Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Advisory Board?

• An advisory board is a group that works with an organization to provide guidance and make recommendations on strategy and policy.
• Advisory boards may also be known as a council, committee, commission, panel, or task force.

Why Join an Advisory Board?

• Fulfill a civic responsibility, help shape policy, and give back to your community.
• Meet people who share your interests.
• Donate your professional and personal skills.

How do I Find an Organization?

• Google it! Search for “San Diego,” + “your area of interest”+ “organization.”
• Idealist connects people who want to do good with opportunities for action and collaboration: https://www.idealist.org/
• Search your local government website. For County of San Diego advisory boards, see: https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/cob/bcac/howtoserve.html

What if I don’t have Expertise?

• Most nonprofits welcome volunteers who are passionate about their mission, even if the volunteer doesn’t have a background in the area.
• “Lay members” bring diverse life experiences and the perspective of a community member.
Three Steps to Join an Advisory Board and Serve Your Community

1. Identify Your Passion

- What are your interests: children, seniors, environment, animals, health, education, etc.?

2. Find an Organization

- Search for nonprofit organizations or government advisory boards working in your area of interest.
- Does the organization’s mission statement align with your interests?

3. Get Involved!

- Attend an advisory board meeting.
- Start as a volunteer or join a committee.
- Apply to become an advisory board member.