

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

Christopher Jerdonek, President  
Robin M. Stone, Vice President  
Lucy Bernholz  
Cynthia Dai  
Renita LiVolsi  
*Vacancy*  
*Vacancy*



John Arntz, Director of Elections

Martha Delgadillo, Commission Secretary

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES **\*\*DRAFT\*\*****  
**(Approved on XXX)**

**San Francisco Elections Commission**  
**Wednesday, September 21, 2022**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**City Hall, Room 408**  
**1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place**  
**San Francisco, California 94102**  
**& Remote meeting via WebEx**

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

**Meeting Called to Order at 6:09 pm**

**Present:** President Christopher Jerdonek, Vice President (VP) Robin Stone, Commissioner Lucy Bernholz, Commissioner Cynthia Dai, and Commissioner Renita LiVolsi. (The seats appointed by the Board of Education and Mayor are vacant.)

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

It was announced that Vice President Shapiro's new last name is Stone. Welcome also to new Commissioner Renita LiVolsi, who was appointed by Public Defender Mano Raju and sworn in on September 12, 2022.

**2. General Public Comment**

None

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

**Public Comment**

Brent Turner read into the record a statement he made on September 20, 2022 to the Secretary of State's Office regarding the open source voting system for a pilot program for San Francisco.

David Pilpel welcomed Commissioner LiVolsi.

Commissioner Dai moved to adopt the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Stone.

**MOTION ON RESOLUTION ON CONTINUATION OF REMOTE ELECTIONS  
COMMISSION MEETINGS**

President Jerdonek	Yes
VP Stone	Yes
Commissioner Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner LiVolsi	Yes

5 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain  
Motion passes

**4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

VP Stone moved to approve the draft minutes for the July 20, 2022 meeting with the proposed revisions by Commissioner Dai. Seconded by Commissioner Dai.

**Public Comment**

David Pilpel stated that the minutes looked good.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 20, 2022 MEETING**

President Jerdonek	Yes
VP Stone	Yes
Commissioner Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner LiVolsi	Yes

5 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain  
Motion passes

**5. Election Plan and Public Employee Waiver for the November 8, 2022 Consolidated  
General Election**

Director Arntz stated that the Department is making every effort to provide equity to incarcerated voters. VP Stone asked for clarification on the processes for incarcerated persons in the State and what it means to cancel the record. She asked about grants, including how recipients are evaluated and chosen. She also asked what has happened in the past concerning voter participation and completing the voter information pamphlet. Director Arntz explained the processes and steps.

Commissioner Bernholz asked Director Arntz if he had a sense of whether there was more interest than usual from the public in serving as poll watchers and workers. Director Arntz said he did not know at this time.

Commissioner Dai asked what the employee waiver is for. DCA Flores gave an explanation. Director Arntz said that it's in the Charter. The Charter requires the Department to obtain a waiver that would make elections free, fair, and functional.

DCA Flores stated that the motion to include the elections plan and employee waiver could be combined.

Commissioner Dai moved to approve the elections plan and employee waiver. Seconded by VP Stone.

### **Public Comment**

David Pilpel stated that he feels this plan should be a model for election plans.

### **MOTION ON ELECTION PLAN AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEE WAIVER FOR THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022 CONSOLIDATED GENERAL ELECTION**

President Jerdonek	Yes
VP Stone	Yes
Commissioner Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner LiVolsi	Yes

5 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain  
Motion passes

### **6. Information reported regularly to the Commission**

This item was discussed at the Budget & Oversight of Public Elections Committee (BOPEC) on August 10, 2022. Information was gleaned from that meeting, as well as wording for the document. The draft was included in the agenda packet for this meeting. VP Stone asked questions and made suggested on the following items:

- including the number of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) complaints from an equity perspective, perhaps on a quarterly basis.
- under the title of "numbers and/or percents", including information on the subject matter.
- "Number of ballots cast" incorporate systems impacted. Counting vs receiving based on precincts.

