

Elections Commission
City & County of San Francisco

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



John Arntz, Director of Elections

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

San Francisco Elections Commission
Wednesday, November 18, 2020
3:00 p.m.
Remote meeting via WebEx

Order of Business

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 3:02 p.m.

Present: President Mogi, Vice President Bernholz, Commissioners: Donaldson, and Jerdonek

Excused Absent: Commissioner Jill Rowe

Absent: Commissioner Charles Jung

Also present: Director of Elections John Arntz, Deputy City Attorney Andrew Shen, and Information Systems Tech James (Jim) Smith

2. Public comment on any issue within the Elections Commission's General Jurisdiction that is not Covered by Another Item on this Agenda

David Pilpel commended Director Arntz for his work during the election, and expressed interest in serving on the Redistricting Task Force (RTF).

Lauren Girardin expressed concerns regarding the accessibility of meeting materials and suggested using plain text on attachments.

Jen Tse also expressed concern regarding PDF files not being user friendly. She also asked for previous meeting videos to be uploaded to the website. Commissioner Jerdonek stated the videos have been posted.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings September 16, and October 21, 2020

Commissioner Jerdonek moved to approve minutes
Commissioner Donaldson seconded

President Mogi	Yes
Vice President Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Jerdonek	Yes
Commission Donaldson	Yes

4 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain
Motion passed

4. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Donaldson and President Mogi spoke about their visits to voting precincts, as well as centers; and observed that they were all run well and consistently. They also commended Director Arntz on his election plan.

Vice President Bernholz commented on the Election Integrity packet as information only.

Commissioner Jerdonek reported there are six more jurisdictions now using ranked-choice voting.

Public Comment - None

5. Director's Report

Director Arntz provided an update on the November 3, 2020 election. The department is still receiving ballots until November 20. The department will likely certify the results by December 1, 2020, and provide a later report on the vote by mail, provisional ballots in the certification package sent to Commission, and Board of Supervisors. The turnout is 86.22%, the second highest in City's history. The November 3 election set the record for most voters participating in the election.

In response to questions from Commissioners, President, and Vice President, Director Arntz briefly addressed the following topics: a) Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV); b) risk-limiting audits; c) voting centers vs. polling places; d) vote by mail; e) voter turnout at precincts; f) the Voter's Choice Act (VCA); g) retention of vote by mail envelopes; h) reporting of results, and i) ballot challenges.

Public Comment

Lauren Girardin asked whether there would be public discussion on the department's Request for Proposal (RFP) for redistricting consultant.

Jen Tse also asked whether the public would be able to comment on the RFP.

Pablo Hernandez – expressed gratitude to the Elections Commission and Department of Elections for a great job on RCV, social distancing, and votes counted.

In response to public comment, Director Arntz reported there would not be further review of the RFP for a redistricting consultant before publication. The RFP will follow procurement policies and processes, and will be posted on the Office of Contract Administrations website and the Department of Elections website.

6. Letter Commending Department’s Performance during the November 3, 2020 Election

President Mogi stated a tremendous election was run despite a tough scenario, operationally and, especially during an unprecedented time. She suggested drafting a letter to be shared with the Mayor, Board of Directors, and maybe the Secretary of State’s Office and Congress. Vice President Bernholz, Commissioner Donaldson, and Commissioner Jerdonek also supported such a letter. Commissioner Jerdonek volunteered to look at the draft.

Motion to authorize President Mogi to draft letter and send after the election is certified.

Public Comment – None.

Commissioner Jerdonek moved
Commissioner Donaldson seconded

President Mogi	Yes
Vice President Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Jerdonek	Yes
Commissioner Donaldson	Yes

4 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain
Motion passed

7. Racial Equity Action Plan

DCA Shen and Director Arntz provided background on the action plan. The plan template is set-up to work with various City departments.

Public Comment – None.

8. Objectives and Process for Annual Performance Evaluation of Director of Elections

President Mogi reminded the commissioners that the deadline for submission of the evaluation is December 1, 2020.

Public Comment – None.

9. Agenda items for future meetings

- a) Redistricting Task Force Letter – Commissioner Donaldson to create draft letter
- b) Office of Racial Equity Action Plan
- c) Thank Commissioner Rowe for her service

Public Comment – None.

Adjournment at 4:23 p.m.