.

- Working towards a future of creating co-responder models of trained officers paired with a licensed clinician to respond to armed or violent encounters with those experiencing a mental health crisis
- Increase mental health and de-escalation training for our officers in your local police departments.
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I would be honored to receive your support to serve in this position.

Sincerely,

Stephen C. Zollman  
Sebastopol Vice Mayor  
szollman@cityofsebastopol.gov