

ELECTIONS COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco

**BUDGET AND OVERSIGHT OF PUBLIC
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE (BOPEC)**

Roger Donaldson, Chair
Charles Jung
Viva Mogi



John Arntz, Director of Elections

Don Chan, Secretary

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (draft)

**Budget and Oversight of Public Elections Committee (BOPEC)
of the San Francisco Elections Commission**

**Wednesday, December 5, 2018
6:00 PM.**

**City Hall, Room 421
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102**

Order of Business

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Donaldson called the meeting to order at 6:14PM. Commissioners Jung and Mogi were present. Also present, Director of Elections John Arntz and Commission Secretary Chan.

2. General Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Commissioner Jung noted that the minutes contained paraphrasing, but in general captured the essence of the discussions adequately. There were no amendments or corrections offered, so he moved to approve, seconded by Vice President Mogi. Upon voice vote the motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

Public Comment None

4. Review of the November 6, 2018 Consolidated General Election

Director Arntz commented that this was a very big election in terms of participation (75% turnout), the third biggest midterm election in the city's history. The processes held up very well, responding to both phone and emails in a prompt manner. 4500 conditional registrants voted at City Hall vs 1500 in the June election. The longest wait in line at City Hall was 37 minutes on Election Day (the time it took for the last person in line to vote on election night).

Five thousand people voted in City Hall on Election Day. The Nov 2016 Presidential election saw 1600 people at City Hall (81% turnout for that election). 373K total voters; 246K voted by mail, 120K voted at the polls. 26K provisional ballots, 4700 CVRs. One polling place had a problem with the inspector but did open in time.

President Donaldson asked for details about the problem polling place Director Arntz mentioned.

Commissioner Jung noted reported issues of seals broken, not matching, etc. Is there a “normal” number of problems usually with seals? Director Arntz said there isn’t a “norm” but they paid more attention to the seals this time than in June, but just from normal activity issues can arise (breaking seals). Sometimes poll workers register mis-matched serial numbers by mistake (looking at the wrong seals--- approx. 30 seals on every bag). The Department took great pains to pay attention to the seals throughout their process of preparation and delivery to polling places so all the incidents noted in the IRIS report were deemed not serious enough to hold up voting at those polling places. (Not considered a security threat that would impact the results).

President Donaldson asked if the FED deal with these issues. Director Arntz said for example if there is one seal out of ten on an Edge machine that’s broken it doesn’t mean that machine has been hacked. Usually the FED isn’t called out to verify seals.

Vice President Mogi asked if the increase in voting was due to CVR and same day voting. Director Arntz said that that started in 2017 and SF’s first election using that was in 2018. It’s mostly voters around City Hall that are using the Vote Center.

There was a noted influx of young voters to City Hall after 3pm on Election Day.

President Donaldson asked about the school board election and how many EDU voters there were. Director Arntz said around 70 or so registered and 60 of them voted.

Precincts which have less than 250 registered voters are given mail ballots and have no polling place.

3987 ballots (VBM) challenged and not counted. This is lower than average. The state issued regulations that allowed unsigned ballots received 2 days prior to certification could be included. This amounted to a couple thousand ballots this election. The Department had received a batch of 3000 ballots (local) 2 weeks after the election. They have received ballots that are several years old. The post office is required to deliver the mail regardless of when it was received.

Vice President Mogi asked if numbers of new voters or first time voters were known. Director Arntz said they could do a query and see what abstracts can be compiled. Vice President Mogi spoke about her positive experience as an observer at City Hall; she was impressed with the very friendly customer service and efficiency of all the staff on the floor, which made the voting experience a pleasant one.

Commissioner Jung moved that the Committee finds that the election was successfully carried out in a free, fair and functional manner. Seconded by Vice President Mogi. Upon

voice vote the motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

Public Comment None

5. Agenda items for future meetings

President Donaldson commented that BOPEC may possibly be the point where the Commission will act to find the replacement for Secretary Chan who will be resigning soon. Research is being done on what process may be required or allowed to facilitate the new hire, as they are revealed they will be shared with the commissioners. Additionally, there are still some responses owed the Civil Grand Jury. They might have to be taken up in BOPEC. He also reminded the committee members that Commission officer elections will be held in January.

Public Comment None

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM.