



**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE  
BART BOARD OF DIRECTORS – DISTRICT 5 SEAT**  
**DUE BY 5:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024**

The BART Board of Directors is comprised of nine elected officials from the nine BART districts. A vacancy exists on the Board of Directors for the seat representing District 5. District 5 lies in Alameda County and its boundaries currently include the cities/regions of Castro Valley, Cherryland, Dublin, Fairview, Hayward, Livermore, Pleasanton, and Sunol.

The successful applicant will serve as the representative for District 5 through the unexpired portion of the current term. If the appointed candidate wishes to continue serving on the Board of Directors after the current term expires, they will need to run for election to the seat in the general election to be held in November 2024.

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors are generally held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month beginning at 9:00 a.m. Additionally, duties include service on Board Committees, representing BART on various external Boards and Committees, and attendance at special meetings and other meetings as required. Board Members that meet attendance requirements receive a monthly stipend of approximately \$2,026.91. Board Members are also eligible to receive medical, dental, vision, and other benefits.

**Board Member Requirements**

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 1780, Board Member vacancies may be filled by appointment by a majority of the Board of Directors.

Board Members must be registered voters and residents of the geographical boundaries of the district for which they represent. For the District 5 seat, the applicant must be a registered voter and resident of the current geographical boundaries of District 5. Eligibility can be verified by contacting the Alameda County Registrar of Voters located at 1225 Fallon Street, Rm. G-1, Oakland, CA 94612 (phone: 510-272-6973). You may review district boundaries on the District's webpage at [bart.gov/about/bod/districts](http://bart.gov/about/bod/districts).

Board Members are subject to conflict-of-interest laws and must file an Assuming Office Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) upon assumption of Office, an annual Form 700, and a Leaving Office Form 700 upon leaving Office with the Fair Political Practices Commission.

**Application Requirements**

All interested applicants must submit complete application packets. Application packets are due by **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 25, 2024**. The application materials outlined below must be submitted by the stated deadline to the Office of the District Secretary via email at [boardofdirectors@bart.gov](mailto:boardofdirectors@bart.gov) or in person/via courier at BART Headquarters, 2150 Webster Street, Oakland, CA 94612. Failure to complete all parts of the application form or to submit all required application materials may result in rejection of the application. All finalists are subject to a background check prior to appointment.

1. Completed Application
2. Completed Background Check Form
3. Cover Letter
4. Resume
5. Two (2) References

Please contact the District Secretary with any questions via phone at (510) 464-6080 or email at [boardofdirectors@bart.gov](mailto:boardofdirectors@bart.gov).

I. **Personal Information**

First, Last Name:	Melissa Hernandez	Residence Address:	[REDACTED]
Mailing Address:	[REDACTED]	County of Residence:	Alameda
Main Phone:	[REDACTED]	Alternate Phone:	
Email Address:	[REDACTED]	Occupation:	Mayor, City of Dublin

II. **Contact Information for References** (you must provide two references)

Please provide the contact information for the individuals who may be contacted as your references.

First Name:	Mayor John	Last Name:	Marchand
Mailing Address:	[REDACTED]	City & Zip:	[REDACTED]
Phone:	[REDACTED]	Email Address:	[REDACTED]

First Name:	Mayor Mark	Last Name:	Salinas
Mailing Address:	[REDACTED]	City & Zip:	[REDACTED]
Phone:	[REDACTED]	Email Address:	[REDACTED]

III. **Current and Past Board Experience**

Please briefly outline your current and past experience with serving on a Board of Directors, particularly a Board that presides over a government agency. You may attach additional pages, if needed.

Please see attached.

IV. **Skills and Expertise**

Please summarize your relevant skills and expertise. You may attach additional pages, if needed.

Please see attached.

V. **Board and Staff Collaboration**

Please provide a response to the following question: What do you feel is essential to ensure that the Board of Directors and staff are successful in achieving the goals of the District? You may attach additional pages, if needed.

Please see attached.