A conversation ensued between the Commissioners and Director Arntz regarding the frequency of reporting voting trends. It was agreed that the information would be posted on the Department of Elections website weekly. President Jerdonek stated that the adopted document could be posted on the Elections Commission website on the

documents page.

### **Public Comment**

David Pilpel stated that for a ballot, there was a date received, as well as dates processed and counted.

Danielle Deibler, League of Women Voters, stated that it helps to know how early people are voting and how early the ballots are coming in. This helps with scheduling educational events and is vital for planning purposes.

Brent Turner apologized for making comments when his connection was unmuted. He stated this is non-partisan work.

VP Stone moved to approve the document of information the Commission wants to be reported regularly, pending the minor amendments to be included afterward. Seconded by Commissioner LiVolsi.

### **MOTION ON INFORMATION REPORTED REGULARLY TO THE COMMISSION**

President Jerdonek	Yes
VP Stone	Yes
Commissioner Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner LiVolsi	Yes

5 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain

Motion passes

## **7. Racial Equity**

VP Stone briefly explained the discussion at the BOPEC meeting on this topic:

What ways are we considering diversity inclusion, and how do we think about the policies and priorities of the communities that we serve? She also provided information on the progress she made on the Land Acknowledgment. A resolution was drafted and presented on October 19, 2022. She would also like to incorporate pronouns on the website for all members of the Commission.

President Jerdonek presented information on whether members of commissions can be compensated. He also mentioned that San Francisco's Charter does not permit members of the Elections Commission to be compensated. VP Stone wants this information to be a priority. Commissioner Dai followed up with the 311 database contact. The contact stated that they work with a third-party vendor and do not include race or ethnicity identification on the website.

### **Public Comment**

David Pilpel suggested that if someone identifies with preferred pronouns, then that pronoun should be used in subsequent references to that person. He stated that providing parking, Muni, and technical devices could be additional incentives.

Brent Turner stated that this issue is of the utmost importance.

Tess Wellbourne asked if other types of equity would be considered, for example LGBT+ community.

VP Stone moved to approve adding Commissioners' preferred pronouns to the Elections Commission website. Commissioner Dai seconded.

### **MOTION TO APPROVE ADDING PREFERRED PRONOUNS TO THE COMMISSION WEBSITE**

President Jerdonek	Yes
VP Stone	Yes
Commissioner Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner LiVolsi	Yes

5 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain  
Motion passes

### **8. Director's Report**

Director Arntz gave an update on the distribution of ballots and the voter guide.

VP Stone and Commissioner LiVolsi asked Director Arntz how the Department receives responses from the public asking for a digital version of the Voter Information Pamphlet. He stated through emails.

Commissioner Bernholz asked Director Arntz if there is anything the Commission should be aware of regarding the Secretary of State (SOS) and VotingWorks for the open source voting pilot. Director Arntz stated there have been two monthly calls on this item. The main change VotingWorks is requesting of the State is to reduce the amount of information required to conduct a pilot program. President Jerdonek mentioned that a letter was provided.

### **Public Comment**

David Pilpel commented that the Director's Report is comprehensive and appreciates the transparency.

Brent Turner asked if he could hear more in depth information from Director Arntz regarding his thoughts on the conversation with the SOS, though not necessarily today.

Danielle Deibler cautioned on the use of open-source systems with the risk and potential of cyber threats, especially when it comes to voting. It might be beneficial to have someone with cyber security experience look for potential implications.

## 9. Commissioners' Reports

President Jerdonek reported:

- He is engaging with San Francisco's Digital Services Team, a department that is in the process of switching Commission websites to a new system.
- The California Secretary of State had their public hearing on pilot program regulations, and he was able to comment. The main concerns were—
  - The documentation required is currently burdensome, and
  - More flexibility is needed as far as when the software must be finalized prior to the election, to allow for feedback from the jurisdiction.
- VotingWorks will be doing a pilot for three jurisdictions in New Hampshire in November, after being approved.
- He created a brief document on the history of open source voting, and it was included in the packet.

