

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 - **DRAFT******

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: 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 elections. Expressed interest in serving on the Redistricting Task Force. Suggested using the local dial-up number. Requested attachments on agenda items, to be noted on agenda.

Lauren Girardin – expressed concern on accessibility of information. Suggested using plain text on attachments.

Jen Tse – also expressed concern on PDF files not being user friendly. 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 Motion to Approve Minutes

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 commented visits to voting precincts, as well as election centers; were run well and consistent. 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 districts now using rank-choice voting.

Public Comment - None

5. Director's Report (Agenda Packet: Director's Report and attachments, if any)

Still receiving ballots. Have until November 20, 2020 to receive ballots. The cure period continues until December 3, 2020. Will certify by December 1, 2020. Will provide report on vote by mail, provisional breakdowns, and certification package to Commission, and to Board of Supervisors. Turnout was 86.22%. Second highest in City's history. Set record for most voter participation.

In response to questions from Commissioners, President, and Vice President, Director Arntz responded with: a) there is not a difference between ranked-choice voting as HTML vs. PDF, b) there will not be a risk-limiting audit this year, c) there has not been any discussion if this would be the last year using voting centers, d) there were some parts of the city with a 10% turnout, which is higher than the 7% at polling places, and d) Voter's Choice Act interaction with participation across demographics is equity and cost. Voting centers are easier for viability; e) online options have resulted in approximately 6% of voters using this option. f) envelopes are retained for 22 months on presidential years, have not been the subject of an audit, and signatures are confidential information, g) difference in statistics between the website and director's

report was due to changes on reporting dates, and h) reported on how many ballots were challenged in the March election.

Public Comment

Lauren Girardin commented on Item 2. Will there be public discussion on RFP being prepared for vendors?

Jen Tse – comment on Item 2 - Public Comment whether the public will be able to comment on RFP prior to making a decision.

Pablo Hernandez – expressed gratitude for Elections Commission and Department of Elections for great job on ranked-choice voting, social distancing, and votes counted.

In response to Deputy City Attorney Shen’s question, Director Arntz reported the public would not be able to see the RFP before it is issued. The RFP will follow procurement policies and processes, and will be posted on the Office of Contract Administrations website, and the Elections Commission website.

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

President Mogi – a tremendous election was run despite tough scenario, operationally, and, especially during unprecedented time. Suggested processing a letter to be shared with the Mayor, Board of Directors, and maybe the Secretary of State Office and Congress. Letter to be drafted and sent out, after the election has been certified. Vice President Bernholz, Commissioner Donaldson and Commissioner Jerdonek – also support a letter. Commissioner Jerdonek volunteered to look at the draft.

Motion to authorize President Mogi to draft letter and be sent after 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

Deputy City Attorney Shen and Director Arntz provided context on the action plan and tasks pertaining to Racial Equity functionality, within Human Rights Commission. It is set-up to work with various City departments to develop action plans, and how they will address issues with internal practices, and equitable services to the public.

Public Comment – None.

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

Reminded commission of the deadline for submission of criteria input on template is December 1, 2020, on evaluation on Director Arntz.

Public Comment – None.

9. Agenda items for future meetings

- a) Redistricting Task Force Letter – Commissioner Donaldson to create draft letter
- b) Letter commending Elections Department performance during the November 3, 2020 Election
- c) Office of Racial Equity Action Plan
- d) Commissioner Rowe thank her for her service
- e) Pres Mogi & DPA Shen to send criteria for Dir Arntz Evaluation in closed session

Public Comment – None.

Adjournment at 4:23 p.m.