Memorandum

To: Elections Commission
From: John Arntz, Director
Date: May 13, 2019
RE: Director's Report: May 15, 2019, Elections Commission Meeting

Following is a brief listing of the work and related information in which the Department of Elections (Department) has been engaged since the previous Elections Commission meeting on April 17, 2019.

I. Update on the City’s efforts to develop a highly accessible, open source voting system and other voting system matters.
   A. On May 8, I appeared before the City’s State Legislative Committee to request support for Assembly Bill 1784 which would allocate $16 million in State funds to counties to develop open source voting systems under a GNU General Public License 3.0. The Committee voted to support AB 1784.
   B. On May 8, the Assembly Appropriations Committee placed AB 1784 in the suspense file for a hearing at a later date. According to the Appropriations Committee’s website, suspense files “are then considered at one hearing after the state budget has been prepared and the committee has a better sense of available revenue. No testimony is presented — author or witness — at the Suspense File hearing.”
   C. Microsoft issued a press release regarding a new “software development kit” (SDK) named “ElectionGuard” that is designed to operate on tablets and ballot marking devices at polling places and voting centers and which ensures that votes are counted as cast.
      a. ElectionGuard is open source using the MIT Open Source License and will be available on GitHub this summer but at an unspecified date.
      b. ElectionGuard currently cannot be applied to vote-by-mail systems.
      c. The SDK is available to voting system vendors and others to incorporate ElectionGuard into existing and new systems.
      d. ElectionGuard will require approval by the California Secretary of State whenever incorporated into a voting system.
      e. Election Guard is designed to print the hash of voters’ selections onto a ballot stub that can be used to verify that the voting system correctly recorded individual voters’ votes and allow everyone to verify the system correctly counted those votes.
      f. Microsoft is developing a “reference voting system” to demonstrate that ElectionGuard will operate on common tablets or specialized ballot marking devices to represent the equipment often available at polling places and voting centers.
      g. Microsoft intends to continue development of ElectionGuard so that the program can eventually be used with vote-by-mail systems and ranked-choice voting.
   D. Regarding the implementation of the voting system for the November 2019 election, Department personnel continued to undertake training by Dominion representatives regarding the system’s operations.
   E. In addition to lecture-style training sessions, Department personnel have been obtaining hands-on practice with the voting system through simulation of the various election processes.
II. The Department has initiated an outreach program intended to educate the public about the new ballot format and new voting equipment.
   A. In early May, the Department’s Outreach team began publicly demonstrating the new voting equipment with two initial full-day sessions at City College campuses. During the demonstrations, the Outreach team distributed informational materials such as a new RCV brochure and demonstration ballots, used a large dry-erase RCV ballot to explain how to mark RCV contests, and provided hands-on practice sessions using the new voting equipment.
   B. The Department developed a survey for distribution to participants to gather public input about the new voting system as well as feedback on the event itself that will inform the Department on the new system, outreach methods, ballot format and voting instructions.
   C. Already the Department’s public service announcement (PSA) arc airing on local radio stations and will soon air on television stations this summer. The PSA will run in English, as well as Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish and Filipino on non-English channels. All PSAs that air on television allow for closed captioning in English, Chinese, Filipino, and Spanish.

III. The Department continues its polling place signage redesign project with several items already in draft form.
   A. The Department will introduce a three-sided, illustrated cardboard kiosk with multilingual voting information for the November 2019 election that more effectively presents information on voters’ rights, election laws, results schedules, language and accessibility resources, as well as information about the new ranked-choice ballot format. The new kiosk requires a smaller footprint at polling places than the previous kiosk and is more durable and simpler to setup. (See Attachment 1).
   B. The Department has redesigned the Ballot Secrecy Folder that voters use at polling places when transitioning their voted ballots from voting booths to the onsite tabulator to present clear, illustrated voting instructions for both standard paper ballots and the new accessible ballot-marking device. (See Attachment 2).
   C. The Department has redesigned a multilingual Welcome Sign, with information on available voting resources, accessible voting tools, translated election materials and bilingual poll workers. The welcome sign is broken up into six language sections -- English, Chinese, Spanish, Filipino, Korean, and Vietnamese, with resources available in that language described in that language section. (See Attachment 3).
   D. The Department will introduce a new method for displaying a Vote Here sign to mark the entrance to each polling place for use in windy conditions rather than having poll workers taping the signs to walls and more affected by wind. The new method allows the sign to be firmly attached to an orange cone using bungee cords and has withstood testing outdoors by Department personnel. (See Attachment 4).

IV. The Department is making final preparations for the buildout and relocation of its warehouse.
   A. The Department is working with various City agencies to make final preparations for the buildout and relocation of its warehouse:
      a. The San Francisco Port Authority (PORT) is nearing completion of the interior painting of the facility in preparation for the Department’s occupation.
      b. The Department of Technology (DT) is establishing services to build out the internet, networking, telephone, and security systems.
      c. The Department of Public Works Bureau of Building Repair (BBR) is providing services for the facility’s electrical, mechanical, plumbing, carpentry, and asphalt needs.
   B. Building permits are in final stages of review and the Department expects to begin operating out of the new warehouse in July 2019.
Polling Place Signage Redesign Project: Three-sided Voter Information Kiosk with pockets for voter guides and reference ballots
Content displayed on the Kiosk follows:

Panel 1

VOTER BILL OF RIGHTS

- The right to vote if you are a registered voter. You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen living in California, at least 18 years old, registered where you currently live, not currently in state or federal prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony, and not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.
- The right to vote if you are a registered voter even if your name is not on the list. You will vote using a provisional ballot. Your vote will be counted if elections officials determine that you are eligible to vote.
- The right to vote if you are still in line when the polls close.
- The right to cast a secret ballot without anyone bothering you or telling you how to vote.
- The right to get a new ballot if you have made a mistake, if you have not already cast your ballot. You can ask an elections official at a polling place for a new ballot, exchange your vote-by-mail ballot for a new one at an elections office or at your polling place, or vote using a provisional ballot.
- The right to get help casting your ballot from anyone you choose, except from your employer or union representative.
- The right to drop off your completed vote-by-mail ballot at any polling place in California.
- The right to get election materials in a language other than English if enough people in your voting precinct speak that language.
- The right to ask questions to elections officials about election procedures and watch the election process. If the person you ask cannot answer your questions, they must send you to the right person for an answer. If you are disruptive, they can stop answering you.
- The right to report any illegal or fraudulent election activity to an elections official or the Secretary of State’s office.

