

BYLAWS OF THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

ARTICLE I. Name of Organization

A. The name of this organization shall be the Orange County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, hereinafter referred to as “Commission.”

B. The official location and mailing address of the Commission shall be:

County Administration North
Attn: Clerk of the Board
400 W. Civic Center Drive, 6th Floor
Santa Ana, California 92701

ARTICLE II. Establishment of Commission

The members of the Commission are appointed by the Orange County (“County”) Board of Supervisors (“Board”) pursuant to Board Resolution No. 24-028 dated March 12, 2024.

ARTICLE III. Mission and Vision Statements and Mandate

MISSION STATEMENT

Orange County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls acts in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors to foster the advancement and improve the lives of women and girls in Orange County.

VISION STATEMENT

The Orange County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls will advocate for the lives and wellbeing of women and girls through building strong collaboration with Orange County stakeholders, identifying needs/gaps, sharing and utilizing resources, as well as engaging, educating and empowering the community on key issues affecting the wellbeing of women and girls in Orange County.

MANDATE

Monitor and identify critical areas affecting women and girls, especially those in priority populations, including but not limited to areas such as:

- Discrimination
- Affordable Housing
- Child and Dependent Care
- Mental Health
- Healthcare
- Violence and Domestic Abuse
- Economic Equity and Financial Security
- Education
- Leadership and Representation

The Commission will prepare reports and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on these areas.

In accordance with Board Resolution No. 24-028 the functions of the Commission are as follows:

1. Conduct comprehensive research and analysis into the status of women and girls in the County, and present findings in an annual report to the Board and public in March of each year.
2. Provide ongoing advisory support to the Board by presenting regular reports and updates on the progress and outcomes of initiatives undertaken by the Commission.

ARTICLE IV. Appointment and Membership

A. Membership of the Commission is to be composed as follows:

1. There shall be seven (7) members that comprise the Commission.
 - a. Five (5) members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Board with each Supervisorial District nominating two members.
 - b. Two (2) members of the Commission are designated “at-large members” and shall be appointed by the Board.
2. All seven (7) members are voting members.
3. The Board may select a total of five alternates, with each Supervisorial District nominating an alternate. The alternate will serve on the Commission in the temporary absence of the appointed member from that district.

B. Qualifications for Commission Membership

1. The following criteria will be used for all membership appointments:
 - a. Residency and Voting Requirements: Except where the Board finds it is in the best interest of the County to waive voter and residency requirements, all members of the Commission shall be:
 - i. Registered voters in the County; and,
 - ii. Reside in the district of the nominating member of the Board unless the Supervisor representing the district where the nominee resides provides written consent for the nomination.

C. Length of Commission Membership

1. All regular Commission member appointments shall be for a term concurrent with the term of office of the nominating member of the Board. A member of the Commission whose term of office is expiring with that of the nominating Supervisor shall have the option of reapplying for membership for appointment.
2. All at-large Commission member appointments shall be for a period of two years, subject to Article IV(B)(1)(a)(ii). The Board may reappoint the at-large Commission members for an additional term.

3. Appointments made to fill a vacancy left by a member before the expiration of the term of that member shall be for the remaining term of that member.
4. Pursuant to Government Code section 1302, a member whose term has expired shall continue serving as a member until reappointed or replaced.

ARTICLE V. Commission Officers

- A. Commission officers shall consist of:
 1. A Chairperson and Vice Chairperson each of whom shall be selected by members of the Commission.
 2. The Chairperson shall preside at meetings, call special meetings, decide points of order, announce all business, entertain motions, put motions to vote, announce vote results, appoint and may remove committee Chairpersons, represent the Commission at public functions.
 3. The Vice Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in his or her absence. If the Chair becomes vacant, the Vice Chairperson shall succeed to the Chair for the balance of the term of office.
 4. Terms for officers of the Commission shall be for one year.
 5. No person, except a member of the Board, may serve as Chairperson of the Commission for more than three consecutive terms.
 6. No person, except a member of the Board, may serve simultaneously as Chairperson for two or more Boards, Commissions, or Committees.
 7. Election of officers shall be held annually during the last Commission meeting of each calendar year by majority vote, a quorum being present.

