



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Control: 26001665

MEETING DATE: 10/13/2026
LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors
SUBMISSION BY: Chair Chaffee
NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY OC Community Resources
(DEPT.)
DEPARTMENT CONTACT Dylan Wright, 714-480-2788
PERSON(S): Renee Ramirez, 714-480-6483

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

CEO CONCUR	COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	CLERK OF THE BOARD
N/A	N/A	CONSENT CALENDAR 3 Votes Board Majority

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Appoint Stephen Richards to the Orange County Workforce Development Board

City & Zip: Aliso Viejo 92656

Position Slot, if applicable: Member-At-Large, Representative of Business and Employer

Name of incumbent being replaced: N/A

Terms Years: 2

Dates: 10/13/2026 - 10/12/2028

Vacancy created by: Other

Remarks: OC Community Resources/Workforce & Economic Development Division requests a change in the Orange County Workforce Development Board's composition: change one existing Representative of Workforce position to a Representative of Business and Employer position.

Registered Voter: Yes, Orange County

2. Find that the appointment of Denise Duplan serves the best interest of the County of Orange and waive the County voter registration requirements stated in the Orange County Workforce Development Board Bylaws for Denise Duplan as allowed under Orange County Workforce Development Board Bylaws, Article IV(B)(1)(b).

3. Appoint Denise Duplan to the Orange County Workforce Development Board

City & Zip: Garden Grove 92841

Position Slot, if applicable: Member-At-Large, Representative of Business and Employer

Name of incumbent being replaced: Jesse Ben-Ron

Terms Years: 2

Dates: 10/13/2026 - 10/12/2028

Vacancy created by: Other

Remarks: N/A

Registered Voter: No

SUMMARY:

The appointment of the recommended nominees to the Orange County Workforce Development Board ensures continued compliance with federal and state requirements under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act 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. At-large members are nominated by the Supervisors or partner agencies, such as chambers of commerce, merchant associations, employee associations, labor organizations, central labor council, education, 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, is composed of 19 to 25 members: 10 members are appointed by the Board, with each Supervisor nominating two members, and the remaining 9 to 15 members are 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 the following:

- Over 50% Business and Employer Representation
- At least 20% Labor/Workforce Representation
- Representation from Education and Adult Education
- Representation from Economic and Community Development, including the Employment Development Department and the Department of Rehabilitation

Stephen Richards currently serves as the Vice President of Engineering and Operations for Sapphire Technologies, Inc. He provides extensive experience in the clean technology and advanced engineering sectors, with expertise in technology commercialization, engineering leadership and business operations. He has over 25 years of experience as an international business leader, his background would support efforts to strengthen Orange County's workforce in emerging clean energy industries and regional economic competitiveness. To ensure compliance with OCWDB membership composition requirements, OC Community Resources/Workforce & Economic Development Division (OCCR/WEDD) requests converting one Representative of Workforce position to a Representative of Business and Employer position. Mr. Richards will fill this newly designated Representative of Business and Employer position.

Denise Duplan currently serves as the Director of Human Resources and Accounting for Marton Precision Manufacturing, LLC. She also serves on the board of the Southern California National Tooling and Machining Association and as a trustee for The Precision Manufacturing Foundation.

To ensure alignment with WIOA board composition requirements, the OCWDB conducted targeted outreach to the respective community and broader professional network to identify qualified candidates. Due to the specificity of these seats, outreach focused on individuals who meet statutory requirements and bring relevant industry perspective. Following this outreach, the OCWDB submitted the nominees based on their engagement with the respective communities and ability to contribute to workforce development discussions. Nomination packages were submitted to the Chair of the Board for consideration.

Below is the voter verification matrix for the recommended nominees:

Name	OC Resident? (Y/N)	Registered Voter? (Y/N)	Category	Term
Stephen Richards	Y	Y; Orange County	At-Large (Business and Employer)	2 Years
Denise Duplan	Y	N	At-Large (Business and Employer)	2 Years

The OCWDB Bylaws (Attachment C) require members to be registered voters in the County but allow the Board to waive this requirement if it finds doing so in the best interest of the County. OCCR/WEDD requests the waiver for Ms. Duplan due to her extensive experience in the aerospace and advanced manufacturing sectors, including human resources, accounting and workforce development. Her expertise supports regional workforce strategy and talent pipeline development.

OCCR/WEDD requests Board approval of the appointment of Stephen Richards (Attachment A) and Denise Duplan (Attachment B) to the OCWDB as referenced in the Recommended Actions.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A - Stephen Richards Application and Resume

Attachment B - Denise Duplan Application and Resume

Attachment C - Orange County Workforce Development Board Bylaws