

DRAFT

SAN FRANCISCO ELECTIONS COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

[if approved] Approved by the San Francisco Elections Commission on August 21, 2019

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1 Purpose

1.1 The San Francisco Election Commission

The Elections Commission was established by San Francisco Charter § 13.103.5 pursuant to a Charter amendment called Proposition E that was passed by voters in the November 6, 2001 Consolidated Municipal Election. The Elections Commission assumed policy-making authority and oversight of all public federal, state, district and municipal elections in the City and County of San Francisco effective January 1, 2002.

1.2 Commission Annual Report

Pursuant to Article XI of the Bylaws of the Elections Commission, the purpose of this report is to preserve and pass on to successive Commissions relevant information so as to make more effective subsequent Commission tenures by providing institutional memory to assist in resolution of recurring Commission problems. This report contains the President's report of the activities of the Commission during 2016, as well as other information the President deems significant and of likely assistance to subsequent Commissions.

2 Commission Organizational Description

2.1 Commission Members

The San Francisco Election Commission members are appointed to staggered 5 year terms by the elected office holders as defined in the San Francisco Charter § 13.103.5

The Commissioners, Commission Role, Appointed By and Term in 2018 were:

- Roger Donaldson President City Attorney 2018 Full Year
- Viva Mogi Vice President District Attorney 2018 Full Year
- Chris Jerdonek Commissioner Board of Supervisors 2018 Full Year
- Charles Jung Commissioner Mayor 2018 Full Year
- Jill Rowe Commissioner Public Defender 2018 Full Year

The following Commissioners left the Commission mid-year

- Dominic Paris Commissioner Board of Education Jan-Feb 2018
- Rosabella Safont Commissioner Treasurer Jan-Mar 2018

The following Commissioners were appointed to the Commission mid-year

- Charlotte Hill Commissioner Board of Education Apr 2018 onward
- Lucy Bernholz Commissioner Treasurer Sep 2018 onward

2.2 Budget and Oversight of Public Elections Committee (BOPEC) Members

The Commission's Budget and Oversight of Public Elections Committee reviews Election Plans, Budgets and other matters referred to it by the President or full Commission and provides findings and recommendations for consideration at Commission Meetings. The Committee consisted of the following members:

- Roger Donaldson Chair Full Year

The following Commissioners left the Commission mid-year

- Dominic Paris Member Thru Feb 2018
- Rosabella Safont Member Thru Mar 2018

The following Commissioners were appointed to the Committee by the Commission President

- Charles Jung Member Jul 2018 onward
- Viva Mogi Member Jul 2018 onward

2.3 Open Source Technical Advisory Committee (OSVTAC)

The Elections Commission created the [Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee](#) (TAC) in April 2017. The committee's purpose is to provide technical guidance to the Commission on the City and County of San Francisco's open source voting system project:

- Chris Jerdonek Chair 2018 Full Year Re-appointed Chair May 16, 2018
- Carl Hage Member 2018 Full Year Re-appointed May 16, 2018
- Roan Kattouw Member 2018 Full Year Re-appointed May 16, 2018
- Tony Wasserman Member 2018 Full Year Re-appointed May 16, 2018

The following Members left the Committee mid-year

- Larry Bafundo Member Jan-Aug 2018

The following Member was appointed to the Committee by the Commission mid-year

- Brandon Philips Member Oct 2018 onward Appointed October 17, 2018

2.4 Director of Elections

The Director of Elections is hired by the Election Commission and serves as the executive of the San Francisco Department of Elections and is a full time employee of the City and County of San Francisco

- John Arntz Director of Elections 2018 Full Year.

2.5 Secretary

The Commission Secretary is hired by the Election Commission and serves as the administrative staff to the Commission and is an employee of the City and County of San Francisco

- Don Chan Commission Secretary 2018 Full Year

2.6 Deputy City Attorney

The deputy City Attorney is assigned to the Election Commission to advise the body on matters pertaining to it's authority

- Joshua White Deputy City Attorney 2018 Full Year

3 Commission Activities

3.1 Elections

The Department of Elections conducted 2 City-wide elections: June 5, 2018 Consolidated Statewide Primary Election and November 6, 2018 General Election.

3.1.1 June 5, 2018 Consolidated Statewide Primary Election

At the March 21, 2018 Elections Commission meeting the Commission assessed and unanimously approved the Department's the June 5, 2018 Election Plan with the stipulation of the insertion of a script for poll workers regarding the availability of accessible voting machines.

