

ELECTIONS COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco

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



John Arntz, Director of Elections

MEETING MINUTES

San Francisco Elections Commission
Wednesday, June 15, 2016
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 Rowe called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Commissioners Donaldson, Jerdonek, Jung, Paris, Rowe, Safont, and Yu. Also present: Director of Elections John Arntz, Deputy City Attorney Joshua White, and Commission Secretary Nadya Hewitt.

2. General Public Comment

A member of the public expressed concern about the notice sent by the Department of Elections to voters to request a ballot containing the Presidential primary contest.

A member of the public expressed concern about her training to be a polling place inspector.

A member of the public expressed concern about the process for no-party preference voters to vote in the Presidential primary.

A member of the public expressed concern about the Department not letting them file paperwork to recall Mayor Ed Lee.

A member of the public expressed concern about pollworkers not being properly trained on providing no-party preference voters with a ballot containing the Presidential primary.

A member of the public expressed concern about Departmental notices to voters on how to correct disqualified ballots.

A member of the public expressed concern about her experience as a pollworker and noticing a large number of vote-by-mail voters who said they never received a vote-by-mail ballot and so had to vote provisionally.

A member of the public expressed concern about the information sent to voters by the Department in advance of the election.

A member of the public expressed concern about the process of voting being too complicated for voters.

A member of the public expressed concern about her experience receiving a vote-by-mail ballot by e-mail.

A member of the public expressed concern about the number of complaints she has heard from voters throughout the country about voting.

A member of the public expressed concern about their experience as a pollworker and noticing many long-time voters not being listed as registered voters at their polling place.

A member of the public expressed concern about the primary process being confusing for voters.

A member of the public expressed concern about the Department being perceived as controlled by a political party.

A member of the public expressed concern about his voter registration being removed.

A member of the public expressed concern about no-party preference voters not being familiar with how to request a ballot containing the Presidential primary.

A member of the public expressed concern about confusion from voters who were registered as members of the American Independent party.

A member of the public expressed concern about their experience as a pollworker and noticing the accessible voting machine not working for a voter with a disability.

A member of the public expressed concern about the difficulties no-party preference voters had and suggested mailing all NPP voters a ballot containing the Presidential candidates for all parties.

A member of the public expressed concern that the election process is confusing for voters.

A member of the public expressed concern about a voter's party registration changing without the voter's consent and how a pollworker handled the situation.

A member of the public encouraged members of the public to work with members of the State Legislature to change election laws.

A member of the public expressed that many election problems can be fixed through better design.

A member of the public expressed concern about the large number of voters that had to vote provisionally in their polling place while they were a pollworker.

A member of the public expressed concern about not knowing if the ballots are being counted correctly.

3. Approval of Minutes for previous meeting

Moved by Commissioner Paris and seconded by Commissioner Donaldson to approve the draft minutes of the May 18, 2016 Elections Commission Meeting. No public comment. The vote was UNANIMOUS to approve.

4. Commissioners' Reports

President Rowe announced that July 15 would be Commission Secretary Hewitt's last day since she is moving out of state.

Commissioner Jerdonek said that he was a polling place inspector and also attended the random selection of precincts. He was interviewed by KQED on the topic of open source voting. He met with the Executive Director of the Ethics Commission, LeeAnn Pelham, to discuss Slate Mailer Organization filings, which he would like the Commission to discuss at a future meeting.

Commissioner Donaldson reported on his experiences as a polling place inspector.

Commissioner Paris reported on his experiences working as an elections courier for San Mateo County.

Public comment: A member of the public expressed concern about his experiences as a pollworker.

A member of the public expressed concern about the Department's notices to voters regarding disqualified ballots.

A member of the public expressed concern about voting early at City Hall and not being able to confirm that her ballot was counted.

A member of the public expressed concern about access to the precinct ballot report tapes.

A member of the public asked Commissioner Donaldson for clarification on one of his remarks.

A member of the public expressed concern about the precinct ballot report tapes not all being posted for 48 hours.

A member of the public expressed concern about the instruction placard for no-party preference voters not being displayed at one polling place.

