

# Elections Commission City & County of San Francisco

Lucy Bernholz, President  
Becca Chappell, Vice President  
Cynthia Dai, Commissioner  
Charles Jung, Commissioner  
Christopher Jerdonek, Commissioner  
Robin Shapiro, Commissioner



John Arntz, Director of Elections  
Martha Delgadillo, Commission Secretary

## San Francisco Elections Commission Special Meeting Minutes **\*\*DRAFT\*\***

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

6:00 p.m.

City Hall, Room 408

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, California 94102

In Person & Remote meeting via WebEx

### Order of Business

#### 1. Call to Order & Roll Call

**Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm**

**Present:** President Lucy Bernholz (Remotely), Vice President Becca Chappell, Commissioner Cynthia Dai, Commissioner Chris Jerdonek, and Commissioner Robin Shapiro

**Tardy:** Commissioner Jung joined the meeting during Item 3 at 6:26 pm.

**Also present:** Director of Elections John Arntz, Deputy City Attorney Ana Flores, and Commission Secretary Martha Delgadillo

#### 2. Welcome and Introduction of New Commissioner

Commissioner Robin Shapiro was introduced and welcomed to the commission. She also introduced herself and gave a brief background on her education and experience.

*An explanation was given regarding technical difficulties with remote access and the inability to view the meeting on WebEx. Also, due to technical difficulties with the audio interference from the adjacent Redistricting Task Force (RTF) meeting was combined with the Elections Commission meeting audio.*

**3. General Public Comment**

Began at 6:27 pm

Several public members expressed their concerns regarding decisions made by the San Francisco Elections Commission (SFEC) appointees to the Redistricting Task Force (RTF). Public comment was concentrated on decisions and changes made by RTF members on a district map titled 4B. Some persons requested having them removed from the RTF. Accusations were made of gerrymandering, and requests were made for an investigation.

After hearing the comments from the public, the SFEC proposed a tentative time for a meeting on Sunday, April 10, 2022, tentatively for 3:00 pm. A brief discussion also took place regarding the items of discussion on the agenda. Items to be discussed during Sunday's special meeting are possible changes and replacements of RTF appointees, if necessary.

Public Comment ended at 8:10 pm.

**4. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution on Continuation of Remote Elections Commission Meetings**

Vice President Chappell read the resolution.

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Jung. Seconded by Commissioner Jerdonek.

**Public Comment - None**

**MOTION**

President Bernholz	Yes
Vice President Chappell	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner Jerdonek	Yes
Commissioner Jung	Yes
Commissioner Shapiro	Yes

6 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain

Motion passes

**5. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Draft minutes of the January 19, 2022, and November 20, 2019, regular meeting minutes.

**Public Comment**

David Pilpel stated the November 20, 2019 meeting minutes require minor changes. The January 19, 2022 meeting minutes lack of vote and rescinding the vote on page 3.

Suggested not adopting the January 19, 2022 meeting minutes so they can be edited, as necessary.

**6. Review of February 15, 2022 Consolidated Special Municipal Election**

Comments were made by Commissioner Jerdonek on elections locations; Commissioner Dai asked questions regarding voting; and President Bernholz asked a question regarding mail-in vote numbers. Director Arntz responded and explained how votes are processed, and that the system will catch anyone using two forms of voting and does not allow duplicates for the same person. He also discussed the reports he submitted, and actions taken with mail-in voting and voter signatures.

Commissioner Jung made a motion to confirm the election was free, fair, and functional. Seconded by Commissioner Dai.

**Public Comment – None**

**MOTION**

President Bernholz	Yes
Vice President Chappell	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner Jerdonek	Yes
Commissioner Jung	Yes
Commissioner Shapiro	Yes

6 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain  
Motion passes

**7. April 19, 2022, Special General Election**

Commissioner Jerdonek asked about poll workers being able to help the department of elections with so many elections coming so quickly. Director Arntz stated the poll workers have been able to keep up with elections so far, but there may be problem for the June election, but doesn't expect to have recruitment issues in November. President Bernholz asked if online training is still being offered and conducted. Director Arntz confirmed it was.

