

ELECTIONS COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco

Christopher Jerdonek, President
Jill Rowe, Vice President
Roger Donaldson
Charles Jung
Dominic Paris
Rosabella Safont
Winnie Yu



John Arntz, Director of Elections

Nadya Hewitt, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

San Francisco Elections Commission
Wednesday, December 16, 2015
6:00 p.m.
City Hall, Room 408
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

President Jerdonek called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Present: Commissioners Jerdonek, Jung, Paris, Rowe, and Safont. Absent: Commissioner Yu. Also present: Deputy Director of Elections Nataliya Kuzina, Deputy City Attorney Andrew Shen, and Commission Secretary Nadya Hewitt. Commissioner Donaldson arrived late at 6:08 p.m. during agenda item 4.

2. General Public Comment

Mr. Bill Hershon, an attorney with Disability Rights California, read public comment on behalf of Mr. Fred Nisen, Supervising Attorney for the voting rights unit of Disability Rights California. The comment was regarding San Francisco's next voting system. Mr. Brent Turner spoke on behalf of the California Association of Voting Officials on the topic of open source voting systems. Miss Savannah Rigo, a junior high school student, spoke in support of open source voting systems.

3. Approval of Minutes for previous meeting

Moved by Vice President Rowe and seconded by Commissioner Paris to approve the draft minutes of the November 18, 2015 Elections Commission Meeting. No public comment. The vote was UNANIMOUS to approve.

4. Commissioners' Reports

President Jerdonek announced that he was appointing Commissioner Donaldson to replace him on the Budget and Oversight of Public Elections Committee (BOPEC). President Jerdonek said that the San Francisco Examiner featured the open source voting resolution that the Commission passed at its last meeting as its cover story on Thanksgiving Day.

Commissioner Donaldson provided information on the plans of some nearby counties to acquire a new voting system.

5. Director's Report

Deputy Director of Elections Nataliya Kuzina reported that the Administrative Division is updating and preparing materials for the upcoming election. Campaign Services is working on calendars and preparations for the June and November 2016 elections. Voter Services switched to using the VoteCal statewide database and purged 250,000 cancelled records. The Department will work on data standardization next. Outreach participated in an event called Homeless Project Connect. Precinct Services is working on securing polling place locations; fifty-five are already secured. The Department will send another mailer in January 2016 to check on more locations. The Pollworker Division is inputting poll worker information and metrics.

Commissioner Jung suggested and inquired about having a written report summarizing the activities of the Department in advance so that the Commission could have a better idea of what goes on in the Department. President Jerdonek said the topic could be discussed again at the next meeting as an agenda item.

Commissioner Donaldson and Commissioner Paris asked for more information about the VoteCal transition.

6. Discussion and possible action to review the November 3, 2015 election

Vice President Rowe summarized BOPEC's review of the November 3, 2015 election and said that BOPEC voted unanimously to forward to the full Commission a recommendation that the Commission approve that the election substantially complied with the Election Plan.

President Jerdonek summarized the document he provided to the Commission as part of the agenda packet.

Vice President Rowe asked Deputy Director Kuzina if she could ask Director Arntz to provide at the next meeting more information about the higher rate of challenged vote-by-mail ballots.

Public comment: Mr. David Cary spoke in support of some of the improvements around RCV reporting and certification.

President Jerdonek proposed the idea of a motion finding that the Department succeeded in carrying out a free, fair and functional election since it is closer to the wording of the Charter. After discussion, the Commission will revisit this topic at the next meeting.

Moved by Vice President Rowe and seconded by Commissioner Jung to approve that the November 3, 2015 election substantially complied with the Election Plan. The vote was UNANIMOUS to approve.

7. Agenda items for future meetings

President Jerdonek listed the following items as upcoming: the Commission Annual Report, and the annual review of the Director of Elections and the Commission Secretary. Commissioner Jung mentioned the item regarding the format of the Director's Report. Vice President Rowe mentioned the annual election of Commission officers. Vice President Rowe also stated that she will be finding out whether she will be reappointed to the Commission for a second term.

Public comment: Ms. Sylvia Johnson spoke.

Adjourned at 7:11 p.m.