VI. **Conflicts of Interest**

Within the past ten (10) years, have you had any affiliation with the District or with a firm that has done business with the District? Please answer "yes" or "no," and explain the nature of the affiliation below if you answered "yes." You may attach additional pages, if needed.

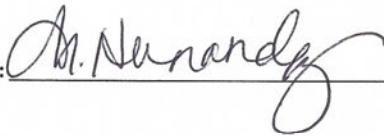
Please see attached.

VII. **Organizations/Group Membership**

Please list any organizations or groups that you belong to or are involved with that you believe bear relevance to your application for service on the BART Board of Directors as a representative of District 5. You may attach additional pages, if needed.

Organization Name:	Alameda County Democratic Central Committee	Position:	2025 Elected Member- AD20
Organization Name:	Tri Valley Democratic Club	Position:	Member
Organization Name:	US Conference of Mayors	Position:	Member representing Dublin, CA
Organization Name:	Rotary Club of Dublin	Position:	Member

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

4/24/2024

***Please briefly outline your current and past board experience with serving on a Board of Directors, particularly a Board that presides over a government agency. You may attach additional pages, if needed.***

For the last eight years, I have proudly served the City of Dublin, California as a Councilmember and now Mayor, and have chaired three regional transit boards: the Livermore-Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), Tri Valley/San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Authority (Valley Link) and the Finance committee of the Alameda County Transportation Commission. I also serve as a Healthcare/Human Services Director to a local Alameda County Supervisor, working with local agencies throughout Alameda County.

I champion our local health, safety, environmental and economic interests as a representative to the Dougherty Valley Regional Fire Authority, East Bay Community Energy, and as a leader on the Livermore-Amador Valley Transit Authority and Tri-Valley/San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (Valley Link) boards, I am proud to have led regional efforts to reduce traffic on the 580 and 680 corridors.

For those who don't drive, either by choice or necessity, I have worked to provide equal access to a variety of safe, affordable, and reliable public transportation choices, increasing the mobility and improving the quality of life for residents of the Tri – Valley area. These include bus connections to BART, Altamont-Commuter Express, Alameda, and Central Contra Costa County Transportation Authority.

A sampling of my current and past Board roles includes:

- Chair, Livermore-Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA)
- Chair, Finance Committee: Alameda County Transportation Commission/Sunol JPA
- Chair, Tri-Valley/San Joaquin Valley Regional Authority (Valley Link)
- Alternate, Tri-Valley Transportation Council
- Commissioner, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (Special Voting Member)
- Mayor, City of Dublin
- City of Dublin Economic Development Committee
- Federal and Military Communities Committee
- League of CA Cities Voting Delegate
- Vice Mayor, City of Dublin, 2018 & 2019
- Chair, Dublin Human Services Commission
- Member, Alameda County Fire Advisory Committee
- Member, Alameda County Waste Management Authority
- President, East Bay Division League of California Cities
- Member, Congressman Swalwell's Women's Advisory Board
- Sponsor, Dublin Partners in Education (DPIE)

- Member, Rotary Club – organizing the Annual Veteran’s Day event to honor those who have served our country and the All-Star program recognizing city staff, police, firefighters, and school leaders.

***Please summarize your relevant skills and expertise. You may attach additional pages, if needed.***

My vision is to keep our public transportation working for everyone – and to keep BART reliable, affordable, and safe for everyone who rides.

As a Mayor with deep ties to and proven leadership with regional transit entities, I believe I have an unmatched combination of skills and experience to bring to the BART Board on day one.

My unique perspective, and intersectional municipal and transit experience, including leading a municipality through the first years of the pandemic and addressing the financial needs of multiple local, County, and regional public agencies, as a regional transit leader championing affordable public transit and “last mile” solutions as costs increase and ridership declines, and a policymaker who deeply understands the connection between housing, transit, safety, and economic vitality, I feel I am a strong choice to join the BART board.

In addition to my transit experience, my years of board membership and municipal leadership, and the familiarities with policymaking in general and regional transit in particular, place me in a strong position to integrate seamlessly into this Board.

