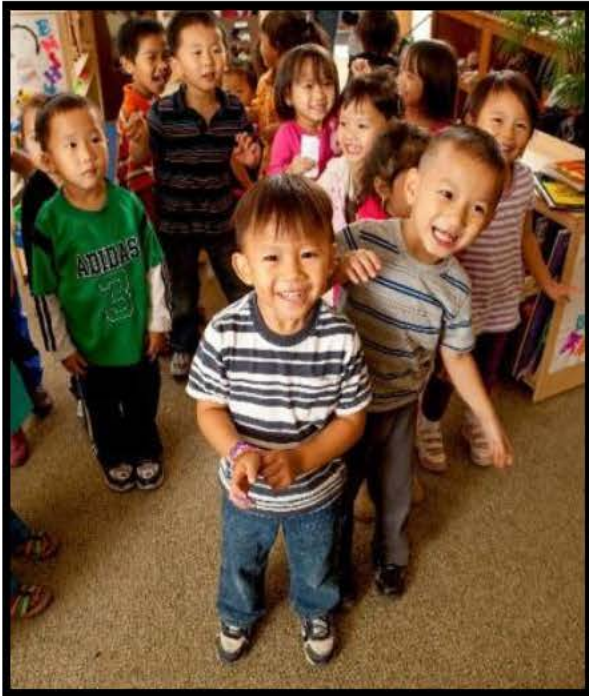




Fall 2024

**First 5 Sonoma County Commissioner Recruitment:
TK-12 Public Education or Early Learning & Care**



First 5 Sonoma County is recruiting for a vacancy on the 9-member First 5 Board of Commissioners, to be filled by a local representative of either TK-12 public education systems or systems of early learning & care (Resource & Referral agencies, Child Care Planning).

Candidates should have deep knowledge of the current needs, interests and concerns of Sonoma County's TK-12 public education systems and how they support the needs of young children OR serve in a leadership role in either a Child Care Resource & Referral Agency or the Child Care Planning Council.

This recruitment also prioritizes the Commission's goal of increasing representation of Black, Indigenous and other People of Color in the governance of First 5 Sonoma County as members of the Commission. If you are interested in being appointed by the Board of Supervisors to serve on the Commission, please review the attached Commissioner description, complete the application and return via email to Yvette Guzman yguzman@first5sonomacounty.org **by 5pm on 10/1/24.**

First 5 invests in Sonoma County's youngest children by supporting programs, systems change and public policy that promotes optimal development from the prenatal stage through age five. Investments are made through a racial-equity lens and a targeted universalism approach: ensuring that the needs of those children and families farthest from opportunity are centered and that their voices and engaged and elevated in all of First 5 Sonoma's planning processes. A strategic plan provides



guidance and is updated regularly to respond to trends impacting children and families; the latest update to our current plan can be found [here](#).

First 5 Commission Membership

Three permanent ex officio members:

- A member of the Board of Supervisors
- Director of the Sonoma County Human Services Department, or their designee
- Director of the Department of Health Services, or their designee

Six at-large members, each member representing at least one of the following:

- Organization focused on parenting, and/or early childhood development
- Private sector, businesses, business associations, chambers of commerce
- Child Care Planning Council or Resource & Referral Agency
- Post-secondary educator specializing in early childhood development
- Local TK-12 public education systems
- Local medical, pediatric, or obstetric associations
- Tribal organizations and communities
- City or town that has established policy and/or dedicated resources to promoting the healthy development of children
- Parent of a child who is a recipient of First 5-funded services

First 5 Commissioner Roles & Responsibilities

1. Actively participate in strategic policy and funding decision-making processes that centers racial equity and addresses the needs of the most marginalized children.
2. Elevate critical issues impacting children's health and well-being in the community and advocate for policies and resources that promote optimal development.
3. Attend 10 monthly Commission meetings annually and actively participate as a member of 2 ad hoc or regular sub-committees.
4. Ensure fiscal accountability and ethical, responsible stewardship of public funds.
5. Uphold principles of fairness and transparency in government
6. Actively avoid all real or perceived conflicts of interest.
7. Complete Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) and ethics training annually

Reimbursement of Expenses

At-large members of the Commission may request to receive reimbursement for:

- \$75 per diem for meetings and half day events
- \$125 per diem for whole day events and meetings



First 5 Sonoma County Commissioner Application

Return completed application via email to: knatividad@first5sonomacounty.org

Name: [REDACTED] DECKER	
Address: [REDACTED]	
Mailing Address: SAME	
Home Phone:	Business Phone: 707-687-9689
Cell Phone: [REDACTED]	Email: [REDACTED]
How long have you resided in Sonoma County? 37 YEARS	
Present Occupation & Employer: SUPERINTENDENT, WINDSOR UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT	

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL / COMMUNITY SERVICE:

District/Organization	Dates Served	Role/Position
WINDSOR UNIFIED	7/1/20 - CURRENT	SUPERINTENDENT
CLOVERDALE UNIFIED	1/1/14 - 6/30/20	SUPERINTENDENT

Describe your work as a leader in TK-12 public education in Sonoma County and how it intersects with First 5's mission to promote optimal child development, including kindergarten readiness.
As the superintendent in both Cloverdale and Windsor, I have represented school superintendents on Cradle 2 Career. Furthermore, I was one of the early implementers of the READY Assessment. Currently, I am implementing universal TK ahead of the Governors mandate, and have begun to run my own public school district before/afterschool program.

Describe your understanding of the role and responsibilities of the First 5 Sonoma County Commission.
I believe that my role would be as a connector. I am currently the chair for Leadership 40 (40 superintendents) and am responsible for disseminating information that can potentially improve the lives of our students. More and more, we have learned how critical the first 5 years of a students's life are, and we need to do more to ensure our students are ready to learn when they enter our public schools. As an insider of the TK-12 public education system, I know how to help facilitate improvement through partnerships with private entities.



Describe your personal aspirations for what you hope to contribute as a First 5 Commissioner.

I hope to be able to improve the kindergarten readiness of all students in Sonoma County. I see no reason why nearly 100% of students should enter kindergarten "ready to go".

Please describe any concerns or limitations that would impact your commitment to serve on the Commission for a two-year term (e.g. attendance at Commission and sub-committee meetings, preparation for meetings). Please note that Commission meetings take place 3:30-5pm on the 4th Monday of the month (January, February, March, April, May, June, August, September, October) and the 1st Monday in December.

The only limitations would be if there was an emergency occurring in my school district.

Please list two local references, including contact information.

*Melanie Dodson [REDACTED]
Angie Dillon-Shore - [REDACTED]*

NOTE: Appointees will be required to take an Oath of Office and will be subject to filing an annual Statement of Economic Interest

Signature

[REDACTED]

Date 9/12/2024