

Elections Commission
City and County of San Francisco



BUDGET AND OVERSIGHT OF
PUBLIC ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
Roger Donaldson, Chair
Lucy Bernholz, Vice Chair
Jill Rowe

John Arntz, Director of Elections

William Walker, Secretary

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**BUDGET AND OVERSIGHT OF PUBLIC ELECTIONS COMMITTEE (BOPEC)
OF THE SAN FRANCISCO ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

6:00 P.M.

CITY HALL, ROOM 421

**1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102**

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL AT 6:00 P.M.:

Vice Chair Rowe called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Secretary Walker called the roll. Committee Members Bernholz and Rowe were present. Committee Chair Donaldson informed the Vice Chair that he would arrive late. Director of Elections John Arntz and Committee Secretary William Walker were also present. The meeting achieved a quorum.

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT AT 6:00 P.M.:

Vice Chair Rowe noted that no public was present and no comment was heard.

3. APPROVED MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS DECEMBER 5, 2018, BUDGET AND OVERSIGHT OF PUBLIC ELECTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING:

Committee Member Bernholz moved that the Committee approve the minutes from the December 5, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Budget and Oversight of Public Elections Committee meeting. Vice Chair Rowe seconded the motion. Secretary Walker called the roll and the motion passed unanimously with two ayes from Committee Members Bernholz and Rowe.

AYES: BERNHOLZ, DONALDSON, ROWE. NOES: NONE.

MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY.

4. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL THE GENERAL ELECTION PLAN FOR THE NOVEMBER 5, 2019 CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

AYES: BERNHOLZ, DONALDSON, ROWE. NOES: NONE.

MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY.

Vice Chair Rowe introduced Director of Elections Arntz. Director Arntz commented that the Plan was a thorough plan with lots of details about the new voting system, the posting of ballot images, information on transaction logs, and details about cybersecurity training that all employees, permanent and short-term, receive prior to working at poll sites. The plan outlines that preparations for two elections are underway: for the November 2019 General Election and the March 2020 Presidential Primary Election, which is anticipated to be larger than the June 2016 primary.

Director Arntz discussed that for the first time, the department will operate two voting centers: one, per usual, at City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place (near Grove and Polk streets); a second, that will debut at the San Francisco State University Towers Conference Center, 798 State Dr (near Centennial Square Apartments), for the November 2019 election; and a third, that will be held at Joseph P. Lee Recreation Center, 1395 Mendell Street (near Third Street and Oakdale Avenue).

There have been over 150 pop up outreach events that have given the community an opportunity to interact with the new voting system. The website has been updated with information about the new ranked choice voting options. Representatives from FairVote and The Collaborative, a group of eight organizations that have received grants to perform outreach for non-citizen voting also reviewed the ranked choice voting materials. They participated in a four-hour training session that reviewed ranked choice voting, voting system tools. The plan references these items quite well.

RECEIVED QUESTIONS regarding General Election Plan for November 5, 2019 Consolidated Municipal Election

Commissioner Bernholz stated that the report was incredibly helpful and asked about the Department's communications strategy and how it would differ when comparing the strategies for the November 2019 and March 2020 elections. Director Arntz responded that ballots for each election look the same, but how reporting out of the vote counts appear will differ. He added that the public will see an improvement in reports reporting for March 2020 when comparing it to November 2019, but that the voting process for both elections will be the same.

Commissioner Bernholz asked if ranked choice voting will be utilized in March; Director Arntz responded no because there would not be any local candidates on the ballot; the June 2018 election had ranked choice voting because of the special mayoral election that was on the ballot that year.

Commissioner Bernholz asked about the difference in the number of polling places provided between the November 2019 election and the March 2020 election. Director Arntz responded that the November 2019 election is a municipal election, where the California Secretary of State allows for counties to consolidate their precincts. State law prohibits consolidating more than six precincts. The Department consolidates no more than two, and the consolidations are carried out

through using a set of criteria that considers voter turnout and the impact upon a voter should their precinct be consolidated. Traditionally, a number of polling places are known as the “go-to” place to vote. Consolidation reduces the overall cost of an election and the number of poll workers required to work an election.

5. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEE WAIVER FOR THE NOVEMBER 5, 2019 CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPAL ELECTION

**AYES: BERNHOLZ, DONALDSON, ROWE. NOES: NONE.
MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS. None.

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:52 P.M.