



oakland charter text re: RCV
Chris Jerdonek to: San Francisco Voting System Task Force

11/10/2010 02:46 PM

History: This message has been forwarded.

Dear Voting System Task Force members,

After speaking with Roger Donaldson today, I thought I would send along a link to the portion of the Oakland City Charter that relates to auditing RCV elections:

http://library.municode.com/HTML/16308/level2/CHAR_AXI.html

See sections 1105(h)-(j) in particular. For your convenience, I am also including those three subsections at the bottom of this e-mail.

To give you some background about me, I was the main drafter of this RCV charter text (via Oakland's 2006 Measure O Charter Amendment for RCV).

I currently live and work in San Francisco: I am a 5-year resident and work as a software developer downtown. Over the past five years I have been a polling place inspector in San Francisco for 9 elections. Prior to Oakland's Measure O, I did paid and volunteer election reform work for several years. In 2005, I received a PhD in mathematics from UC Davis.

The RCV auditing procedures described in the Oakland City Charter can be enhanced in certain ways that I would be happy to share. I would be happy to provide feedback and assistance to the Task Force on its work -- especially as it relates to RCV-specific procedures.

I plan to attend today's Task Force meeting, though I may not be able to attend until 6PM or so as I have workplace commitments during the day.

Thank you all for your efforts to improve elections, and I look forward to meeting all of you.

Sincerely,



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Section 1105. Ranked Choice Voting....

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(h) Undervotes, Overvotes, and Exhausted Ballots. After each round, any ballot that is not continuing is an undervote, overvote, or exhausted ballot, as follows: Any ballot that has no candidates indicated at any ranking shall be declared an "undervote." In the event that any ballot reaches a ranking with more than one candidate indicated, that ballot shall immediately be declared an "overvote." In the event that any ballot cannot be advanced because no further candidates are ranked on that ballot, that ballot shall immediately be declared "exhausted" Any ballot that has been declared an undervote,

overvote. or exhausted shall remain so and shall not count towards any candidate in that round or in subsequent rounds.

(i) Reports. Summary, ballot image, and comprehensive reports shall be made available after each ranked choice voting election, as follows:

(1) The "summary report" for a race shall mean a report that lists the candidate vote totals in each round, along with the cumulative numbers of undervotes, overvotes, and exhausted ballots in each round. (2) The "ballot image report" for a race shall mean a report that lists, for each ballot, the candidate or candidates indicated at each ranking, the precinct of the ballot, and whether the ballot was cast absentee. In the report, the ballots shall be listed in an order that does not permit the order in which they were cast in each precinct to be reconstructed. (3) The "comprehensive report" for a race shall mean a report that breaks the numbers in the summary report down by precinct. The report shall list for each round the number of ballots cast in each precinct (a) that count as votes for each candidate in that round, (b) that have been declared undervotes, (c) that have been declared overvotes up to that point, and (d) that have been declared exhausted up to that point. (4) Mode and manner of release.

Preliminary versions of the summary report and ballot image report shall be made available as soon as possible after the ballots have begun to be processed and counted. The summary report, ballot image report, comprehensive report, and preliminary versions of the summary report and ballot image report shall be made available to the public during the canvass via the internet and by other means. The ballot image report and preliminary versions of the ballot image report shall be made available in a plain text electronic format.

(j) Manual Tally. Prior to the selection of precincts for the public one percent manual tally, as provided by State law, a report shall be made available to the public that lists, for the ballots subject to the manual tally, the number of those ballots in each precinct that counted in each round as undervotes, overvotes, exhausted ballots, and as votes for each candidate. The public manual tally shall check those vote totals in each of the randomly selected precincts.

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