



County of Orange

Memorandum

Doug Chaffee

CLEARANCE BOARD
COUNTY OF ORANGE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2026 MAR 18 PM 3:13

RECEIVED

March 12, 2026

To: Chair Doug Chaffee, Supervisor, Fourth District

From: Dylan Wright, Director, OC Community Resources

Initial
DW

Subject: At-Large Appointment to the Orange County Workforce Development Board

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Pursuant to Board of Supervisors Rule of Procedure 16 amended on July 13, 2021, the OC Community Resources recommends the following At-Large appointment to the Orange County Workforce Development Board for placement on the April 14, 2026 Board meeting agenda:

Appoint the following nominee to the Orange County Workforce Development Board for a two-year term effective April 14, 2026, and ending April 13, 2028, or until appointment of a successor:

- Maria Linares as Member-At-Large, Representative of Economic and Community Development

Information on the recommended At-Large nomination is contained in the attached Agenda Staff Report and candidate application.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Attachments

CC: Clerk of the Board



**AT-LARGE APPOINTMENT
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 04/14/26
LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAIR: Chair Doug Chaffee, Supervisor, Fourth District
NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY (DEPT): OC Community Resources
DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): Dylan Wright (714) 480-2788
Renee Ramirez (714) 480-6483

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CLERK OF THE BOARD
COUNTY OF ORANGE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: At-Large Appointment to the Orange County Workforce Development Board

CEO CONCUR N/A	COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW N/A	CLERK OF THE BOARD Consent 3 Votes Board Majority
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RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Appoint the following nominee to the Orange County Workforce Development Board for a two-year term effective April 14, 2026, and ending April 13, 2028, or until appointment of a successor:
- Maria Linares as Member-At-Large, Representative of Economic and Community Development

SUMMARY:

The appointment of the recommended nominee to the Orange County Workforce Development Board ensures continued compliance with federal and state requirements under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and Board of Supervisors requirements for oversight of the County of Orange Workforce Development Area.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Federal and state regulations under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) authorize and guide workforce development activities and require the Orange County Board of Supervisors (Board), as the Chief Elected Officials for the County of Orange Workforce Development Area, to appoint a local Workforce Development Board.

All Orange County Workforce Development Board (OCWDB) members are appointed by the Board through a formal nomination process designed to ensure representation consistent with federal mandates. Each Supervisor may nominate two members, and at-large members may be nominated by Supervisors or partner agencies such as chambers of commerce, merchant associations, employee associations, labor organizations, central labor council, educational institutions, state and local government.

Established on February 15, 2000, the OCWDB, formerly known as the Orange County Development Board and the Orange County Workforce Investment Board, was created by the Board to serve as the local Workforce Development Board. The OCWDB is composed of no fewer than 19 and no more than 25 members: ten appointed by the Board, with each Supervisor nominating two members, and the remaining nine to fifteen appointed as at-large members.

In accordance with the OCWDB Bylaws, Article IV(A)(1)(c-f), the Board shall appoint members from nominations as described in WIOA to the required categories of membership listed below. Membership must be comprised of over 50% Business and Employer Representation, at least 20% Labor/Workforce Representation, including Labor and designated representatives for Education and Adult Education as well as Economic and Community Development, including the Employment Development Department and the Department of Rehabilitation:

1. Representative of Business and Employer
2. Representative of Labor/Workforce
3. Representative of Education and Adult Education
4. Representative of Economic and Community Development

Maria Linares (Nominee), a resident of Orange County, is a Business Initiatives Manager at the Orange County Business Council. In her current role, she leads the California Jobs First Initiative, overseeing funding to support economic development and fostering collaboration among business, education, workforce and community partners. Maria brings extensive experience in public policy, workforce strategy and community engagement.

As part of efforts to ensure alignment with WIOA board composition requirements, the OCWDB conducted targeted outreach to the business community and broader professional network to identify qualified candidates. Due to the specificity of this seat, outreach focused on individuals who meet statutory requirements and bring relevant industry perspective. Following this outreach, the OCWDB submitted the Nominee based on her engagement with the business community and ability to contribute to workforce development discussions. The application was reviewed in coordination with the OCWDB Chair and Business Standing Committee Chair and the OCWDB also received a nomination from the Orange County Business Council, demonstrating strong business community support.

Below is the voter verification matrix for the recommended nominee:

Name	OC Resident? (Y/N)	Registered Voter? (Y/N)	Category	Term
Maria Linares	Y	Y; Orange County	At-Large (Economic and Community Development)	2 Years

OC Community Resources/Workforce & Economic Development Division requests Board approval of the appointment of Nominee (Attachment A) to the OCWDB as referenced in the Recommended Action.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFFING IMPACT:

N/A

ATTACHMENT(S):

Attachment A – Maria Linares Nomination Form, Application and Resume