

Elections Commission
City & County of San Francisco

Lucy Bernholz, President
Charles Jung, Vice President
Roger Donaldson
Viva Mogi
Christopher Jerdonek
Becca Chappell



John Arntz, Director of Elections

Martha Delgadillo, Secretary

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

San Francisco Elections Commission
Wednesday, September 22, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Remote meeting via WebEx

Order of Business

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m.

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

Also present: Director of Elections Arntz, Deputy City Attorney Flores, and Secretary Delgadillo

President Bernholz announced that Commissioner Donaldson has resigned his seat on the commission. He was thanked and he thanked the commission for his years of service.

2. General Public Comment

Public Comment

David Pilpel reported that the Redistricting Task Force (RTF) held its first meeting on Friday, September 17, 2021. Former member and President of this commission, the Reverend Arnold Townsend was elected the Chair of the RTF.

Commissioner Jerdonek asked for a repeat of the phone number and password for public members to call to join the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

June 16, 2021, June 22, 2021 and July 21, 2021, meeting minutes were presented.

Vice President (VP) Jung mentioned that the June 22, 2021 meeting minutes needed the vote regarding the resolution on a derogatory remark made during the meeting. He thought it was on the July 21, 2021 meeting minutes, but it was on the June 22, 2021 meeting minutes. It was voted on, and the minutes did not reflect the vote. Also, there was a misspelling of the word “connotes.” It was misspelled “canotes.” Other minor changes were pointed out. Changes will be made to the June 22, 2021 meeting minutes and resubmitted at the next meeting.

Public Comment

David Pilpel mentioned the June 22, 2021, minutes needed a few minor changes.

A motion was made on the June 16, 2021, and July 22, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Jerdonek moved to approve both sets of minutes. Commissioner Mogi seconded.

MOTION

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

6 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passes

4. Assessment of the September 14, 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election

President Bernholz thanked Director Arntz for his hard work. Certification of the election will happen at the Budget and Oversight of Public Elections Committee (BOPEC) Meeting on October 6, 2021.

President Bernholz moved to convene a BOPEC meeting with Commissioners Chappell, Bernholz, and VP Jung on October 6, 2021. Commissioner Donaldson seconded.

Public Comment

David Pilpel expressed waiting until certification of the election has been finalized by the department to have a BOPEC meeting.

MOTION

President Bernholz	Yes
Vice President Jung	Yes
Commissioner Jerdonek	Yes

Commissioner Chappell	Yes
Commissioner Mogi	Yes
Commissioner Donaldson	Yes

6 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passes

5. Open Source Voting Pilot

Commissioner Jerdonek gave a brief description on what will be discussed at today's meeting and again in October. He gave a brief history on Open Source Voting. Today's speaker Matt Roe, VotingWorks (VW) gave an overview of the non-profit and the capabilities of their organization. There are two open source products. Costs are 50% less than other providers. They are willing to do a demonstration.

VP Jung asked what it would take from the commission and the department to get this system running. Mr. Roe explained a pilot proposal plan would determine the scope.

Commissioner Donaldson asked what the pilot program would consist of? Mr. Roe explained and stated information is available on their website at docs.voting.works.

Commissioner Mogi asked about the criteria selected to pick the precincts. Mr. Roe explained geographic and demographic diversity, and the size of the precinct itself. Mr. Roe offered to provide on-site support, and stated that they could provide poll-worker training.

President Bernholz asked if there had been an independent analysis? Mr. Roe stated there are leading cyber security firms, one being Security Compass. Has the system been used in ranked-choice voting? Mr. Roe said it has not. President Bernholz then asked if the disability community been involved with the software and hardware? Mr. Roe explained an accessible ballot-marking device is used.

President Bernholz asked if this commission might reconvene the Open Source Voting Task Force or another group that would negotiate the details with the department and VW? Commissioner Jerdonek stated the plan could be brief, and the details worked out during the year.

VP Jung expressed the burden on the department and staff, and asked if the Department of Technology should be involved?

Commissioner Jerdonek stated a brief update on the progress at commission meetings would be sufficient to keep the information flowing. Also, due to the system not being certified, there is an allowance for a risk-limiting audit to hand count. Most ballots in San Francisco are done by mail. VW would send voters a PDF of the ballot. Commissioner Jerdonek mentioned after speaking to DCA's Andrew Shen and Ana

Flores; they would need to accept this pilot as a donation. Director Arntz asked for more information before commenting on the specifics of the pilot program. He suggested having perhaps a week-long demonstration project at City Hall.

Commissioners who are interested in viewing a demo can contact Mr. Roe individually.

Public Comment

David Pilpel commented on logistics and specifications of open source.

Alex Bash expressed support for open source voting.

Brent Turner expressed support for open source voting.

Trent Lange, Clean Money Campaign President, expressed support and commented on previous efforts made to move forward with open source voting.

6. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Donaldson proposed an election plan resolution for transparency and quality of elections, and then forward it to federally elected officials for consideration.

DCA Flores stated the elections commission cannot adopt a policy like this. It must be directed to the Mayor or BoS.

Commissioner Mogi volunteered to carry on with the creation of the resolution and present it as an agenda item at a later date, due to Commissioner Donaldson resigning and not having enough time to complete the resolution.

Public Comment

David Pilpel agreed with the need for a resolution that shows what is done, and how elections are conducted.

7. Director's Report

Director Arntz reported the turnout for the Gubernatorial Recall Election was about 68%. Once ballot processing is complete, it can be certified. Also, a review of the Department of Education is occurring, with perhaps another election occurring in February. He provided a brief update on the Redistricting Task Force (RTF). The Director stated that if anyone wants information on RTF activities to go to the online RTF page or contact John Carroll, Clerk with the BoS Office. He is the support person for the RTF.

Commissioner Jerdonek commented on a source code leak on the Dominion software. Director Arntz stated software is updated for each election.

Commissioner Chappell asked if there were any problems with the recent election considering time restraint and staffing and does feedback go to whoever decided to have the election. The director responded that overall, it went well, and he did contact the state legislators regarding the effect on the process.

President Bernholz asked questions regarding the reports Director Arntz submitted and were attached for this meeting. He answered her questions for clarification. He also stated if the Department of Education does have an election, it will happen in February 2022.

Public Comment

None.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding items for future agendas

- a) Follow-up on Open Source Voting
- b) Certification based on the Budget and Oversight of Public Elections Commission meeting.
- c) The possible resolution on elections plans.
- d) Annual Report 2019

Public Comment

David Pilpel clarified the June 16, 2021, and July 21, 2021 meeting minutes were adopted and the June 22, 2021 meeting will be resubmitted after the revisions are made.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm