

**Elections Commission**  
*City and County of San Francisco*

Viva Mogi,  
Charlotte Hill, Vice President  
Lucy Bernholz  
Roger Donaldson  
Christopher Jerdonek  
Charles Jung  
Jill Rowe



President John Arntz, Director of Elections

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**San Francisco Elections  
Commission  
Wednesday, September 18, 2019  
6:00 p.m.  
City Hall, Room 408  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, California 94102**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:04.
- b. Roll call:
  - i. Present: President Mogi, Vice President Hill, Commissioner Donaldson, Commissioner Jerdonek
  - ii. Absent: Commissioners Jung, Rowe, and Bernholz (excused absences)
  - iii. We have met quorum. Note: No longer have a secretary, so President Mogi playing both roles tonight.

**2. General Public Comment**

- a. Brent Turner of CAVO told the Commission that the GET Summit had been cancelled, because a financial backer fell through. Comments on OSET.

**3. Open Source Voting**

- a. Commissioners' Report (Comm. Jerdonek)
  - i. Met with Louis Eisenberg to learn about open-source ranked-choice-voting tabulator, which will be used in Michigan in a municipal election. Potential for the tabulator to work with SF data. Comm. Jerdonek encouraged him to reach out to others in SF about the tabulator.
  - ii. TAC member resigned, so need to fill this vacancy.

- b. Technical Advisory Committee Report (Tony Wasserman)
  - i. Commission should have received Report #7 summarizing activities of Committee over past several months. Committee has developed open-source software to do results reporting.
  - ii. Watson gave talks at two prominent open-source conferences in July and August, and some conversation centered on how open San Francisco's open-source project will be.
  - iii. Public code is available for a Netherlands voting project, but it is privately owned.
- c. Director's Report (Linda Gerull, Department of Technology)
  - i. Held open-source community meeting. Results showed interest in developing tools to support wider accessibility for the disabled. Currently looking at accessibility framework to understand what might be needed for wider accessibility. Working with the Mayor's Office on Disability.
  - ii. Exploring partnership with Los Angeles via contracting with Gartner Consulting. Areas of collaboration: state certification, shared development, licensing, and support. Hoping it will result in a mutually beneficial partnership.
  - iii. Looking further into risk-limiting audit technology. Already work being done in Colorado and the Democracy Fund. Would add RCV to that software. Would be the first time in the US that we had software for risk-limiting audits in RCV elections. May be able to do a small test in November.
  - iv. Question from Commissioner Donaldson: If you were doing a test, how would you do it? Answer: Would just pick some (or all) of our RCV races this November and try out the code to see what needs to be modified for the software to work for us.
  - v. Question from Commissioner Donaldson: How is funding looking for the remainder of the year? Answer: Tight, but Department of Technology can stay staffed on this project.
  - vi. Question from Commissioner Jerdonek: Will the contracting with for the LA partnership cost money? Answer: Yes, but a partnership would save us money in the long run.
  - vii. Question from Commissioner Jerdonek: Would RLAs be applied to other races as well? Answer: Yes, for the test in November, but the bigger goal would be to modify the software for RCV elections.
- d. Public Comment:
  - i. Brent Turner (CAVO): Important to be "religious" about open-source, as being more lax has been problematic for elections security.
- e. TAC member
  - i. Pres. Mogi: OK with TAC posting a notice for another member.
  - ii. Question from VP Hill: Can we invite previous applicants to put their names in the running again? Jerdonek: Yes

- iii. Motion (Jerdonek)
  - 1. Motion that Commission authorizes Jerdonek to open up application period for TAC vacancy.
  - 2. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

**4. San Francisco Elections Commission 2017 and 2018 Annual Reports**

- a. Motion to vote on 2018 annual report (Donaldson)
  - i. Move to accept 2018 annual report, with slightly changed verbiage of the resolution
  - ii. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.
- b. Motion to vote on 2017 annual report (Hill)
  - i. Move to accept 2017 annual report
  - ii. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.
  - iii. Pres. Mogi to send to clerk for board of supervisors.