VP Stone asked a question on the document that was included in the packet for this item.

Commissioner Dai suggested having a section on the Elections Commission website on key initiatives.

VP Stone shared updates regarding voter turnout and participation.

### Public Comment

David Pilpel made suggestions on the planned switchover for the Elections Commission website. He suggested maybe waiting until the election in November has passed.

Brent Turner gave a timeline of when open-source voting advocacy first began and the reason why it has dragged out for 23 years.

Danielle Deibler agreed that doing the website migration after the November election would be best.

## 10. Agenda items for future meetings

- a) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Justice (DEIBJ)
- b) Redistricting Process Initiative
- c) Commission Secretary Evaluation

President Jerdonek suggested keeping topic items down to 30 minutes.

### Public Comment

David Pilpel suggested including in the agenda a list of both standing items and other agenda items going forward to 3-6 months.

## **12. Redistricting Process Initiative**

**[This item was heard before Item 11.]**

Commissioner Dai briefly explained the items to be covered by the invited speakers.

Commissioner Dai asked all participants to give one highlight and one lowlight of their time on the redistricting task force.

Gwenn Craig, former Chair, 2001-2002 Redistricting Task Force (RTF):

Ms. Craig expressed having fond memories of the redistricting hearings, including the sincerity and passion of the residents. Lowlights came from working with the task force itself.

Myong Leigh, former member, 2011-2012 RTF:

Mr. Leigh stated that insightful comments from all quarters of the City helped to shape their thinking. The lowlight was the time commitment.

Raynell Cooper, former member, 2021-2022 RTF:

Mr. Cooper said his highlight was hearing from hundreds of San Franciscans about their communities. The lowlight was politics getting in the way of government.

Commissioner Dai asked all participants by whom they were appointed and whether they shared any differences in opportunities, qualifications, allegiances, or factions formed based on their appointing authority.

Mr. Cooper said he was appointed by the Elections Commission. He mentioned specific situations that occurred and the reasons splits happened.

Mr. Leigh was appointed by Mayor Ed Lee. He did not recall discernable patterns or influences to decisions.

Ms. Craig was appointed by the Elections Commission. She did notice differences, especially with the Mayor's elections, who worked as a group and consistently voted as a block.

Commissioner Dai asked what basic qualifications they thought all RTF members should have and what the vetting process might look like.

Ms. Craig said residency in San Francisco is very important and that members should have lived here for a very long time. They should previously have engaged in the civic life of our City.

Mr. Cooper mentioned being a San Francisco resident with a demonstrated interest in the civic well-being of the City.

Mr. Leigh said it is important not to impose a filter that is too restrictive so as not to disqualify appropriate candidates from being considered. He mentioned disclosing potential conflicts and asking candidates if they can be impartial.

Commissioner Dai asked if they believed their task force was broadly representative of the City's diversity regardless of the diversity of the candidate pool. Why or why not? She also asked if an increase in representation would provide more opportunities. Would a stipend or pay improve diversity?

Mr. Leigh stated he felt it was widely representative of San Francisco as a whole. A modest increase in the number of members would provide more opportunities to make sure a critical set of constituents is not overlooked or omitted.

Ms. Craig stated her task force was diverse. Having bodies of larger size would help. A stipend should be modest.

Mr. Cooper stated that his task force was diverse, except for geographically. Increasing the number of members would provide more diversity in ideas and geography. A stipend would be helpful and would be the right thing to do.

Commissioner Dai said that Common Cause recommended that San Francisco move to an open competitive selection process with protections against conflicts of interest. How do you think this would change the future of RTF if adopted?

Mr. Cooper stated that he thinks an open competitive process would be an excellent step forward. Better criteria should be used to select candidates.

Ms. Craig responded by saying that an open competitive process might have helped.

Mr. Leigh stated it would not be detrimental. He did not feel that the lack of a competitive process hindered the effectiveness of the task force.