A member of the public expressed concern about a remark made by Commissioner Paris about an election event that happened in San Mateo County.

A member of the public expressed concern about the news media announcing a winner before the polls were closed.

A member of the public stated that many of the issues raised are beyond the power of the Commission but commended the Commission for what it is doing.

A member of the public expressed concern about Department staff providing incorrect information about the precinct ballot report tapes.

A member of the public expressed concern about her experience receiving a vote-by-mail ballot by e-mail.

5. Director's Report

Deputy City Attorney White told the Commission that there was pending litigation regarding some of the issues raised today by members of the public.

Director Arntz reported on Departmental activities. He gave a progress report on the number of ballots counted so far and the amount of work remaining.

The Commission asked Director Arntz a number of follow-up questions and discussed.

Public comment: A member of the public asked where information about the pending litigation can be found. Deputy City Attorney White described where it can be found online.

A member of the public expressed concern about his experiences as a pollworker and said that the voting equipment should be checked before Election Day.

A member of the public asked whether the precinct-level totals for each candidate are reported on election night. Director Arntz replied that they are.

A member of the public asked about the number of provisional ballots. Director Arntz replied that the numbers are still estimates.

6. Open Source Voting

Commissioner Jerdonek reviewed the four documents that were included in the agenda packet about open source voting. He said the Mayor agreed to include \$300K for the initial phase of the open source voting system project in the Mayor's proposed budget. The Mayor included the project in his budget document as one of the five "highlighted" technology projects out of twenty-four in all.

Commissioner Jerdonek said he learned yesterday that the Board of Supervisors' Budget Analyst's Office has recommended to the Board that the Board remove the project from the proposed budget. Commissioner Jerdonek said that it would help for members of the public to contact the five members of the Board's Budget and Finance Committee and ask them to keep the project.

Director Arntz said that he will be going before the Budget and Finance Committee tomorrow at its budget hearings to disagree with the Budget Analyst's Office recommendation not to fund the open source voting project. Director Arntz said there is no public comment at tomorrow's meeting.

Commissioner Jerdonek asked Director Arntz if he could describe his planned first steps for the project assuming it is funded. Director Arntz replied that he has not put time into the project yet since he is still working on the election.

Public comment: A member of the public said that it is important to seek feedback from the public on the new voting system before designing it.

A member of the public spoke in support of the open source voting system project.

A member of the public spoke against hand-counting ballots and in support of the open source voting system project with paper ballots.

A member of the public spoke in support of the open source voting system project.

A member of the public spoke in support of the open source voting system project and against the recommendations of the Budget Analyst's Office.

Two members of the public spoke in support of the open source voting system project.

A member of the public expressed concern about a discrepancy between exit polls and the election results.

7. Future Agendas

Commissioner Jerdonek raised the issue of Slate Mailer Organization campaign filings and also the Commission Annual Report.

Public comment:

A member of the public spoke against internet voting and asked that internet voting be discussed again.

A member of the public asked that next steps for open source voting be discussed at a future meeting.

A member of the public said that exit polling should be incorporated into the election process.

A member of the public said that Election Day should be a national holiday.

A member of the public asked that processes around vote-by-mail ballots be discussed at a future meeting.

A member of the public spoke in support of voters receiving a receipt that their vote was counted.

8. Discussion regarding *Voting Rights Defense Project, et al. v. Padilla, et al.*, Case No. 16-cv-2739-WHA, U.S. District Court, Northern District of CA.

President Rowe introduced the item.

Public comment: A member of the public expressed concern about the training of pollworkers and confusion from voters.

A member of the public said that the election was upsetting and has created a lot of distrust.

A member of the public expressed concern about Secretary of State Alex Padilla expressing public support for one candidate in the Presidential primary.

Moved by President Rowe and seconded by Commissioner Safont to move into closed session. The vote was UNANIMOUS to approve.

The Commission moved into closed session. The Commission moved back into open session at 8:47 p.m.

President Rowe announced that the Commission voted not to disclose the contents of the closed session.

Adjourned at 8:48 p.m.