



NATHAN FLETCHER

CHAIR

**SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: June 8, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT

FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE: STANDARDIZING BOARD AGENDA PROCESSES TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

With a new era at the Board of Supervisors, now is the time to codify clear guidelines for procedures that govern our legislative process for policy making. This Board's Framework for the Future led our efforts to align our policies and investments with the values of San Diego County, and it also leads us to ensure that these initiatives are considered with transparency and inclusivity. So we must take our time to consider operational reforms to how we craft, implement and prioritize new policy changes, organizational structure, and staffing.

With this in mind, I am proposing to amend Board of Supervisors Policy A-72: Board of Supervisors' Agenda and Related Processes, to provide clear directions for Board members when completing a Board Letter, including undertaking a department staff review process, explanation and guidelines for docketing deadlines and limits to the number of proclamations presented at Board meetings. These amendments also include technical changes to bring this policy and practices current. I am also proposing to amend the Board of Supervisors Rules of Proceedings to make technical changes to bring the document to current standards and simplify language to improve interpretation.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHAIR NATHAN FLETCHER

1. Approve amendments to Board Policy A-72, "Board of Supervisors' Agenda and Related Processes" with an effective date to operationalize all new processes no later than August 2021.

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2. Approve amendments to Rules 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 in the Board of Supervisors Rules of Procedure and adopt a Resolution entitled: RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

As publicly elected officials, our number one duty is to serve the people of San Diego. In establishing the Framework for the Future for San Diego County, we prioritized transparency and accessibility to improve public understanding of how the county operates and participation in shaping future priorities. These efforts towards accessibility are particularly important to reach those communities that have been previously disconnected from the county civic process. It is anticipated that through these proposals we will ensure that the community can be best educated on initiatives at the county and can have substantive input in the development of significant programs through a diligent legislative process. Such participation will be invaluable in ensuring that community voices are considered and directly connected to policy making.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

N/A

BACKGROUND

For years, the Board of Supervisors had little turnover with some having served in their positions for decades.

Now, we find ourselves in a new chapter for the Board of Supervisors, with the two longest-serving members having only two years of service at the county. With new elected leaders comes an opportunity for change and reflection on ways to govern more effectively.

In the past five months, there have been 120 Board Member-initiated policy proposals directing the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to implement new policies and programs with corresponding changes to staffing and operations that had almost no long-term planning. This is in addition to the 176 proposals the CAO initiated over the same timeframe. While the CAO board letter cadence has remained level compared to previous years, the uptick of proposals from Board Members increased almost 50 percent when only 62 Board Member-initiated proposals were introduced during the same time period, a 40 percent increase compared to 2019, and a 60 percent increase compared to 2018.

I am encouraged and excited about the new direction, ideas and movement to institute policies to make our county government more equitable, fair and just. However, the complexity and volume

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of changes in such a short time require thoughtful consideration and analysis to ensure that policy priorities of the Board are carried out in the manner intended and with adequate staff and resource support.

This measured approach is important to our ultimate success in moving this county engine. I commend county staff for their tremendous work over these past five months. However, as a Board we must institute structure and cadence to our work to allow for thoughtful implementation in the context of the current enterprise landscape.

Our Framework for the Future strives to maintain a county government of the people that is transparent, informative, and inclusive. It is incumbent on us to ensure a thorough and consistent process is being followed for crafting policy proposals that are accurate, comprehensive, efficient, and informative. Instituting procedural steps for crafting and reviewing Board Letters docketed by county staff, but also Board members, is vital to adequately inform the public and maintain their robust participation and to ensure operational efficiency and excellence.

The Board of Supervisors has adopted policies and procedures to ensure that our meetings are run effectively, information is properly noticed, and that there are opportunities for the public to engage. This includes a rigorous process for vetting policy ideas, timelines, and the approval of Board letters by county staff. Many of these existing procedures have been observed by the Board of Supervisors but not explicit in our policy documents. What is recommended herein is a reflection of existing processes, with modifications to incorporate the participation of the Board of Supervisors. These good governance principles reflect the objectives of the Framework for Our Future.

With this in mind, I am proposing to amend Board of Supervisors Policy A-72: Board of Supervisors' Agenda and Related Processes, to provide clear directions for Board members when completing a Board Letter, including undertaking a department staff review process, explanation and guidelines for docketing deadlines and limits to the number of proclamations at Board meetings. These amendments also include technical changes to bring the policy and practices current. I am also proposing to amend the Board of Supervisors Rules of Proceedings to make technical changes to bring the document to current standards and simplify language to improve interpretation.

I urge your support for this proposal.

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LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today's proposed action to formalize processes around Board member board letters and related actions supports the Operational Excellence Strategic Initiative in the County of San Diego's 2021-26 Strategic Plan by ensuring that policy initiatives are proposed and operationalized in a thoughtful, thorough and efficient manner.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Fletcher". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

CHAIR NATHAN FLETCHER
Supervisor, Fourth District

ATTACHMENT(S)

ATTACHMENT:

AMENDED BOARD POLICY A-72 (CLEAN VERSION)

AMENDED BOARD POLICY A-72 (TRACK CHANGES)

AMENDED BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RULES OF PROCEDURE (CLEAN VERSION)

AMENDED BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RULES OF PROCEDURE (TRACK CHANGES)

RESOLUTION

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

Sunset Review of Board Of Supervisors Policies, County Administrative Code Articles, and Regulatory Code Titles Assigned to the Finance And General Government Group 11/14/17 (27)

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

A-72: Board of Supervisors’ Agenda and Related Processes

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):

N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Fourth Supervisorial District

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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