

County of Santa Clara
Board of Supervisors
Supervisory District Five
Supervisor Liz Kniss



BOSD5-011309-12

DATE: January 13, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: 
Liz Kniss
Supervisor, District 5

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Rules of the Board of Supervisors regarding Titles of Presiding Officers

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt recommended changes to the Rules of the Board of Supervisors Chapter III, and Chapter III Section 6, related to the title of Presiding Officers.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

County of Santa Clara Charter Section 205 provides that the Board of Supervisors, annually at the first meeting following the first Monday in January, shall elect a presiding officer and a presiding officer pro tem.

Section 6 of Chapter III of the Rules of the Board of Supervisors provides that "The presiding officer shall be known as the Chairperson and Chairperson Pro Tem. At the discretion of the presiding officers, the titles Chair, Chair Pro Tem, or Vice Chair may be used."

To allow for more flexibility in the titles the presiding officers may use, it is recommended

that the Rules of the Board be amended as follows:

Chapter III shall be known as "Election, Powers and Duties of ~~Chairperson and Chairperson Pro Tem~~ Presiding Officers."

Section 6 of Chapter III of the Rules of the Board shall be amended as follows:

~~The presiding officers shall be known as the Chairperson and Chairperson Pro Tem.~~ At the discretion of the presiding officers, the presiding officers may use the titles Chair, Chairperson, President, Chair Pro Tem, or Vice Chair, President Pro Tem, or Vice President may be used. For purposes of nomenclature consistency within the Rules of the Board of Supervisors, the titles Chairperson and Chairperson Pro Tem shall be used.

BACKGROUND

The Rules of the Board of Supervisors were first adopted on May 9, 1972 to implement certain controls and business processes regarding the conduct and structure of Board and Committee meetings. Since then, the Rules have been amended many times, most recently in 2008.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Rules of the Board of Supervisors will not be amended to allow flexibility in the title of presiding officers.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Upon approval, the Clerk of the Board will update the Rules of the Board of Supervisors.