

EL DORADO COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION OVERVIEW 2026

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026



EL DORADO COUNTY VETERANS



PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE

The Veterans Affairs Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors in the following way:

- a) Promoting, aiding and encouraging public support for veteran affairs; and
- b) Reviewing policies and programs affecting veterans and their families; and
- c) Providing appropriate, timely information and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the public concerning veterans affairs within the county of El Dorado.

MEMBERSHIP
ALL BOARD
MEMBERS AND
THEIR ALTERNATES
HAVE SERVED
HONORABLY IN THE
ARMED FORCES

Commissioners (current as of January 2026)

- **District I Member:** Todd Smith E-3 USN, term 1/29/13-1/1/29 (Vice Chair)
- *Alternate:* Robert Fisher Term 1/25/23-1/1/29
- **District II Member:** Roger Reynolds E-5 USA, term 2/23/21-1/1/29
- *Alternate:* Donna Mullens-Becker SP-4 USA, term 8/16/22-1/1/29
- **District III Member:** Seth Culver E-8 USAF (Ret.) term 7/30/24- 01/01/29 (Chair)
- *Alternate:* Alonso Aguliar E-6 USA term 4/28/26-1/1/29
- **District IV Member:** Ken Welch USAF E-6, term 2/25/20-1/1/27
- *Alternate:* Timothy Thompson Lt. Col USA Ret, term 11/10/20-1/1/27
- **District V Member:** Gary Norton E-5 USA, term 1/3/23-1/1/27
- *Alternate:* Tom Millham USN E-4, term 11/12/24-1/5/27
- **Veterans Service Officer,** Jonathan Brown, Secretary Ex-Officio
- **Recording Clerk of Veterans Affairs Commission,** Courtney Frame

WHAT WE DO - VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

STANDING COMMITTEES

In the coming year, the Veterans Affairs Commission will be evaluating the committees to determine their effectiveness and identify any needed changes.

- Social Media: Boosts the visibility of the VAC through social media, Facebook and Instagram. There are currently 1,306 followers on the social media accounts.
- Budget: Ensures responsible fiscal management of funds received from the county.
- Transportation: Works with both governmental and non-government agencies to meet the needs of transportation for veterans.
- Education and Employment: Assists veterans with sole-proprietorship business education, learning opportunities and scholastic enrichment.
- Legislative: Evaluates and advises on legislative initiatives. Two current bills of importance are Senate Bill 694, which aims to protect veterans from predatory practices by addressing “claim sharking” which passed on February 10, 2026, and Senate Bill 1407 that will exempt military retirements and survivors benefit pay from state taxes which is making its way through the Legislature.

WHAT WE DO CONTINUED...

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX COMMITTEE



FY 25/26 allotment and allocation of General Fund dollars collected through the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) allotted to the Veterans Affairs Commission was \$175,000.

The VAC Transient Occupancy Tax Committee worked with the El Dorado Community Foundation to reduce the overall amount of undistributed funds held at the Foundation that had accumulated over previous years. Approximately \$90,000 in one time grant funding was distributed throughout the county to assist over 325 county veterans with urgent or emergent needs.

CHALLENGES

- Strengthening the Commission's ability to build genuine, collaborative relationships with the county's veterans' organizations, ensuring each group feels valued and invested in shared outcomes. This requires individuals to set aside personal agendas and work collectively toward the common goal of supporting El Dorado County's veterans.
- Mobilizing consistent and effective outreach to ensure veterans and their families across the county are aware of events and opportunities and are actively encouraged to participate.

REVIEW OF GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

- On November 19, 1991, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance 4188 establishing a Veterans Affairs Commission to advise the Board of Supervisors about veteran issues within the county.
- On January 15, 2019, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance 5098 which repealed and replaced Ordinance 4188 and reflected current practices of the Veterans Affairs Commission.
- The County Strategic Plan incorporates an objective directing the comprehensive review of County ordinances on file to include considerations for reducing the volume of ordinances where feasible.
- At their April 11, 2019, meeting the Commission voted to recommend that the Board be made aware of their request to modify their bylaws and, by extension, consider repealing Ordinance 5098 and instead use a Board Resolution to serve as the primary governing document for the Commission.
- At their meeting on November 19, 2019, the Board approved the Introduction of Ordinance 5113 repealing Ordinance 5098 stating:

***Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the Board herewith resolves to continue the Veterans Affairs Commission. The Board further resolves to adopt new bylaws attached here to Exhibit A. The Board further resolves that future amendments to the bylaws may be recommended by the Commission or staff but shall be amended by the Board by Resolution.*

GOALS

- Build awareness of the El Dorado County Veteran Owned Businesses program.
- Boost the visibility and engagement of the Veterans Affairs Commission website by posting local events and veteran-focused support resources, helping the site become a trusted and widely used community resource.
- Continue to support Veterans in our County through the Mini and Annual grant programs, utilizing General Fund dollars obtained through the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) allotted to the VAC each year.
- Invite local, state and federal agencies to present to the Commission information regarding veteran programs and issues in effort to increase the Commissions awareness and ability to support veterans in our community.
- Encourage recipients of annual and mini grant funds to educate the Commission on how their grants have served veterans in our community.

QUESTIONS?