ARTICLE VI. Duties of Members

- A. Members shall attend meetings of the Commission and of committees to which they are appointed. The Executive Committee shall regularly review member attendance at Commission and committee meetings.
- B. Members shall notify the Chairperson of the Commission of any expected absence for a meeting by 5:00 p.m. of the day before a regularly scheduled Commission meeting, indicating good and sufficient reasons for the absence.
- C. In the performance of its responsibilities, the Commission shall not engage in nor employ any unlawfully discriminatory practices in the provision of services or benefits, assignment of accommodations, treatment, employment of personnel or in any other respect on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, religion, age, marital status, medical condition, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability or any other protected group in accordance with the requirements of all applicable County, state, or federal laws.
- D. Members of the Commission shall comply with the County Equal Employment Opportunity and Anti- Harassment Policy and Procedures.

- E. Members of the Commission shall comply with County Code of Ethics.
- F. Members of the Commission shall operate strictly within designated purposes of the Commission.

ARTICLE VII. Committees and Subcommittees

- A. There shall be an Executive Committee comprised of:
 - 1. The Chairperson of the Commission,
 - 2. Vice Chairperson of the Commission, and
 - 3. One (1) member of the commission selected by the Chairperson.

The Executive Committee shall hold meetings at the request of the Chairperson. The Executive Committee shall review the Commission Bylaws and suggest amendments to the Commission in accordance with Article XIII below.
- B. Ad Hoc Committees: The Chairperson may establish ad hoc committees of less than a quorum of the Commission's membership to accomplish time-limited tasks that support the goals of the Commission.

Terms of appointment for ad hoc committees shall be solely for the period of time required to fulfill the ad hoc committee's purpose.
- C. When appropriate, committees may call on other knowledgeable individuals who are not Commission members to act as consultants to the committees. Said individuals shall be subject to the conflict-of-interest statutes, regulations, ordinances, bylaws and guidelines.

ARTICLE VIII. Meetings and Actions

- A. The Commission shall, at its last meeting of each year, adopt a schedule of regular meetings for the following calendar year and transmit that schedule in writing to members, the Board, and the public at large.
- B. All Commission meetings shall be open, public, and noticed in conformance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code section 54950 et seq., as amended and held at a location within Orange County, California that satisfies the access requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- C. Special meetings of the Commission may be called either by the Chairperson or at the request of a majority of Commission members. Notice of special meetings shall:
 - 1. Be delivered to members personally, by mail or electronically, and must be received no later than 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
 - 2. State the business to be considered and whether alternative technological means may be used such as telephone or video conferencing, as technological resource availability permits and as permissible by the Ralph M. Brown Act.

D. Quorum Requirements:

1. Quorum requirements are as follows:

- a. General Meetings: Quorum shall be no less than 50%+1 of the membership.
- b. Executive Committee: Quorum shall be no less than 50%+1 of the Committee membership. However, if there are unfilled vacancies in the membership of the Executive Committee, then the quorum requirement will be proportionately reduced.

E. Voting Majority: Decisions and acts made by majority vote of the members at any duly constituted meeting shall be regarded as acts of the Commission, except as otherwise provided by these Bylaws.

1. Members choosing to abstain from voting on specific actions will not affect majority requirements. Abstentions are considered a “non-vote” – neither a vote in the affirmative nor in the negative. However, in order for an action to be passed, a majority of the quorum casting votes must vote in the affirmative.

F. Minutes: The Clerk of the Commission shall prepare and publish the minutes for each meeting of the Commission.

ARTICLE IX. Compensation and Reimbursement

A. Members of the Commission shall not be eligible for compensation.

B. Reimbursement: Commission members may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred while performing within the scope of their duties to the extent permitted by applicable County policy. All requests for reimbursement shall be submitted in accordance with the policies and procedures adopted by the County on a form approved by the County Auditor-Controller.

ARTICLE X. Removal and Resignation of Members

A. Removal Without Cause: The nominating Supervisor or the Board may, at any time and with or without cause, remove their appointed Commission member or alternate from the Commission. If the removal is by the nominating Supervisor, no action is needed by the Board.

Removal for Absenteeism: Commission members will be removed from membership of the Commission if the member is absent for more than three (3) consecutive regular Commission meetings without notifying the Clerk or Chairperson in advance.

B. Resignation: Resignation of Commission members shall be effected by a written letter of resignation submitted to the Chairperson of the Commission and to the Board.

C. The Chairperson shall notify the Clerk of the Board in writing of any vacancies within 10 days of learning the existence of any such vacancy.

