



City of  San Leandro

DISTRICT 2 CITY COUNCIL VACANCY



Date: March 23, 2026
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BACKGROUND

City Charter Section 250:

“A vacancy in the office of Council Member or Mayor shall be filled by appointment by the Council. The appointee shall hold office until the next general municipal election and until a successor is elected and qualified. Any unexpired remainder of the term of such office shall be filled by the voters at such election. If the Council fails to fill such vacancy within sixty days after its existence, the Council shall call a special election, at which the unexpired remainder of the term of such office shall be filled by the voters.”

APPOINTMENT TIMELINE

Timeline:

- February 10 – District 2 seat vacated
- February 17 – Council direction on appointment process
- February 20 to March 9 – Application period
- March 23 – Interviews and possible appointment
- April 11 – Deadline to appoint

If no appointment is made:

- Continue deliberations at the April 6 regular meeting; or
- Call for a special election



SPECIAL ELECTION

If a special election is required, staff recommend consolidating with the existing November 3, 2026 election, as funds are already allocated in the FY 26-27 budget.

Standalone special election:

- Date to be determined
- Appropriation of funds needed
- \$23-\$25 per registered voter
- \$180,000 to \$1.2 million (depending on at-large vs. by-district voting system)

APPLICANTS

Date Applied	Name	D2 Resident	D2 Registered to Vote
2/23/2026	Leo Sheridan	Yes	Yes
2/23/2026	James Aguilar	Yes	Yes
3/3/2026	Luis Mendoza	Yes	Yes
3/6/2026	Emily Chandler	Yes	Yes
3/9/2026	Robert Bulatao	Yes	Yes
3/9/2026	Edward Hernández	Yes	Yes
3/9/2026	Tiare Pena	Yes	Yes

Date Applied	Name	D2 Resident	D2 Registered to Vote
2/23/2026	Lien McHenry	No -- D4	N/A
3/6/2026	Vincent Le	No -- D4	N/A
3/8/2026	Ronniedith Dimapasoc	No -- D1	N/A
3/9/2026	Robert Schwartz	No -- D3	N/A
3/9/2026	John Hoppin	No -- D1	N/A

INTERVIEWS

1. Interview order randomly selected by City Clerk
2. Candidates are sequestered in the Sister Cities Gallery
3. The Mayor will ask an opening question for introductions (90 seconds)
4. Each Councilmember and the Mayor will have 4 minutes per candidate for questions and answers

Reminder: Interview questions must not address protected characteristics, including race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, political affiliation, veteran status, or similar protected categories.

VOTE PROCESS

Step 1: The Mayor will ask for nominations from the City Council:

1. Applicants receiving a nomination are eligible for appointment
2. Applicants not receiving a nomination are removed from consideration

Step 2: For applicants who received a vote to nominate:

1. City Clerk will create a random voting order for applicants
2. The Mayor will call for a vote on each individual in that order
3. The person with four votes is selected for appointment
4. Council makes a motion & second to adopt the resolution to appoint, then votes

Step 3: If no nominee receives four votes, repeat Step 2.

NO MAJORITY NOMINEE

If there is no majority nominee, the City Council may do one of the following:

1. Continue the appointment process at the April 6, 2026 Council meeting; or
2. Adopt a resolution calling for a special election to fill the vacancy.



RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the City Council interview applicants for the District 2 City Council vacancy and do one of the following:

1. Adopt a resolution to fill the vacancy by appointment;
2. Continue the appointment process at the City Council meeting of April 6, 2026; or
3. Adopt a resolution calling for a special election to place the vacancy on the November 3, 2026 ballot.