Examples of my expertise include:

- While serving on the Alameda County Transportation Commission, I have worked with my colleagues to plan, fund, and deliver transportation programs and projects.
  - As the Chair of the Alameda County Transportation Commission Finance Committee, I have worked to make our budget process transparent, and to hold our agencies accountable to the public.
- As chair of Livermore Amador Valley Transportation Authority (LAVTA), I made tough budget decisions aimed at keeping fares affordable for riders and accessible for seniors, students, people with disabilities and working families, and I’ll work to do the same for BART riders.
- As the chair of the Tri Valley Regional Transportation Authority (Valley Link), I have worked with multiple counties to create a new 42-mile passenger rail service.

- As a leader of multiple regional transit boards, I have successfully lobbied state and federal agencies to provide funding for expanded transportation needs across two counties, coordinated with other regional transportation agencies to learn and implement best practices, and captained long-range planning efforts to build the public transit systems of the future.
  - As a commissioner of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, I helped secure an additional \$142 million for the Capitol Expansion Program.
  - As LATVA Chair, I oversaw the completion of the 2023-2034 LAVTA Long Range Transit Plan, which includes improved connectivity to the BART system.
  - As Chair of Valley Link, I coordinated with other regional transportation leaders to bring the best ideas for incorporating hydrogen powered trains and busses into our fleet, which may happen as soon as this year. I also recently worked with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to bring the initial 22-mile operating phase of the passenger rail construction from Dublin/Pleasanton to Mountain House, which will, when completed, allow commuters from the Northern San Joaquin Valley to seamlessly traverse over the Altamont Pass to the Tri-Valley via rail.

***Please provide a response to the following question: What do you feel is essential to ensure that the Board of Directors and staff are successful in achieving the goals of the District? You may attach additional pages, if needed.***

No board or agency can work successfully together without agreement on the outcomes of common goals and mutual respect, for each other as people, and for the roles we occupy in service to those goals.

As a regional transit leader, and hopefully your new colleague on the BART board, I am committed to ensuring clean, safe, and affordable BART service, and embrace my role as a policy maker, not a policy implementer, in service to those goals.

While disagreements and misunderstandings are inevitable in any organization, a commitment to respect for one another, and a clear understanding of the outcomes we all collectively agree upon, are vital to success.

This commitment to respect and mutual understanding is deeply personal to me. As a Latina leader, and the first Latina to serve as Mayor in my City's history and in the Tri Valley, I well acquainted with being the only person who looks like me, or who has my experiences, in any room I enter. I recognize the importance of ensuring that transit policies and investments reflect the needs and aspirations of all communities, particularly those historically underserved and marginalized. By fostering dialogue with my colleagues, partnerships with state and Federal

agencies and leaders, and championing equitable policies, I strive to create a more inclusive and accessible transportation system that benefits everyone- even when times are tough.

For BART as an agency, one of the biggest challenges we will all have to address is the BART “fiscal cliff”. We need more ridership on BART to help lessen the impact of future fiscal challenges. But we also need strong fiscal management and accountability of our current budget, and we must diversify BART’s revenue stream, so rider fares aren’t solely responsible for the system’s financial health.

If selected to be your colleague, I would utilize my experiences at the local, county, and regional level to propose and support policy initiatives to address these challenges and support the work of our staff and partners in creating the BART of the future.

***Within the past ten (10) years, have you had any affiliation with the District or with a firm that has done business with the District? Please answer “yes” or “no,” and explain the nature of the affiliation below if you answered “yes.”  
You may attach additional pages, if needed.***

While I do not consider these to be conflicts of interest, I have worked with BART as Dublin Mayor on various projects surrounding housing and safety at our station. As a Boardmember of various other regional transportation boards to coordinate regional transportation needs, and as a staffer to a County Supervisor, particularly where the needs of health and human services are concerned. All of these affiliations are as an elected official or in service to public agencies, not for profit businesses.

Dear Bart Board of Directors,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic interest in serving as a member of the BART Board.

As the current Mayor of Dublin, an Alameda County Supervisors' aide specializing in health and human services, and an experienced advocate for transportation infrastructure and innovation, I am excited about the opportunity to contribute my unique perspective and expertise and take my advocacy on behalf of the Tri-Valley to the next level at this critical time.

