

**ELECTIONS COMMISSION**  
*City and County of San Francisco*

Robin M. Stone, President  
Christopher Jerdonek, Vice President  
Lucy Bernholz  
Cynthia Dai  
Nancy Hayden Crowley  
Renita LiVolsi  
Michelle Parker



John Arntz, Director of Elections  
Marisa Davis, Commission Secretary

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (APPROVED 9/20/23)**

**San Francisco Elections Commission**  
**Wednesday, July 19, 2023**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**City Hall, Room 416**  
**1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place**  
**San Francisco, California 94102**  
**& Remote meeting via WebEx**

**Order of Business**

**1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

President Stone called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Present:** President Robin Stone, Vice President Christopher Jerdonek, Commissioner Cynthia Dai, Commissioner Nancy Hayden Crowley, Commissioner Renita LiVolsi; Commissioner Michelle Parker, Commissioner Lucy Bernholz.

**Also Present:** Director of Elections John Arntz, Deputy City Attorney Ana Flores, Commission Secretary Marisa Davis.

President Stone stated the Commission's acknowledgment of the Ramaytush Ohlone people.

**2. General Public Comment**

*Via WebEx*

Richard Rothman indicated he wants meeting notifications sent to him prior to meeting dates.

Brent Turner expressed concern regarding past meeting technical difficulties the impact on the public regarding remote participation.

### **3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Dai emailed two corrections to President Stone and Commission Secretary Davis for the June 28, 2023 regular Elections Commission meeting minutes. President Stone reviewed and approved the corrections. General consensus approved the June 28, 2023 meeting minutes.

### **4. Director's Report**

The Director shared that the Department submitted an ordinance to the Board of Supervisors seeking to permanently opt out of Assembly Bill 1416 (AB 1416), which would have otherwise required San Francisco to place the names of proponents and opponents for local measures on ballots. The Department submitted the opt out ordinance as a cost-saving measure in the budgeting process. The Supervisors amended the legislation to authorize San Francisco to opt out only for the 2023 – 2024 fiscal year and to be revisited annually.

Commissioners discussed the Department's new user-generated content initiatives on social media and inquired about the Surveillance Technology Policy for the Department's use of social media monitoring technology to track traffic.

Commissioners and the Director discussed the Department's "I Voted" and "Future Voter" sticker contests.

### **Public Comment**

*Via WebEx*

Brent Turner expressed opposition to the Department's efforts to opt-out of AB 1416 as a cost-saving measure and emphasized the need for transparency.

Trent Lange from the California Clean Money Campaign stated that his organization sponsored AB 1416 and emphasized the bill's importance in establishing voter transparency around ballot measures. Mr. Lange also expressed disappointment with the Supervisors' willingness to opt-out but relief that it would be revisited next year. He requested that the Commission weigh in on election-related ordinances before presented to the Board of Supervisors and that the Department reconsider its opt-out position.

Lauren Girardin from the League of Women Voters echoed Trent Lange's public comments and commended the Board of Supervisors for amending the ordinance. She expressed concern with evaluating the issue on an annual basis and the negative and confusing impact on voters. Ms. Girardin would also like the Elections Commission to weigh in on these policies and ordinances in advance.

## **5. Commissioners Reports**

Vice President Jerdonek reviewed his July 19, 2023 memo the Department's proposed ordinance to permanently opt-out of AB 1416. Commissioners discussed a desire to have proposed legislation from the Department of Elections be vetted through the Commission prior to its presentation to the Board of Supervisors. President Stone offered to draft this process or policy.

### **Public Comment**

*Via WebEx*

Brent Turner expressed concern about the driving force behind the efforts to opt-out of AB 1416, which he believed to be a non-partisan issue and reminiscent of the city's delayed adoption of open source voting.

## **6. Fair, Independent, and Effective Redistricting for Community Engagement (Fierce) Committee Updates**

Commissioner Parker presented feedback on the redistricting initiative following the previous Fierce Committee meetings.

Commissioner Dai shared a recap of her meeting with Board of Supervisors President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and members of good government groups, and indicated the Supervisors were launching legislative efforts to advance redistricting reform, including assigning staff and working with the City Attorney's office. She also indicated that past documents, content, and discussions pertaining to the redistricting initiative are available and hyperlinked in the San Francisco Elections Commission Redistricting Initiative Plan v7. She also indicated the next Fierce meeting is scheduled for July 31, 2023.

Commissioners discussed the project timeline, process, and inclusion of community input in the Fierce Committee's efforts.

### **Public Comment**

*In Person*

Fernando Marti from San Francisco Rising spoke about why the Commission was the appropriate body to present recommendations for redistricting reform.

Alan Burradell, a resident of District 8, expressed concern with the speed of the initiative and the Committee's public trust.

*Via Telephone*

Russia Chavis Gardenas from California Common Cause shared that there are other jurisdictions such as Los Angeles who are currently conducting community outreach and expressed support for continuing the education process and incorporating more voices in the process.

Lauren Girardin from the League of Women Voters shared the importance of prioritizing redistricting reform while it remains a fresh issue in San Francisco, in addition to not having Supervisors who have a vested interest in the process lead the reform efforts.

**7. Possible Closed Session Concerning Director of Elections 2022 Performance Evaluation (Continued from June 28 meeting)**

There were no public commenters.

**VOTE TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION**

President Stone	YAY
Vice President Jerdonek	YAY
Commissioner Bernholz	YAY
Commissioner Dai	YAY
Commissioner Hayden Crowley	YAY
Commissioner LiVolsi	YAY
Commissioner Parker	YAY

7 Yays 0 Nays 0 Absent  
Vote passes unanimously.

The Commission convened in closed session at 8:05 p.m.

The Commission reconvened in open session at 9:36 p.m.

Commissioner Hayden Crowley moved to disclose no portion of the closed session discussion. Commissioner LiVolsi seconded.

**MOTION TO NOT DISCLOSE ANY PORTION OF THE COMMISSION'S CLOSED SESSION**

President Stone	YAY
Vice President Jerdonek	YAY
Commissioner Bernholz	YAY
Commissioner Dai	YAY
Commissioner Hayden Crowley	YAY

Commissioner LiVolsi	YAY
Commissioner Parker	YAY

7 Yays 0 Nays 0 Absent  
Motion passes unanimously.

### **7. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

President Stone indicated the August regular commission meeting has been cancelled; the offsite retreat planned in lieu of the August meeting will not take place at this time due to numerous scheduling difficulties.

President Stone will seek Commissioners' requests for the September 20 meeting agenda topics in early September.

There were no public commenters.

### **8. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.