

Elections Commission
City & County of San Francisco

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



John Arntz, Director of Elections
Martha Delgadillo, Commission Secretary

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
(Approved on July 20, 2022)

San Francisco Elections Commission
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
6:00 p.m.
City Hall, Room 408
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102

Order of Business

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: Vice President (VP) Becca Chappell, Commissioners Lucy Bernholz, Cynthia Dai, Christopher Jerdonek, and Robin Shapiro

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

2. General Public Comment

Brent Turner commented in person. He made a statement in response to a comment in the prior meeting addressing concerns about open source software community engagement. Commissioner Bernholz responded to the statement.

Richard Rothman commented on Proposition C on the ballot from the June election, saying that he didn't think the Mayor should be able to appoint replacements for recalled positions.

3. Resolution on Continuation of Remote Elections Commission Meetings

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

Public Comment – None

MOTION ON RESOLUTION

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

5 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passes

4. Election of Commission Executive Officers

VP Chappell opened nominations for President. VP Chappell nominated herself. Seconded by Commissioner Shapiro.

VP Chappell opened nominations for Vice President. Commissioner Dai nominated Commissioner Jerdonek. He accepted the nomination. VP Chappell nominated Commissioner Shapiro. She accepted the nomination. Public comment was taken.

Majority vote by Commissioners was to elect VP Chappell as President.

After an initial vote for Vice President in which neither candidate received a majority and further discussion on the reasons why Commissioners voted for each of the candidates, Commissioner Shapiro withdrew herself from consideration. Another vote was taken in which Commissioner Jerdonek received a majority.

Public Comment

Brent Turner supported both nominations for VP Chappell for President and Commissioner Jerdonek for Vice President

David Pilpel stated he agrees with the nominations made by all and stated they would all make an excellent choice.

VOTE FOR VP CHAPPELL FOR PRESIDENT

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

5 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passes

1ST VOTE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

President-Elect Chappell	Commissioner Shapiro
Commissioner Bernholz	Commissioner Shapiro
Commissioner Dai	Commissioner Jerdonek
Commissioner Jerdonek	Commissioner Jerdonek
Commissioner Shapiro	Commissioner Shapiro

3 Commissioner Shapiro 2 Commissioner Jerdonek
Neither candidate received 4 votes

2ND VOTE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

President-Elect Chappell	Commissioner Jerdonek
Commissioner Bernholz	Commissioner Jerdonek
Commissioner Dai	Commissioner Jerdonek
Commissioner Jerdonek	Commissioner Jerdonek
Commissioner Shapiro	Commissioner Jerdonek

5 Commissioner Jerdonek
Commissioner Jerdonek elected

5. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Commissioner Dai made suggestions to the February 14, 2022 meeting minutes. After a discussion the Commission decided to defer the April 6, 2022 meeting minutes to next month's meeting.

Approval of the February 14, 2022 minutes was moved by Commissioner Dai. Seconded by Commissioner Shapiro.

Public Comment

David Pilpel made suggestions to make minor changes to the February 14, 2022 meeting minutes.

MOTION FOR FEBRUARY 14, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

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

Yays 5 Naves 0 Abstain 0
Motion passes

6. Dominion Voting Systems Contract Extension

VP-Elect Jerdonek presented a draft "Resolution on Extending the City's Contract with Dominion Voting Systems," including changes that were made when the resolution was discussed at a prior meeting. Two clauses (Page 2, WHEREAS clauses at Lines 10 and

14) were brought to the Commission’s attention by President-Elect Chappell and Vice President-Elect Jerdonek for further discussion.

Commissioner Bernholz commented on the resolution and what message it might send. Commissioner Bernholz asked Deputy City Attorney (DCA) Flores if this resolution violates the non-interference clause between the Commission and the Department of Elections. DCA Flores confirmed that it did not.

VP-Elect Jerdonek moved to adopt the resolution as revised in the packet. Seconded by Commissioner Shapiro.

Public Comment

Brent Turner commented on alleged statements made by Steve Bennet, Dominion’s Sales Representative, in a newspaper article.

David Pilpel commented on clauses included in the Resolution.

MOTION ON RESOLUTION ON EXTENDING THE CITY’S CONTRACT WITH DOMINION VOTING SYSTEMS

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

Yays 5 Nays 0 Abstain 0
Motion passes

7. Redistricting Process Initiative

With Commissioner Shapiro’s assistance, Commissioner Dai introduced a proposed plan for a public forum on how to improve San Francisco’s Redistricting process. Notes were posted in this meeting’s packet. Other items submitted in the meeting packet were discussed to draw attention to recommendations.

Commissioner Bernholz suggested constraining the scope of project to redistricting for supervisorial districts (while acknowledging other ways improve democratic outcomes). VP-elect Jerdonek commented on whether the selection of appointees and timeline could be added to the list of items for consideration. The Commission discussed whether some of the suggestions are beyond the scope of the Elections Commission. President-Elect Chappell expressed concern about the appropriateness of this commission to spearhead this project and potential challenges.

Speaker Steven Hill, co-founder of FairVote and previous advisor to the 1996 Elections Task Force, provided background regarding the history of redistricting in San Francisco and the processes used to develop initial district maps. VP-Elect Jerdonek asked about

the charter amendment that created the Redistricting Task Force (RTF) in the beginning. Mr. Hill responded that Proposition G started in 1996.

Speaker Julia Marks, Voting Rights Manager for Asian Law Caucus, shared information on local redistricting and legislation affecting redistricting bodies throughout the State of California. Commissioner Shapiro asked about ranked criteria. Commissioners asked Ms. Marks questions about her presentation.

After discussion, the Commission agreed to continue with the educational portion of the Initiative over the new few meetings and defer possible action after that.

Public Comment

David Pilpel commented on the need for a charter amendment to make changes to the RTF and explained that the Board of Supervisors would have to be consulted.

Jen Tse from the League of Women Voters commended the Commission for the great presentations by the speakers and supported efforts made by the Commission on redistricting.

8. Director's Report

Director Arntz provided a report on the status of all functions of the Department.

VP-Elect Jerdonek asked Director Arntz about the percentage of voters that are reached for curing their vote-by-mail ballot.

Commissioner Shapiro asked how the department educates the public and the media regarding voting statistics on and around Election Day. She also asked questions regarding the process of counting ballots.

Public Comment

David Pilpel commented on the June and November elections regarding reporting on ballots and stated that the Department operates with transparency and efficiency.

9. Commissioners' Reports

VP-Elect Jerdonek commented on documents submitted and posted on the website packet.

Public Comment

David Pilpel pointed out that some voting information can be located on postings of the Director's press releases.

10. Discussion and possible action regarding items for future agendas

- a) April 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- b) Annual Report 2021

- c) Vacancies for this Commission – potentially sending letters to appointing bodies
- d) Traditional Breaks for the Summer – July or August
- e) Sole-source contracting by the Department
- f) Land Acknowledgment
- g) Racial Equity Plan

Public Comment

David Pilpel suggested reviewing the June election plan and sole-source contracts and how they affect the City. The Commission Secretary's annual performance evaluation is needed.

11. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm