

ELECTIONS COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco

Lucy Bernholz, President
Becca Chappell, Vice President
Cynthia Dai
Christopher Jerdonek
Robin M. Shapiro
Vacancy
Vacancy



John Arntz, Director of Elections

Martha Delgadillo, Commission Secretary

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES **DRAFT******
(Approved on XXXXX)

San Francisco Elections Commission
Wednesday, May 18, 2022
6:00 p.m.
City Hall, Room 408
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102
& Remote meeting via WebEx

Order of Business

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:12 p.m. by Commissioner Jerdonek.

Present: President Lucy Bernholz. Commissioners: Chris Jerdonek, Cynthia Dai, and Robin Shapiro

Absent: Vice President Becca Chappell

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

Commissioner Jerdonek announced that Commissioner Jung has resigned. He was thanked for his nine years of service.

At 6:19 pm the meeting was paused due to technical difficulties. Commissioner Jerdonek named all persons present in the meeting room for the benefit of the public watching online, since the video feed was not working correctly. The meeting resumed at 6:45 p.m.

2. General Public Comment

Brent Turner commended the Commission for the great work toward the SB 360 pilot.

David Pilpel was not happy about the attachments being added to the website on the day of the meeting.

3. Resolution on Continuation of Remote Elections Commission Meetings

Motion to adopt the resolution was made by Commissioner Dai. Seconded by Commissioner Shapiro.

Public Comment

David Pilpel commented on items other than this topic.

Brent Turner also commented on items other than this topic.

MOTION ON RESOLUTION FOR CONTINUATION OF REMOTE ELECTIONS COMMISSION MEETINGS

President Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Jerdonek	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner Shapiro	Yes

4 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passes

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Commissioner Bernholz moved to approve the January 19, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Shapiro. Approval of minutes for the February 14, 2022 and April 6, 2022 meetings was deferred.

Public Comment

David Pilpel suggested minor changes to the February 14, 2022 meeting minutes. The April minutes do not have the names of persons who commented. The names should be added and the minutes resubmitted for approval.

MOTION ON THE JANUARY 19, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

President Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Jerdonek	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner Shapiro	Yes

4 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passes

5. Review of the April 19, 2022 Special General Election

There are no abnormalities to report.

Commissioner Jerdonek asked Director Arntz questions about which phone calls are included in the incident report and also about the number of people who use 1) the early

voting center, 2) the remote accessible vote-by-mail system, 3) a ballot-marking device, and 4) emergency ballot delivery. Director Arntz responded to the questions.

Commissioner Shapiro moved that the April 19, 2022 election was conducted in a free, fair, and functional manner. Seconded by Commissioner Dai.

Public Comment

Brent Turner commented on the Dominion voting system being used currently.

MOTION ON THE APRIL 19, 2022 SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION

President Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Jerdonek	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner Shapiro	Yes

4 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passes

6. June 7, 2022 Consolidated Statewide Direct Primary

Director Arntz explained which portions of the Election Plan for this election are new. The plan is similar to the plan for the February and April elections.

The Commissioners discussed a number of questions with Director Arntz. He was asked:

1. Has there been any intimidation, harassment, or threat problems as with national trends, and would this type of behavior be captured in the incident report?
2. Can he explain the reference in the plan to the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) needing security at some school locations?
3. Is the increase in vote-by-mail creating a need for more poll sites or affecting where they are located?
4. Is San Francisco a Voter’s Choice Act jurisdiction?
5. Can the number of voting places be considered in re-precincts?
6. Can the comment in the plan about language access be explained? What was behind the Secretary of State revising the number of languages needed for San Francisco from four to five?
7. For what reasons do people go into City Hall to vote?
8. Are ballot-marking devices taken directly to people, if necessary?
9. Why do the drop boxes need to be cleaned, and is this a significant problem?
10. How does the waiting time app work for precinct polling places?

Public Comment

Brent Turner commented on tabulating ballots.

David Pilpel expressed his support for the election plan that Director Arntz submitted.

Commissioner Dai moved to approve the plan for the June 7, 2022 Consolidated Statewide Direct Primary. Seconded by Commissioner Shapiro.

MOTION ON THE JUNE 7, 2022 CONSOLIDATED STATEWIDE DIRECT PRIMARY

President Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Jerdonek	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner Shapiro	Yes

4 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passes

7. Commission Annual Report for 2021

President Bernholz requested that during this meeting the time should be used for input from Commissioners and the public and to defer any action until the next meeting.

Commissioner Dai and Commissioner Jerdonek asked questions and suggested changes for the report.

Public Comment

David Pilpel suggested changes for the report.

8. Open Source Voting

Commissioner Jerdonek reviewed the list of attachments in the agenda packet for this item. Director Arntz gave an update on this topic. They both reported updates on the actions being taken by the Secretary of State (SOS).

Speaker: Matt Roe, VotingWorks

Mr. Roe said there was a lack of clarity from the SOS Office around the requirements for the pilot program and what was considered a pilot program. He explained the status of the pilot and the pilot regulations.

President Bernholz asked Mr. Roe if he knew of any other jurisdictions planning on submitting a pilot program, and she commented on the regulations.

Commissioner Dai commented that Los Angeles County submitted documentation to the SOS in October 2021 for a pilot program.

DCA Flores mentioned that the public has the option of providing feedback.

Public Comment

Brent Turner highly recommended VotingWorks as an option for voting systems.

9. Dominion Voting Systems Contract Extension

This item was tabled today and will be discussed at the next meeting when VP Chappell is present.

Public Comment

David Pilpel made suggestions on how to continue with an item not discussed at this meeting.

10. Redistricting Process Improvements

Commissioner Dai commented on the San Francisco redistricting document posted on the website for this item. In addition, she made recommendations based on her experience.

Commissioner Jerdonek asked questions about the document and provided some recommendations.

Commissioner Shapiro recommended discussing this item once the final report is posted by the Redistricting Task Force (RTF) and spending time determining the process.

President Bernholz suggested obtaining more information on the overall redistricting process. She asked DCA Flores if the Elections Commission has the authority to put together an amendment. DCA Flores responded by saying the Elections Commission does not have the authority. Only the Board of Supervisors can put forth a Charter Amendment. This Commission may draft a letter, but not a Charter Amendment. The RTF is an independent body and responds to the citizens of the City of San Francisco. The topic could be discussed at a Budget and Oversight of Public Elections Committee (BOPEC) meeting or another sub-committee or task force created.

Public Comment

David Pilpel reported that Tuesday, May 24, 2022, is the deadline for introduction of charter amendments to the Board of Supervisors for the November election.

Lauren Girardin of the San Francisco League of Women Voters is happy to provide any history of the task force since they attended all RTF meetings.

Steven Hill, a San Francisco resident, commented on his experience with the process and made suggestions to explore more options.

11. Director's Report

Commissioner Shapiro asked if there is any transparency on details around Racial Equity. Director Arntz explained the channels through which information is obtained. President Bernholz discussed the land acknowledgment at the request of Commissioner Dai.

Public Comment

David Pilpel asked if there is a preliminary assessment of how many precincts will be needed for the November election and commented on behested payments legislation enacted by the Board of Supervisors (BOS).

12. Commissioners' Reports

President Bernholz reported that there is a packet item regarding the national American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

President Bernholz announced her resignation as President. The Commission will need to elect a new president at the next meeting.

Public Comment

David Pilpel shared his appreciation to President Bernholz.

13. Meeting Policy

Commissioner Dai suggested checking with Commissioners if they could attend the next meeting. We are not posting items in a timely manner.

Commissioner Shapiro requested posting items a week before the meeting. DCA Flores was asked if documents could be posted before the agenda was finalized.

Commissioner Shapiro suggested posting a draft agenda a week before the meeting and the finalized agenda within 72 hours before the meeting.

Commissioner Shapiro motioned for a new deadline for a final agenda with attachments a week before the meeting. This item will be revisited at the next meeting.

Public Comment

David Pilpel suggested not needing a formal policy or amendment to the bylaws for this item.

14. Discussion and possible action regarding items for future agendas

- a) Election of Officers
- b) Redistricting Plan – Charter Amendment Plan
- c) Racial Equity
- d) Dominion Voting Systems Contract Extension
- e) 2021 Annual Report
- f) Sole-source contracts

Public Comment

None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 pm.