

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

10:00 AM

Metro Council President Interviews, Hearing, and Appointment

Metro Regional Center, Council chamber;

**<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or
253-205-0468 (toll free), [https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=RIVzs6wKbNQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIVzs6wKbNQ)**

Council meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Acting Council President Hwang called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Present: 6 - Acting Council President Duncan Hwang, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Christine Lewis, and Councilor Ashton Simpson

2. Introductions and Meeting Overview

Councilor Juan Carlos González, an applicant for the vacancy, declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from the proceedings and vote.

3. Candidate Interviews

Council interviewed three of the four applicants. Sheik Durrell Kinsey Bey did not participate in the interviews. Each applicant was invited to open with a personal statement. Metro Councilors then asked each candidate the following three questions in a round-robin style:

1. Metro's role as the regional government spans transportation to parks and natural areas to affordable and supportive housing and more. How would you define Metro's most critical work to serve the region in the next ten years?
2. Why is diversity, equity and inclusion important for local governments, and how do you see yourself championing DEI at Metro?
3. The Metro Council President serves all residents of the region at-large. What role do you see yourself playing in communicating with the people of the region and supporting their needs and priorities.

Council interviewed Robert Ghim first. In his opening statement, he shared his professional background and personal history in the region. He emphasized his experience in the public sector and in

social services, and he committed to transparent and equitable operational improvement at Metro. During the question and answer session, he spoke to the importance of Metro's broad regional mission, the role of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in closing gaps in services and the Metro Council President's role in bringing together cities and counties to solve shared problems.

Juan Carlos González interviewed second. He opened with a statement focused on his record of delivering regional programs and policies and his willingness to take risks to support a regional vision. On Metro's scope, he spoke primarily about parks and nature, housing production and transportation planning, all of which impact long-term regional health. He also described his experience working with communities of color at Centro Cultural and described the role of Metro Council President as one requiring clear communication and visibility, as the ambassador to the regional government.

Dustin Reischman interviewed third. His personal statement explained his background and overcoming challenges, including a career in the private, public and nonprofit sectors. His priorities for Metro were centered on maintaining and funding regional assets like parks and venues, which face increasing challenges for funding and maintenance needs. On the importance of DEI, he spoke to the ways that residents experience the region differently, and he hoped to improve daily life for all communities. He shared that focus as Metro Council President would be fiscal responsibility and reducing waste, alongside maintaining measurable progress on region outcomes by working with colleagues at local jurisdictions.

4. Public Hearing on Vacancy in the Office of Metro Council President

There was no public testimony.

5, Council Nominations and Voting

Councilor Nolan nominated Juan Carlos González for the

appointment, emphasizing his active learning, engagement with the region and that the voters overwhelmingly supported him for the term beginning in January 2027. Councilor Rosenthal seconded the motion.

With Councilor González recused from the vote, Council voted unanimously to appoint Juan Carlos González to fill the vacancy in the Office of Metro Council President.

6. Resolutions

- 6.1 **Resolution No. 26-5616**, For the Purpose of Appointing a Replacement to Fill the Vacancy in the Office of Metro Council President

Attachments: [Resolution No. 26-5616](#)

Councilor Simpson moved to amend the resolution, filling in the blank with Juan Carlos González. Councilor Nolan seconded the motion.

During discussion, Councilor Rosenthal thanked the other candidates for participating and for their thoughtful and well-presented statements and answers.

The amendment passed unanimously, with Councilor Gonzalez recused.

A motion was made by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor Simpson, that this item be adopted. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Acting Council President Hwang, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Lewis, and Councilor Simpson

Recused: 1 - Councilor Gonzalez

7. Appointed Metro Council President Remarks

Metro Council President González shared brief remarks thanking his family and colleagues for their support and was sworn in.

8. Other Business

Presiding Officer Hwang announced that a vacancy exists in the Office of Metro Councilor for District 4.

9. Adjourn

Presiding Officer Hwang adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne Buzzini".

Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor
June 5, 2026