

LATE  
DIST



October 12, 2020

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Meeting of October 13, 2020; Agenda Item D-2

**DIRECTORS**

- Dick Flacks, *V.P. South*
- Janet Blevins, *V.P. North*
- Gale McNeeley, *Secretary*
- Jonathan Abboud, *Treasurer*
- Emily Allen
- Rebecca August
- Carla Frisk
- Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt
- Abraham Melendrez
- Ana Rosa Rizo-Centino

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Ken Hough

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**

Jeanne Sparks

**SBCAN**

P.O. Box 6174  
 Santa Maria, CA 93456  
 805.563.0463  
[ken@sbcn.org](mailto:ken@sbcn.org)

Dear Chair Hart and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Santa Barbara County Action Network (SBCAN) is a countywide grassroots organization that works to promote social and economic justice, to preserve our environmental and agricultural resources, and to create sustainable communities. SBCAN works in cooperation with a broad range of progressive activists and organizations to ensure that all members of our community share a voice in our future.

SBCAN has been watching the implementation of Measure G, which established a multi-step process for establishing a commission, with the requirement that **the final 11-member Independent Commission reflect Santa Barbara County’s racial, ethnic, geographic, age and gender diversity and be as proportional as possible to the actual voter registration demographics of the County.**

SBCAN is concerned that the process to date has not been open, public, or transparent. The County Elections Official has been silent about how applicants were ranked or chosen to be part of the applicant pool, “the most qualified 45.” The screening by the County Elections Official resulted in an applicant pool of 43 eligible individuals that is not reflective of the County’s general population in terms of racial, ethnic, geographic, age and gender diversity. Nor is it reflective of or proportional to the actual voter registration demographics of the county.

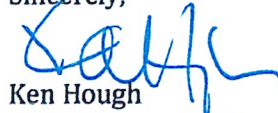
Of specific concern:

- Pool of potential commissioners is only **13% Hispanic/Latinx**, while the population of the County is **46% Hispanic/Latinx**.
- Pool of potential commissioners is only **14% under the age of 40**, while the population of the County is **57% under the age of 40**.
- Pool of potential commissioners is **54% over the age of 60**, while the population of the County is only **21% over the age of 60**.
- Pool of potential commissioners is **65% male**, while the population of the County is **50% female/50% male**.

We are concerned that it will be impossible for the “First Five” commissioners you are selecting today to compose an 11-member commission from the remaining 38 individuals that reflects the County’s demographic diversity, given the make-up of the pool that you are presented with today.

We recommend that your board take action to open the pool of potential commissioners to the entire qualified applicant pool of approximately 170 individuals, so that the first five commissioners who are selected at random have an opportunity to be successful in composing the rest of the commission as envisioned by voters in passing Measure G.

Sincerely,

  
 Ken Hough  
 SBCAN Executive Director

Statistical Information

Population by Age - SB County

Population by Age - US Census Data								
	Total	Under 20	Age 20-29	Age 30-39	Age 40-49	Age 50-59	Age 60-69	Age 70+
Total	446,527	27%	18%	12%	11%	11%	10%	11%
Source: US Census, ACS 2018 - 1 year								
Age of "Most Qualified Applicants"								
	43	0	3	3	7	7	12	11
			7%	7%	16%	16%	28%	26%
		0	-11%	-5%	+5%	+5%	+18%	15%

Race & Ethnicity							
Race & Ethnicity:	White	Black	Native Am	Asian	Islander	Hispanic	Declined to state /Not on Form
2018 Census Data	44%	2%	1%	5%	0%	46%	
"43 Most Qualified" (total includes multiple answers - 46 responses)	30	1	0	3	1	6	5
	65%	2%	0%	7%	2%	13%	11%

Population by Sex		
Male	Female	
50%	50%	
"Most Qualified Applicants"		
Male	Female	Did not Disclose
28	14	1
65%	33%	2%
Variation		
+12%	-14%	