

San Francisco Elections Commission

## COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

January 01, 2012 – December 31, 2012

Pursuant to the Bylaws of the San Francisco Elections Commission, Article XI, I herewith submit the Commission's Annual Report for the Commission's eleventh year, 2012.

Gerard Gleason  
President

Approved by the San Francisco Elections Commission on August 21, 2013

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## 1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to describe significant elections events during 2012 and Commission initiatives in the context of these events. The intent of this report is to give a brief history of the Commission events that transpired this year.

## 2 Commission Organizational Description

### 2.1 Commission Members

During 2012, the Commission operated with a full membership the entire year. The appointment to the Commission by the District Attorney was made at the beginning of 2012, with the existing appointee for that seats, Winnie Yu being reappointed to another five-year term.

The Commission had one committee, the Budget and Oversight of Public Elections Committee (BOPEC). BOPEC consisted of three Commission members. The table below details each Commissioner, their dates of service, and their roles on the Commission:

<b>Appointing Authority</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Months of Service (2012)</b>	<b>Roles</b>
Board of Supervisors	Gerard Gleason	January – December	President of Commission
Public Defender	Jill Rowe	January – December	Vice-President of Commission & Chair of BOPEC
Bd of Education	Catalina Ruiz-Healy	January – December	BOPEC Member
Mayor	Arnold Townsend	January – December	Commission Member
Treasurer	Rosebella Safont	January – December	Commission Member
City Attorney	Richard Matthews	January – December	BOPEC Member
District Attorney	Winnie Yu	January – December	Commission Member

## **2.2 Commission Secretary**

Tachina Alexander served as the Commission Secretary beginning in June, 2012. The position of Commission Secretary is a half-time position.

## **2.3 Deputy City Attorney**

During the course of 2012, Mollie Lee served as Deputy City Attorney to the Commission with support from her colleagues, Jon Givner and Andrew Shen.

## **2.4 Director of Elections**

John Arntz continued to serve as the Director of Elections in 2012.

# **3 Department Accomplishments**

## **3.1 Elections in 2012**

By far the most significant accomplishment by the Department of Elections was the successful organization and conduct of elections held during 2012:

- 1) June 5, 2012 Presidential Consolidated Primary Election
- 2) November 6, 2012 Consolidated General Election

In addition, the Department of Elections is called upon throughout the year to conduct non-public elections for such entities as the City Employee's Retirement Board.

Presidential election years typically have higher turnout for elections. The Department of Elections handled these elections with outstanding professionalism and service to the voting public.

## 4 Commission Accomplishments

### 4.1 Elections

The Commission assessed and approved written election plans prior to, as well as reviewed and evaluated effectiveness of election plans after each of the following elections in 2012. The Commission's findings of compliance with written election plans are noted below:

- 1) June 5, 2012 Election: Commission found the election to be effective and in compliance with written election plan. [Minutes of August 15, 2012]
- 2) November 6, 2012 Election: Commission found the election to be effective and in compliance with written election plan. [Minutes of December 20, 2012]

### 4.2 Personnel

The position of Commission Secretary had been staffed on a interim basis since September of 2010. In June 2012 the Commission conducted interviews with applicants for the position of Commission Secretary. The Commission was pleased to select Tachina Alexander for the position.

### 4.3 Commission Observation and Oversight of Elections

Feedback on observations of the June 5, 2012 Primary and November 6, 2012 General Election by various members of the Commission can be found in minutes of the following meetings: June 20, 2012 and November 28, 2012.

### 4.4 Specific Elections Issues Discussed in 2012

Various issues were brought before the Commission to discuss in 2012. Many were the result of observations of elections operations by members of the Commission. Some were the result of input and inquiry by members of the public. Full descriptions and dialog can be found in the minutes of the meetings as noted. The follow is a brief synopsis of some of the more substantial issues discussed in 2012.

- 1) All meetings of the Elections Commission include an opportunity for the Director of Elections to give a report on current operations of the Department as well as preparation for elections and post-election canvass of the vote. [Minutes of all meetings ]
- 2) Discussion of Voter Fraud Hotline operated the office of District Attorney of San Francisco. In the weeks prior to the November 6 General Election, the District Attorney had a press conference and put out a press release regarding the establishment of a voter fraud hotline for members of the public. While issues related to prosecution for voter fraud are naturally within the operation of the District Attorney, the Commission is concerned whenever allegations of voter fraud brought up, particularly when voter fraud is brought up with regard to no specific existing circumstance. The Commission forwarded a communication to the District Attorney's office concerning caution when discussing the existence of voter fraud. [Minutes: October 30, and November 28, 2012]

#### 4.5 Department Budget

The Commission continued to review budgets submitted by the Department, noting the challenges to operations and that cutbacks are required of all departments in the City & County of San Francisco. [Minutes: February 15, 2012]