**Public Comment - None**

Commissioner Jung made a Motion to approve the Elections Plan. Seconded by Commissioner Dai.

**MOTION**

President Bernholz	Yes
Vice President Chappell	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes

Commissioner Jerdonek	Yes
Commissioner Jung	Yes
Commissioner Shapiro	Yes

6 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain  
Motion passes

## 8. Director's Report

Director Arntz noted that on the last page of his report, there is information on a mailer going out in March. Commissioner Jung commented positively on the report.

### Public Comment

David Jefferson started to comment on internet voting and the possibility of electronic return of vote ballots, for the disabled population. Dr. Jefferson was reminded this item was not on the director's report.

## 9. Dominion Voting Systems Contract Extension

Commissioner Jerdonek presented the intention of the resolution and proposed the contract renewal with Dominion for one-year only, for now, instead of two years. The resolution will be presented to the Board of Supervisors.

The Commission discussed the resolution, the contract options, and the contracting process. Director Arntz explained that delaying the contract process for the second year would not be good due to the Presidential Election. Delays caused by renewing the contract, in the middle of the elections, would not be ideal. Director Arntz stated there is no other system that can step in within the time restraints of upcoming elections.

Commissioner Jerdonek reminded the Commission about the negative remarks about the SFEC made in the press by a Dominion Sales Rep, and stated that this should not be ignored. Commissioner Jung suggested that on Page 3 of the resolution, to strike lines 4 and 5 and express our clear preference. He also stated there has not been any proof that the Dominion Rep actually made those comments.

Commissioner Chappell, Commissioner Shapiro, and President Bernholz agreed that the channel to hold Dominion accountable should not be through the contract. The effect it would cause for the functional deadline for Director Arntz is not an optimal choice.

Commissioner Chappell suggesting revisiting this issue at a later time.

DCA Flores suggested working out the specific of the resolution prior to the next regular meeting. President Bernholz, and Vice President Chappell will work with Commissioner Jerdonek on the resolution and present at the next regular meeting.

**Public Comment**

David Schmidt, California Clean Money Campaign Volunteer Coordinator for San Francisco, stated they have gathered over 2,000 signatures for Open Source Elections. They support Commissioner Jerdonek’s resolution. They are open to the possibility to using open source on a larger scale next year.

Jim Soper, National Voting Rights Task Force, commented on the findings of Dr. Alex Halderman’s viewpoint, who says there are serious problems with the Dominion Voting System.

Trent Lange, President of the California Clean Money Campaign, agrees with preserving the option of the contract renewal remaining open is the best course for now.

**10. Open Source Voting**

Commissioner Jerdonek asked Director Arntz to provide an update. Director Arntz gave an update to say required forms were being submitted.

Matt Roe, VotingWorks, commented on not having sufficient information and guidance from the SOS. The aspects of the system were documented in the October document plan. He has not received any information from the SOS for the May 7, 2022 deadline. He would like to work with the department to get feedback and incorporate the features into the system.

**Public Comment**

None

**11. Commissioners’ Reports**

None.

**Public Comment**

None

**12. Discussion and possible action regarding items for future agendas (Taken out of Order and Presented After Item 3)**

- a) Discussion and possible action on removal and replacement of Elections Commission Appointees to the San Francisco Redistricting Task Force.

Commissioner Jung asked questions regarding next steps.

DCA Flores cited Ordinance No. 9421 which convenes the RTF. RTF appointees may be removed by their appointing authority without proving misconduct because they serve at the pleasure of the authority.

Commissioner Dai brought up that the RTF has 9 members, and if one, two, or three of the task force members were to be removed they would still meet quorum.

### **Public Comment**

Members of the public stated they are happy that the special meeting will happen on Sunday and that the Elections Commission has considered having the special meeting to possibly move forward with actions on concerns by the public. Suggestions were made to look to changes on how the RTF process takes place.

David Pilpel stated he is not clear if there is a requirement of 72 hours before a regular meeting and 24 hours on special meetings. Made suggestions for reviewing the meeting when the appointees selected.

### **13. Meeting was adjourned at 10:23 pm**