**5. Approval of November 5, 2019 Consolidated Municipal Election Plan**

- a. Donaldson BOPEC summary:
  - i. Like the “make a note, plan to vote” theme. Good outreach materials, and a ton of outreach happening through local organizations. Lots happening online and in person around new machines and RCV extension, as well as investment in training materials for poll workers.
  - ii. Second vote center opening at SF State.
  - iii. Audit marks for non-precinct-cast ballots. Voters can now actually look at their ballot image files.
  - iv. The number of polling places is down somewhat based on turnout expectations, because it’s a state election.
  - v. Running elections back-to-back, and the 120-day lead time overlaps by a couple days. Filing deadlines will overlap with the November 5 election.
  - vi. BOPEC voted to recommend that the full commission adopt the election plan as written.
- b. Jerdonek:
  - i. Following up RLAs. Q: Are you considering doing risk-limiting audit (RLA) for this election? Answer: Already started process to do RLA for November. Can’t do it for RCV races, but hoping to modify the Colorado application so it at least looks at the first-choice votes for RCV contests. Do intend to include results of RLA in Director’s certification of election, so long as it’s applied correctly.
  - ii. Old system had warnings for errors. Does the new system have that? Answer: Goal is to have error messages appear in a useful way. Still working on that.
- c. Note from Director Arntz: Election plan for March will appear in January.
- d. Public comment:
  - i. Brent Turner (CAVO): Speaking about open-source election system security. Concerned about whether RLA is actually a good idea.

Recommended speaking with Dr. Rebecca Mercuri, who is apparently nervous about RLA.

- e. Motion to approve election plan (Jerdonek):
  - i. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

**6. Approval of Public Employee Waiver for November 5, 2019 Election**

- a. Donaldson: BOPEC reviewed this document and recommends adoption by the Commission.
- b. Motion to approve waiver (Charlotte):
  - i. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.

**7. Selection of Outside Counsel for City Attorney Election**

- a. Deputy City Attorney: If the City Attorney appears on the ballot, the Elections Commission can select outside counsel to address any questions related to that election on the ballot. Because the SF City Attorney is on the ballot, our colleagues in the Santa Clara County City Attorney's office to provide counsel *pro bono*. Request that the Commission formally vote on this.
- b. Jerdonek: Are there other cases in which sister jurisdictions will provide assistance in this way? Answer: There are instances in which we help one another out.
- c. Motion to select Santa Clara County Counsel as outside counsel for the 2019 election (Jerdonek):
  - i. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.

**8. Commissioners' Reports**

- a. Hill: Spoke to Director about pre-registration program. Would like to bring in ambassadors to speak with Commission so we can learn how to support them.
  - i. Director: Now there will be two-week HS voter registration periods: the last 2 weeks in January and last 2 weeks in September. Not sure when school testing schedules are, but those would in theory be good times to reach out to high school students.
  - ii. Q from Jerdonek: How do we pre-register people? Answer: combination of Department outreach in schools and also ambassadors recruiting their peers.
- b. Jerdonek: RCV local option bill passed the legislature and is moving to governor. Commission decided not to move forward on endorsing the bill.
- c. Public comment:
  - i. Brent Turner (CAVO): San Francisco's work on open-source voting is historic.

**9. Director's Report**

- a. Note from Pres. Mogi: Will review overview of SF election system security when Commissioner Bernholz is here at next meeting.
- b. Commissioner Donaldson: Report is consistent with elections plan.
- c. Public comment: none.

**10. Agenda items for future meetings**

- a. Pres. Mogi:

- i. Election system security agenda item
- ii. SB 212 update
- iii. Hiring new commission secretary
- iv. Grand jury report
- b. Question from Donaldson to Jerdonek: Should OSVTAC play a role in coordinating the various moving pieces of open-source RCV (the LA partnership, the universal tabulator, etc.)? Answer: Yes, can discuss at next meeting, but limited by the information in the Director of Technology's reports.
- c. VP Hill:
  - i. Add January item for hearing back from Dir. Arntz about his meeting with Emma Fernandez on policy report
- d. Public comment:
  - i. Brent Turner (CAVO): Someone should speak with Dr. Rebecca Mercuri.

**11. Adjournment**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.