The Commission assessed the Jun 5, 2018 election at it's July 18, 2018 Commission meeting. At the Election Commission meeting, it was noted that the statement on accessible voting machines was included in poll worker training. The Commission voted unanimously to declare that the election plan succeeded in carrying out a free and fair election.

3.1.2 November 6, 2018 General Election

At the September 20, 2018 Elections Commission meeting the Commission assessed the November 8, 2018 Election Plan. The Commission noted that the November election would include non-citizen voters for the School Board election as approved in Proposition N by San Francisco voters. Also, the Department of Elections would reintroduced a statement about the Elections Commission in the Voter pamphlet. The Plan was unanimously approved by the Commission.

The Commission assessed the November 6, 2018 election at its December 19, 2018 Commission meeting. The Commission voted unanimously to de accept the November election as free, fair, and functional.

3.2 Director of Elections, John Arntz – Offer of Additional 5-Year Term

At the February 21, 2018 Election Commission Meeting the Commission voted to offer Director of Elections John Arntz another 5-year term.

3.3 FY2018-2019 Budget

BOPEC reviewed and assessed the budget for FY2018-2019 at \$18.5M and FY2019-2020 at \$23.2M. General fund requests were \$17.6M and \$23.1M respectively due to revenue for candidate fees and reimbursement for special elections. The difference between the years was largely due to 2 elections in the first fiscal year and 3 in the second. Additionally, there is an increase over FY2017-2018 with increases in fixed operating costs in both FY2018-19 and FY2019-20 totaling \$2,036,404 and \$894,144 respectively due to costs associated with leasing or renting a new voting system and costs resulting from a contract to provide a remote accessible vote-by-mail system, as required under recently enacted state election law. BOPEC recommended the full Commission's acceptance and adoption of the Departments FY2018-2019 budget.

At the February 21, 2018 Election Commission meeting, the Commission reviewed and assessed the budget and the motion to approve the proposed budget carried unanimously.

3.4 Open Source Voting

Throughout calendar year 2018, the Commission encouraged and supported the development of an open source voting system by the City of San Francisco. This included the continuation of the Open Source Voting Technical Advisory Committee formed by the Commission in April 2017. Additionally, the Commission was required to respond to the Civil Grand Jury Report on Open Source Voting in San Francisco.

Commissioner Jerdonek and Donaldson advocated for an Open Source Voting and the San Francisco Open Source Voting System Development Project at meetings with the Board of Supervisors, the public, the press and at other good government groups. They also advocated for funding for the next increment of funding for an open source voting development project by the City. The City Department of Technology was funded

\$1.26M to pursue a open source voting system development project. The Director of the Department of Technology provided an overview and updates on the project at the September, October and December Commission meetings.

3.4.1 Open Source Voting Systems Resolution #2

At the June 20, 2018 Election Commission meeting, the Commission approved a resolution calling on the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to publicly state support for and fully fund an open source voting systems development project, that it should be developed by a dedicated project manager, rejecting the findings of high cost and risk of the commissioned Slalom report on development of such a system, and encouraging the Department of Elections to collaborate with other City departments on the project.

3.4.2 Open Source Voting Technical Advisory Committee (OSVTAC)

Commissioner Jerdonek chaired the OSVTAC which met throughout calendar 2018. Members of OSVTAC, appointed by the Commission, provided updates at each of the Election Commission meetings. OSVTAC did extensive work developing recommendations on how the City could approach and deliver meaningful voting system component as part of an open source voting project.

3.4.3 Civil Grand Jury Report on Open Source Voting in San Francisco

The San Francisco Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) chose to investigate the open source voting in San Francisco during its 2017-18 term. The CGJ investigation focused solely on the open source voting project in San Francisco. It includes twenty-two findings and thirteen recommendations, with responses requested from the Mayor of San Francisco, the Director of the San Francisco Department of Elections, the President of the San Francisco Elections Commission, San Francisco's Chief Information Officer (of the San Francisco Department of Technology), and the San Francisco Controller.

At the July 18, 2018 meeting the Commission reviewed and assessed a draft response to findings and recommendations of CGJ. With a thorough review and updates from Commissioners, the response was approved unanimously and Commissioner Donaldson charged with updates and returning the document to CGJ.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Donaldson
2018 Commission President

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