ARTICLE XI. Authority

- A. Parliamentary Authority: The Chairperson shall preside and manage Commission meetings using parliamentary procedure consistent with these bylaws, any special rules of order the Commission may adopt, and any applicable County, state, and federal law.
- B. When circumstances demand that action be taken before the next scheduled Commission meeting the Commission may authorize and grant its full authority to the Executive or any standing committee to act on its behalf to make specific, limited, independent recommendations to the County, a quorum of the Commission being present.
 - 1. Such actions taken on behalf of the Commission by a committee will be presented as an information item at the next regular Commission meeting.
 - 2. Such actions will not require further action by the Commission.
- C. Executive Committee – When unforeseen circumstances demand that action be taken before the next scheduled Commission meeting, the Executive Committee is authorized to take action on behalf of the Commission.
 - 1. Commission members shall be notified either in writing or electronically within 72 hours of any such Executive Committee action.
 - 2. Such action is subject to review and ratification by the general membership of the Commission at its next meeting.
- D. Standing and Ad Hoc Committees
 - 1. Standing and ad hoc committees shall have no independent authority and shall be limited to exercising only those specific functions granted to them by the Commission.
 - 2. No standing or ad hoc committee shall have independent authority to commit the Commission to any policy or action without the prior approval of the general membership of the Commission.

ARTICLE XII. Conflict of Interest

- A. Members of the Commission and any of its committees or subcommittees shall abstain from voting on any issue in which they may be personally interested to avoid a conflict of interest in accordance with County, state, and federal laws and shall refrain from engaging in any behavior that conflicts with the best interest of the County.
- B. Members of the Commission shall not vote nor attempt to influence any other Commission member on a matter under consideration by the Commission or any of its committees or subcommittees:
 - 1. Regarding the provision of services by such member (or by an entity that such member represents; or
 - 2. That would provide direct financial benefit to such member or the immediate family of such member; or

3. Engage in any other activity constituting a conflict of interest under County, state, or federal law.
- C. If a question arises as to whether a conflict exists that may prevent a member from voting, the Chairperson or designee may consult with designated County staff to assist them in making that determination.
- D. In order to avoid a conflict of interest or the appearance of such conflict, all nominees to become members of the Commission shall disclose on forms provided by the County information regarding their private economic interests that may be implicated by their service on the Commission.
- E. Commission members shall timely file Statements of Economic Interests (Form 700) and other financial disclosures as required by law.
- F. Commission members shall complete ethics training as required by County policy and Assembly Bill 1234 (Government Code sections 53234 through 53235.2).
- G. Neither Commission nor any of its members shall promote, directly or indirectly, a political party, political candidate, or political activity using the name, emblem, or any other identifier of Commission.
- H. No assets or assistance provided by County to Commission shall be used for sectarian worship, instruction, or proselytization, except as otherwise permitted by law.

ARTICLE XIII. Adoption and Amendment of Bylaws

- A. Adoption: An affirmative vote of at least 50%+1 of those voting, a quorum being present, shall be required to recommend these Bylaws for Board approval. These Bylaws become effective upon approval by the Board.
- B. Amendments:
 1. Any member of the Commission or the Executive Committee may propose amendments to these Bylaws.
 2. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing and made available to each member of the Commission no less than five days prior to consideration before a vote can be taken.
 3. An affirmative vote of at least 50%+1 of those voting, a quorum being present, shall be required to recommend Bylaws amendments for Board approval. Any amendments to the Bylaws become effective upon approval by the Board.

ARTICLE XIV. Severability

Should any part term, portion or provision of these Bylaws be determined to be in conflict with any law or otherwise unenforceable or ineffectual, the remaining parts, terms, portions or provisions shall be deemed severable, and their validity shall not be affected thereby, provided such remaining portions or provisions can be construed in substance to constitute the provisions that the members intended to enact in the first instance.

ARTICLE XV. Staffing Support

Staff support from the County shall be provided to support the Commission in conjunction with the work of the Commission, including liaisons from the County Executive Office, Health Care Agency, Social Services Agency and OC Community Resources, to facilitate an active flow of communication and coordination with the Commission.

The Clerk of the Board, or designated Deputy Clerk, is the Clerk of the Commission whose duties are to prepare all of the Commission agendas with related materials and maintain meeting minutes in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and perform any other commission related administrative matters in coordination with the department liaisons.