



Folsom City Council Staff Report

MEETING DATE:	8/26/2025
AGENDA SECTION:	New Business
SUBJECT:	Appointment of At-Large Planning Commissioner to Serve the Remainder of the Term Expiring in December 2026
FROM:	City Clerk's Department

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council appoint a qualified individual to the vacant at-large Planning Commissioner position. This appointment will serve to complete the remainder of the current term, which is scheduled to expire in December 2026. This action is crucial for maintaining the full operational capacity of the Folsom Planning Commission.

BACKGROUND / ISSUE

The Folsom Planning Commission is established under both the City's Charter and the Folsom Municipal Code. Its primary function involves advising the City Council on critical land use matters and exercising decision-making authority over a broad spectrum of planning and development issues within the city. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the review and approval of conditional use permits, variances, design reviews, and subdivision maps. The Commission is instrumental in ensuring that development projects and land use policies are consistent with the City's adopted General Plan and other municipal ordinances, thereby upholding the community's established vision for growth and development.

The Planning Commission consists of seven members appointed by the City Council. Five of these members are appointed directly by individual City Councilmembers, with their terms running concurrently with that of their appointing Councilmember. The remaining two members are designated as "at-large" positions, appointed by a majority vote of the full City Council.

To be eligible for appointment, Planning Commissioners must be residents and registered voters of the City of Folsom at the time of their appointment and throughout their term of office. These residency and registered voter requirements highlight the importance of local civic engagement and direct accountability to the Folsom electorate for those serving on the Planning Commission. This

provision ensures a vested interest in the community's well-being and reinforces the City's value for local knowledge and a personal stake in Folsom's future from its planning commissioners.

A vacancy currently exists in one of the two at-large Planning Commission seats. This vacancy arose due to the resignation of a commissioner prior to the natural expiration of their term. The unexpired portion of this term extends through December 2026.

POLICY

In the event of a vacancy in an at-large commission seat, such as the current Planning Commission vacancy, the City Council possesses the authority to appoint a qualified individual to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. This provision is explicitly outlined in Folsom Municipal Code Section 2.35.030(D) and further reinforced by Section 17.04.026, which specifically addresses vacancies within the Planning Commission. These sections stipulate that if an at-large seat becomes vacant before its term concludes, the City Council shall make an appointment for the remaining duration of that term.

For most at-large appointments, including those to the Planning Commission, terms are set to expire on the date of the first regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council in December of the even-numbered year in which the specific term concludes. The current vacant at-large seat's term aligns with this policy, expiring in December 2026.

As a general policy, no individual may concurrently hold more than one appointed commission, board, council, or committee seat within the City of Folsom. There are limited exceptions to this rule, such as appointments made by virtue of membership on another body, such as Planning Commissioners appointed to the Historic District Commission. This policy aims to ensure broad participation and prevent concentration of influence across multiple city entities. This general policy, while not directly related to the current vacancy's cause, reflects a broader governance principle of distributing civic engagement opportunities and promoting broader community involvement and ensures that various perspectives are brought to different city bodies.

ANALYSIS

To ensure a transparent, inclusive, and comprehensive selection process for the vacant at-large Planning Commissioner position, the City undertook a robust outreach campaign to solicit interest from qualified residents. The vacancy was widely advertised across multiple official City communication channels, including the City's official website, newsletters, and various City-managed social media platforms. Additionally, the opportunity was publicized in the Folsom Telegraph. This multi-channel advertising approach demonstrates a strategic effort by the City to maximize public awareness and attract a diverse pool of applicants, promoting equitable access to civic service opportunities. By utilizing the City's official website for formal announcements, social media for broader, more immediate reach, and a local newspaper to capture a traditional, community-focused audience, the City ensures that the vacancy is visible to a wide cross-section of Folsom residents. This proactive and inclusive outreach strategy aims to attract a diverse range of candidates, enriching the applicant pool and potentially leading to a more representative and effective Planning Commission.

The application period concluded on August 14, by which time a total of 23 applications were received. Applications were distributed to each member of the City Council on August 15 for their

advance review. This allows Councilmembers ample time to evaluate the qualifications and experience of each candidate prior to appointment discussions.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attached are applications from the following individuals (personal information, such as home address, telephone and email address has been redacted).

1. Bryce Becker
2. Solomon Chis
3. Linda Clifford
4. Ryan Ellis
5. Etienne Girard
6. David Hickok
7. Barbara Holly
8. Alane Loisel
9. Toby Magarian
10. Edwin (Aaron) Mann
11. Marko Mlikotin
12. Jag Nagendra
13. Chris Nwakobi
14. Kenneth Payne
15. Cici Robinson
16. Bill Romanelli
17. Amanda Ross
18. Rob Ross
19. Jaspal Sidhu
20. Patrick Stover
21. James Tedford
22. Stephen Williams
23. Farrah Wood

Respectfully submitted,

Christa Freemantle, CMC
City Clerk