My eight-year tenure as Dublin's councilmember and now Mayor has provided me with a deep understanding of the critical role that efficient and accessible transit systems play in fostering local and regional economic growth, improving quality of life, and advancing social equity. In particular, my experience taking over the Mayorship of Dublin just as the COVID19 pandemic upended every facet of our lives has given me valuable experience in thinking on my feet, quickly adapting to change, and building new systems to address unexpected challenges. In good times and bad, I have successfully and consistently delivered balanced budgets while prioritizing investments in infrastructure, mental health, safety, and housing.

In addition to my Mayoral responsibilities, I currently serve or have served on multiple regional transportation boards, three of which I have served a Board Chair, or as Chair of the Finance Committee. In these roles, I have worked collaboratively with stakeholders to develop and implement policies that enhance connectivity across our region, prioritize last mile solutions, grow our regional transportation infrastructure, and prioritize rider access and affordability. My involvement in these boards has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our transit systems, as well as the importance of effective governance and strategic planning in addressing them.

Today, BART has some big challenges. Ridership is less than half of what it used to be. While this is a result of COVID and changing work/commute patterns, we must all acknowledge that some of the ridership decline is because many people don't feel safe on BART. We must address these challenges, bring back riders, and diversify our revenue streams, all while planning for significant budget impacts in the near future.

I am up to the challenge and eager to serve. If appointed, I would bring an experienced local and regional perspective and commitment to ensuring that our transit systems are not only efficient and reliable but also environmentally sustainable and inclusive.

I am confident that my background in public service, coupled with my understanding of transit systems and strong fiscal management experience make me a good fit for the BART board. I am excited about the possibility of undertaking this important work and would be honored to serve as a member of your Board.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Melissa Hernandez



# Melissa Hernandez

## SUMMARY and HIGHLIGHTS

Seeking an appointment to the BART Board District 5 seat. As Mayor and the liaison of healthcare and social services for Alameda County District 1, I would bring unique experience to BART. Versed in political leadership, public fiscal finance, transportation, public outreach, I bring vast knowledge of public engagement that would be beneficial to the BART board.

## EXPERIENCE:

### Mayor, City of Dublin, CA

- Serve as the City's chief elected official (signing legal documents, ordinances, and resolutions)
- Conduct and preside over city council meetings.
- Appoints representatives to all City commissions and committees with consent of City Council
- Serve as the Chair of the Disaster Council and the City's three Geological Hazard Abatement Districts
- Run all Dublin City Council meetings.
- Serve as the chief spokesperson for the city.
- Attend ceremonial events and activities.
- Serve as a representative on behalf of the city for several regional agencies.
- \*Along with the City Council:
  - Appoint the City Manager and City Attorney; conduct performance evaluations and serve as labor negotiators.
  - Adopt
    - Legislation and regulations
    - Strategic Plan
    - Land use plans, zoning, and other land regulations.
    - Budget and expenditure planning for the city
    - Fee schedules for numerous services
    - Salary and benefit plans
  - Approve contracts over the City Manager's authority.
  - Serve, when needed, in a quasi-judicial role (hearing of appeals)

### Alameda County District 1, Liaison for Health, and Social Services

- Communicating with constituents.
- Working with multiply city agencies within district 1.
- Assisting in bringing resources to district 1. Substance use disorder programs within the unincorporated areas of Livermore.
- Working with non-profits.
- Coordinating COVID relief efforts during COVID.

## EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Public Affairs/Public Administration, California State University, Eastbay

## EMPLOYMENT:

Liaison for Health, and Social Services to Alameda County Supervisor District 1, 2019-Current  
Office of Stephen A. Reid, DDS, Periodontist, 2000-2017

## CIVIC SERVICE:

Mayor, City of Dublin, Current  
Councilmember, City of Dublin, 2016-2020  
Chair of Human Service Commission, Dublin, CA 2014-2016  
Rotary Club of Dublin, CA, 2014-Current