

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

February 25, 2025

Agenda Item 3b

Elections for 2025 Policy Advisory Council Vice Chair

Subject:

Election of a vice chair for the 2025 calendar year.

Background:

The election of a vice chair will take place at the February 25, 2025 meeting for the 2025 term.

Following is the most recent list of nominees:

Nominees for Vice Chair:

- Howard Wong
- Gabriela Orantes

A copy of the biographies of the Policy Advisory Council is attached. Should you have further nominations, please do not hesitate to contact Ky-Nam Miller at kmiller@bayareametro.gov and Martha Silver at MSilver@bayareametro.gov. Nominations will also be accepted from council members at the February 25, 2025 meeting. The vice chair position is typically a two-year term (effective upon election). However, this term will end in December 2025.

Rules:

- Every council member must state their preference or abstain from voting via roll call vote.
- Winning candidate gets 50% + 1 of present eligible votes (i.e., if all 26 members are present, the magic number to be elected would be 14).
- If no candidate wins, another round with lowest voted candidate(s) removed.
- In the event of a tie, candidates may opt to remove themselves from vote, council members may change votes, and another round of votes will be conducted.

Key Instructions for nominating and voting:

- The candidates' names will be stated before the vote is conducted
- For the actual vote, when your last name is called, please share your vote, stating the candidate you wish to vote for or 'Abstain.'

Issues:

None identified.



Recommendations:

Approval

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Biographies of the Policy Advisory Council Vice Chair Candidates

Biographies of the Policy Advisory Council Candidates'

Nominees for Vice Chair	
<p>Howard Wong is an architect, environmental/transit advocate and neighborhood activist. He serves on the boards of NEXT Village (aging-in-place), San Francisco Tomorrow, Sierra Club and SaveMuni — and is active on the Transbay Joint Powers Authority CAC, Port’s Southern Advisory Committee, Telegraph Hill Dwellers, North Beach Neighborhood Courts, A Better Chinatown Tomorrow and District 3 Democratic Club. Past boards include SF Heritage, SPUR, Chinese Historical Society of America, Neighborhood Parks Council and International Federation of Professional/Technical Engineers and Local 21. His architectural work includes institutional/transportation projects, historic preservation and ADA master plans. He is a native of San Francisco and a lifelong Muni rider.</p>	 <p>Howard Wong Representing the Older Adult Community of San Francisco</p>
<p>Gabriela Orantes is the Just Recovery Fellow at the North Bay Organizing Project, a grassroots, multi-racial and multi-issue organization comprised of over 22 faith, environmental, labor, student and community-based organizations in Sonoma County. As a Fellow, her role is to support the Latino Community Foundation’s Just Recovery cohort of Sonoma and Napa county partners to leverage, coordinate and advance civic engagement and community advocacy in the region, post-2017 wildfires. Through this work, she has been an advocate for language justice in formal disaster response and government spaces by highlighting the intersections of language, disasters and public participation. Her academic and career paths are informed by her upbringing in an immigrant household in northern California that benefited from the deep relationships and support of the Fairfax-San Anselmo Children's Center, one of the first non-profit daycare centers in the nation. She is a graduate of the Board and Commissions Leadership Institute class of 2020 (Urban Habitat) and California Rural Legal Assistance’s Social Justice & Legal Services Interpreter Training 2021. Gabriela serves on the Steering Committee of the Sonoma County Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) and is a member of the Sonoma County Public Health Department Health Equity Community Work Group, which was formed in May 2020 to advise the county's COVID-19 response in Latinx communities across the county.</p>	 <p>Gabriela Orantes Representing the People of Color Community of Sonoma County</p>