

The Civil Grand Jury initially investigated significantly more topics within the realm of Elections than are laid out in this report. We dove into a range of concerns including signature mismatch invalidations, language and accessibility criteria, voter education efforts, data reporting and consistency issues, and ranked choice voting challenges. On each, we worked to understand the issues deeply, both within San Francisco and without. We gained insight into how the Department of Elections operates through interviews and reams of internal documents. We approached each concern with a deeply skeptical eye, keen on making sure that the DoE was faithfully serving the interests of San Francisco citizens.

This report omits these topics because the Department of Elections is doing a fabulous job. The problems that they face are challenging, and demand versatility and fluency in technological, logistical and interpersonal skills. Our inquiries into almost every element of their operations around elections administration consistently illuminated a department functioning effectively to fulfill the needs of its citizens. The folks we interviewed within the DoE were consistently knowledgeable, experienced, diligent and delightful. They appear to be consistently executing the many challenging roles that they hold with grace and efficiency.

Moreover, the Department's focus is very clearly on the needs of the voter. Their work to reduce the frequency of votes that don't count is commendable and should be a model for others to follow. Their education efforts show a clear focus on serving the historically disenfranchised. Their policies are crafted to increase access to voting, and assumes the best intent of the voter.

Finally, the members of the Department show clear drive to always be getting better. In almost every conversation we were blown away by the level of innovation and creative programming that was bubbling up from employees in every role. This gives us further confidence in the future of the Department.

We came into this investigation with a spate of questions and concerns about elections in San Francisco, and over the course of a year we found that most were already mitigated. This is largely because San Francisco has great people conducting our elections.