

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

Elections Commission Meeting
Wednesday, November 16, 2016
6:00 p.m.
City Hall, Room 408
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

President Rowe called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. PRESENT: Commissioners Rowe, Jerdonek, Yu, Paris and Jung. Commissioner Donaldson's and Commissioner Safont's absences were excused. ALSO PRESENT: Director Arntz, Deputy City Attorney Andrew Shen.

2. General Public Comment

Otto Duffy stated that he had decided to get out the vote in his residential hotel, which has about 50 residents but the registration list shows over 100. He thinks many of the former residents moved or passed away. He believes that the powers that be do not want to cull the voter rolls aggressively because they don't want to deny the vote, but this opens up the possibility for fraud. Last June, he came to an Elections Commission meeting and agreed to give Director Arntz a list of the hotel's residents so that the Department could review it, but he has not done that yet. Commissioner Jung asked what Mr. Duffy was asking the Commission to do, and he responded that he wants a registrar of voters to deal with the voter rolls.

3. Approval of Minutes for Previous Meetings

Commissioner Paris moved to approve the minutes for the October 19, 2016 Elections Commission Meeting. Commissioner Jerdonek seconded the motion.

No public comment.

The roll call vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

4. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Jerdonek reported that he was a polling place inspector for the November 8 election and it was a good experience. He also stated that ranked choice voting measures passed in Benton, Oregon and in the State of Maine.

Commissioner Paris stated that he worked in San Mateo as a senior poll worker trainer, and served as a Field Tech on election day. He had a good experience.

Commissioner Rowe stated that because so much time has passed since Secretary applications were received, she intends to re-open the application process. She asked for a volunteer to review the applications, and Commissioner Paris agreed to do so.

Commissioner Rowe will ask DHR to post the opening this week, and we should have the applications in a month or so.

Commissioner Rowe stated that the annual Commission Officer elections will be held in January. She asked the Commissioners to consider running for office on the Commission and BOPEC, because she feels it is important to diversify those positions. She noted that serving as BOPEC Chair is a good way to gather the experience to perhaps serve as President in 2018.

No public comment.

5. Director's Report

Director Arntz stated that: This election had the highest number of voters in City history. The turn-out is expected to have been in the upper 70's or lower 80's. This is the second highest turn-out since 1968. 30% of voters voted at the polls, and 70% voted by mail. The Department issued 350,000 vote by mail ballots, and got 75% back. They still have about 37,000 more VBM ballots to process. As of today, the Department had processed more than one million ballot cards. When they are complete, they expect to have counted about 1.3 million cards. 17,000 voters cast their ballots at City Hall, which is about 3.3% of the registration base. They had 3,000 poll workers and 576 polling places. All polling places were open on time by 7am. They are still working 13-14 hours a day, and worked 24 hours a day for three days. They plan to do the 1% drawing on November 28 at the warehouse. He asked the Commissioners to compare the San Francisco website election results with those of other counties. San Francisco posts the results daily, which many counties do not. And San Francisco includes a far higher level of information than most or perhaps all other counties. This was probably the best election the Department has conducted since the Director joined the Department. The Director does not take personal credit; the election was well run because of so many people who put a lot of energy and passion into the election. He praised both the people from within the Department and those who worked with the Department for their excellent work. These workers were praiseworthy at every step of the process.

Commissioner Jerdonek asked how the Department culls the voter list. The Director responded that there are many pieces of the process. The statewide database compares existing records; voters are inactivated (but not canceled) if they do not vote for two consecutive federal cycles and then do not respond to a postcard inquiry from the Department; the Department gets monthly reports from the post office regarding address changes; if the Department gets a list from someone such as the public speaker, they will

follow up. There is a preference to inactivate voters rather than purge them, so as not to deprive an infrequent voter of the ability to vote when they want to do so. It sounded like the registrations the public speaker was referring to were likely inactivated voters.

No public comment.

6. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Jerdonek would like internet voting on a future agenda.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 pm.