

DRAFT

SAN FRANCISCO ELECTIONS COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

[if approved] Approved by the San Francisco Elections Commission on July 21, 2021

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1 Purpose

1.1 The San Francisco Election Commission

The Elections Commission was established by San Francisco Charter § 13.103.5 pursuant to a Charter amendment called Proposition E that was passed by voters in the November 6, 2001 Consolidated Municipal Election. The Elections Commission assumed policy-making authority and oversight of all public federal, state, district and municipal elections in the City and County of San Francisco effective January 1, 2002.

1.2 Commission Annual Report

Pursuant to Article XI of the Bylaws of the Elections Commission, the purpose of this report is to preserve and pass on to successive Commissions relevant information so as to make more effective subsequent Commission tenures by providing institutional memory to assist in resolution of recurring Commission problems. This report contains the President's report of the activities of the Commission during 2021, as well as other information the President deems significant and of likely assistance to subsequent Commissions.

2 Commission Organizational Description

2.1 Commission Members

The San Francisco Election Commission members are appointed to staggered 5-year terms by the elected office holders as defined in the San Francisco Charter § 13.103.5

The Commissioners, Commission Role, Appointed by and Term in 2021 were:

• Viva Mogi	President	District Attorney	2021 Through February 17, 2021
• Viva Mogi	Commissioner	District Attorney	2021 Commencing February 17, 2021
• Lucy Bernholz	Commissioner	Treasurer	2021 Through February 17, 2021
• Lucy Bernholz	President	Treasurer	2021 Commencing February 17, 2021
• Charles Jung	Commissioner	Mayor's Office	2021 Through February 17, 2021
• Charles Jung	Vice President	Mayor's Office	2021 Commencing February 17, 2021
• Roger Donaldson	Commissioner	City Attorney	2021 Through September 22, 2021
• Chris Jerdonek	Commissioner	Board of Supervisors	2021 Full Year
• Becca Chappell	Commissioner	Public Defender	2021 Full Year

2.2 Budget and Oversight of Public Elections Committee (BOPEC) Members

The Commission's Budget and Oversight of Public Elections Committee reviews Election Plans, Budgets and other matters referred to it by the President or full Commission and provides findings and recommendations for consideration at Commission Meetings. The Committee consisted of the following members:

• Roger Donaldson	Chair	2021 Through September 22, 2021
• Lucy Bernholz	Vice Chair	2021 Full Year
• Charles Jung	Commissioner	2021 Commencing September 22, 2021
• Becca Chappell	Commissioner	2021 Commencing June 9, 2021

2.3 Director of Elections

The Director of Elections is hired by the Election Commission, serves as the executive of the San Francisco Department of Elections, and is a full-time employee of the City and County of San Francisco.

• John Arntz	Director of Elections	2021 Full Year
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2.4 Secretary

The Commission Secretary is hired by the Election Commission and serves as the administrative staff to the Commission and is an employee of the City and County of San Francisco

• Martha Delgadillo	Commission Secretary	2021 Full Year
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2.5 Deputy City Attorney

The deputy City Attorney is assigned to the Election Commission to advise the body on matters pertaining to its authority.

• Andrew Shen	Deputy City Attorney	2021 Full Year
• Jenica Maldonado	Deputy City Attorney	2021 Through January 2021
• Ana Flores	Deputy City Attorney	2021 Commencing June 2021

3 Commission Activities

3.1 Elections

The Department of Elections conducted one (1) election. Governor Newsom Recall election. On July 1, 2021, the Lieutenant Governor issued a proclamation setting the date of the recall election as September 14, 2021.

3.1.1 September 14, 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election Plan

The Commission assessed the Gubernatorial Recall Election Plan on July 21, 2021, with the Gubernatorial Recall Election scheduled on September 14, 2021. The Department worked diligently to meet the Gubernatorial Recall Election date and the Commission unanimously approved the plan.

3.2 FY2021 – 22 and FY 2022-23 Budget

BOPEC reviewed and assessed the budget for FYI 2021-22 at \$22.9M and FY2021-22 AT \$22.8M on February 2, 2021. FY 2021-22 The Department's budget proposals reflect three significant changes, all of which were made in response to the Mayor's directive to fund core City services that demonstrate meaningful and equitable outcomes for its residents:

1. Create a data-driven grant program to provide outreach to San Francisco's most vulnerable and hard to reach communities, with a focus on newly eligible residents involved with the justice system.
2. Expand and distribute voting center and ballot drop-off location infrastructure to encourage voters of color and people living in neighborhoods with voter turnout below the City's average to participate in elections.
3. Provide staff equity training using the City's Racial Equity Framework, and develop a regular staff survey protocol to monitor the Department's progress towards meeting its Phase One equity goals

3.3 COVID19 Pandemic

With limited items on the August Agenda, the meeting for August would be canceled. The meeting for September 15, 2021, was also canceled. Due to the COVID-19 health emergency and to protect our Elections Commissioners, Department of Elections staff, and members of the public, the Elections Commission did not meet in person. Meetings were held remotely pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 and the Fifth Supplement to the Mayoral Proclamation Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency. Meetings were held on the WebEx platform.

3.4 Elections Commission Executive Secretary

On July 15, 2020, the Commission approved to hire a new Commission Executive Secretary.

3.5 Redistricting Task Force

The BOPEC interviewed applicants for the Redistricting Task Force (RTF) at the June 9, 2021 meeting. The interviewees were processed in the order that their applications were received. Applicants were given the opportunity to speak for 2 minutes. The BOPEC selected 3 applicants for recommendation to join the RTF. The recommended applicants were presented for consideration and nominated, at the Elections Commission Regular Meeting, June 16, 2021.

3.6 Open Source Voting

An Open Source Voting (OSV) Pilot Ordinance was introduced by the President of the Board of Supervisors Shamann Walton at the December 14, 2021 Board of Supervisors (BoS) meeting.

3.7 Director's Annual Performance Evaluation

Materials for the 2021/2022 Director's annual performance evaluation were reviewed at the December 21, 2021, Commission meeting. The annual performance to be discussed at the January 19, 2022 Commission meeting, and completed at the February 16, 2022 Commission meeting.

Remote Ballot Completion and Submission for People with Access and Functional Needs Project

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Bernholz
2021 Commission President

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