

a. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Members of advisory Boards, Commissions and Committees (Commissions) provide an important service to our County. They advise the Board of Supervisors on a wide variety of complex and significant policy issues or programs of concern to the Board.

The County of Marin is fortunate to have many community-minded citizens who have special experience and interests and who generously volunteer their time and expertise to serve on commissions. The complexity of local government and the increasing interest in citizen participation in the decision-making process is reflected in the existence of approximately 60 such appointed bodies functioning within the County of Marin.

Serving on a commission can be a rewarding experience and is an excellent way to participate in county government and make a personal contribution to the community. If we are to have a government that is truly reflective of our democratic ideals, “of the people, by the people and for the people,” we must rely on the active participation of many dedicated commission members.

The Board of Supervisors recognizes the level of commitment and professionalism required to serve as a commission member. Your role as a commission member assists the Board immeasurably in making Marin County government both effective and responsive to its citizens. In fact, the Board of Supervisors has adopted “Defining Values” for the County that include responsiveness, collaboration, accessibility, diversity and citizenship. Commissions serve as a catalyst in supporting the Board by incorporating these values throughout the decision making process.

*“You make a living by what you get,
but you make a life by what you give.”*
Winston Churchill

* Throughout this handbook, the word commission is used to denote all members who serve on advisory boards, commissions and committees and are appointed by the Board of Supervisors.