Commissioner Dai asked what training they wish they would have had more of before starting work.

Mr. Leigh stated they received the appropriate information and guidance.

Mr. Cooper stated he felt they had a good amount of training. He feels that having a better understanding of best practices in terms of interpreting and receiving public input would have helped. Having a schedule set when they started would have helped.

Ms. Craig responded by saying that having consultants during her first term helped. Perhaps outreach and advertising were lacking in the task force.

Commissioner Dai asked if more specific or ranked ordered criteria would help make better decisions in the line-drawing process. Why or why not? She also asked if they propose any definitions of standard redistricting criteria, for example, or what constitutes a community of interest or alternative criteria that San Francisco considers to better design districts for fair and effective representation.

Ms. Craig stated she does not have too much experience on the ranked order process. Less political interference would have benefited.

Mr. Cooper stated it would have helped with more productive discussions. He feels the ranked standard criteria probably would not have helped much.

Mr. Leigh stated rank ordered criteria was important to understand what they should be considering.

Commissioner Dai asked how satisfied they were with operational processes? How satisfied were they with support?

Mr. Leigh referred to the report of the RTF. The technical consultant had been identified and contracted and given the time to complete their work. Community outreach was also a contributing process.

Commissioner Dai asked them to comment on whether independent commissions should choose their staff, time frames, and deadlines.

Ms. Craig stated there was too much assigned to the task force. The mapping consultant was helpful.

Commissioner Dai stated that it currently requires a simple majority to pass a map. Many other jurisdictions require a special majority or super majority vote. Would requiring increased consensus have improved the process? Why or why not?

Ms. Craig stated that in their case it would not have improved their process.

Mr. Cooper stated it would have made things more difficult.

Mr. Leigh stated he did not think it would have made a difference.

VP Stone welcomed any thoughts or feedback that they would like to share with the Commission.

Commissioner Dai stated that nothing currently prohibits the RTF from having private meetings or discussions early in the morning. What could be done to increase transparency and the public's trust? Bans, rules, practices structure?

Mr. Cooper stated that it concerns criteria, enforcement methods, and ramifications.

Ms. Craig stated that starting early is essential due to unanticipated time delays. Many delays were centered around giving notice for meetings. Strict adherence to the Sunshine Laws and open meeting laws had to be maintained.

Commissioner Dai stated task force members currently serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority. Under what circumstances should a member be removed and replaced. Should qualified alternates be selected?

Mr. Cooper agreed there should be alternates.

### **Public Comment**

Danielle Deibler supports giving the RTF a stipend or compensation. Some members would have done better with instructions.

Fernando Marti stated timelines would be important.

David Pilpel suggested members of the body should be representative of the population demographics.

Jen Tse of the League of Women Voters of San Francisco suggested reaching out to other jurisdictions who have implemented the Fair Maps compliance.

## **11. Public Employee Appointment/Hiring: Director of Elections**

Commissioner Dai moved to go into closed session. Seconded by Commissioner Bernholz.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Brent Turner stated that Director Arntz has served for a long time. He suggested it might be time for the Commission to consider other applicants along with Director Arntz.

David Pilpel stated he would not want to see any transition prior to certification of the November election.

## **MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION**

President Jerdonek

Yes

VP Stone	Yes
Commissioner Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner LiVolsi	Yes

5 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain  
Motion passes

Closed session commenced at 9:22 p.m.

Present in closed session were President Jerdonek; Vice President Stone; Commissioner Bernholz; Commissioner Dai; Commissioner LiVolsi; DCA Flores; and Commission Secretary Delgadillo.

Open session resumed at 10:26 p.m.

President Jerdonek reported that no action was taken.

President Jerdonek moved that the Commission disclose no portion of the closed session discussion. Seconded by Commissioner Dai.

President Jerdonek	Yes
VP Stone	Yes
Commissioner Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner LiVolsi	Yes

5 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain  
Motion passes

**Adjournment at 10:29 pm**