If you believe you have been denied any of these rights, call the Secretary of State’s confidential toll-free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

Panel 2

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Get a Ballot

If you are registered to vote in this precinct:
a poll worker here can give you a standard ballot and a secrecy folder. If you vote by mail, you must surrender the vote-by-mail ballot packet sent to you to get the standard ballot.

If you are registered to vote in a different precinct in San Francisco:
you can vote here provisionally. See below.
If you are not registered to vote anywhere in San Francisco:
you can register and vote a conditional ballot. For more information, ask a poll worker.

2. Vote Your Ballot
Take your ballot to a voting booth.
Mark your ballot, referring to the instructions on the ballot or in a voting booth poster.
Place voted ballot in a secrecy folder and bring it to the ballot-scanning machine. Insert your ballot into the machine.

Provisional Voting
To cast a provisional ballot, complete and sign a provisional envelope and enclose your voted ballot.
Drop the envelope in the Red Box.
Your provisional ballot will only be counted if you are registered to vote in San Francisco.
Check your registration at sfelections.org/reglookup or ask a poll worker for help.

Accessible Voting
All polling places in San Francisco offer:
- accessible ballot-marking device, with audio and touchscreen interfaces
- magnifiers and easy-grip pens for marking paper ballots
- sip/puff and head pointers, available by request
- curbside voting
Poll workers can also provide assistance to voters.

Panel 3

NOTICES
More Rankings in Ranked-Choice Voting Contests
Voters can now rank up to 10 candidates in a ranked-choice voting contest, instead of three candidates as in the past.
When marking your ballot, refer to voting instructions printed on the ballot and posted in a voting booth.

Language Access
All polling places in San Francisco offer ballots and voter information in English, Chinese, Spanish, and Filipino, as well as facsimile (reference) ballots in Vietnamese and Korean. Voters can ask for assistance from poll workers, many of whom are bilingual, or call (415) 554-4375 for telephone interpretation in many languages.
Most Voters Do Not Need to Show ID
You do not need to show identification to vote unless you are a voter with an incomplete registration voting for the first time in a federal election. In that case, a poll worker will ask you to provide photo identification, such as a driver’s license, or a document with your address, such as a utility bill. Ask a poll worker to see the full list.

Election Results
The Department of Elections will report preliminary election results on Election Night and every day until the election is certified. The Department will report final results after the election is certified. Preliminary and final election results, including reports for ranked-choice voting contests are available at sflections.org and at the Department’s office in City Hall.

Election Integrity
Under state and/or federal law, it is a crime to vote fraudulently, to help someone else vote fraudulently, to vote more than once, to interfere with official election processes, to violate the right to a secret ballot, or to tamper with voting equipment or election results.
Polling Place Signage Redesign Project: Ballot Secrecy Folder, containing illustrated voting instructions for both standard paper ballots and the new accessible ballot-marking device
Content displayed on the Ballot Secrecy Folder in English follows:

Front

Ballot Secrecy Folder
Use this folder to maintain the secrecy of your ballot.

When voting a paper ballot, follow these steps:
1. Receive a paper ballot and stub receipts from a poll worker.
2. Take the ballot cards to a voting booth to mark them. Refer to instructions in the voting booth poster or on the ballot. Do not write personal information, such as your name, on the ballot.
3. Place the marked ballot cards in this folder and take the folder to the ballot-scanning machine.
4. Insert the ballot cards into the ballot-scanning machine, one at a time.

When using an accessible ballot-marking device, follow these steps:
1. A poll worker will activate a ballot on the accessible ballot-marking device.
2. Use touchscreen, audio keypad, or other assistive device to mark the ballot. Refer to the instructions presented by the ballot-marking device.
3. Print the ballot. Place the printout in this folder and take the folder to the ballot-scanning machine.
4. Insert the printout into the ballot-scanning machine.

Inside

Thank You for Voting!

Back

The following activities are prohibited by law and punishable as misdemeanors and/or felonies:
1. Electioneering, soliciting of votes, or circulating petitions within 100 feet of a polling place.
2. Removing or vandalizing any sign or official document in the polling place.
3. Asking for or taking a marked ballot from a voter (any person other than a poll worker).
4. Disclosure, by a poll worker, of a voter's choices to someone else.
5. Forging or altering election results, wrongfully submitting or stealing ballots.
Polling Place Signage Redesign Project: Welcome sign, providing information about resources and services available in English, Chinese, Spanish, Filipino, Korean, and Vietnamese
Content displayed on the Welcome Sign in English follows:

**Welcome, San Francisco Voters!**

**Resources Available**
- Official ballot in paper, audio, and touchscreen formats
- Sample ballot
- Voting instructions
- Voter guides
- Easy-grip pens
- Print magnifiers
- Curbside Voting

See poll worker name tags for languages spoken at this polling place.

We offer interpreting services in many languages. Call (415) 554-4375.

**Voter Support Hotline**
(415) 554-4375
Polling Place Signage Redesign Project: Vote Here sign, secured to an orange cone with bungee cards