



Memorandum

To: Elections Commission
From: John Arntz, Director
Date: December 8, 2022
RE: Director's Report: December 12, 2022, Elections Commission Meeting

Following is a brief listing of the work and related information in which the Department of Elections (Department) has been engaged since the previous report issued in relation to the Elections Commission meeting on November 16, 2022.

I. The Department concluded the Official Canvass and certified the November 8, 2022 election.

- A. On December 1, 2022, one week ahead of the legal deadline, the Department certified local results for the November 8, 2022 Consolidated General Election. Final voter turnout was 62.32%, with 310,071 of San Francisco's 497,561 registered voters casting ballots in the election – 55.16% cast vote-by-mail ballots and 7.15% cast poll ballots on Election Day.
- B. The Department posted the final results summary and detailed reports, including the *Statement of the Vote*, at sfelections.org. and submitted all required election certification documents to the California Secretary of State and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. To preserve the integrity of the results and maintain public confidence in this data, the Department published and applied a SHA-512 cryptographic function to all results reports.
- C. Throughout the election cycle, including the official canvass, the Department maintained full operational transparency -- keeping all ballot counting and canvass activities open to public observation, issuing and publicly announcing fifteen multiformat preliminary results reports and ballot counting updates, and facilitating question and answer session regularly between Director Arntz and members of the media and the public at City Hall.
- D. To maintain voting system transparency, the Department posted images of ballot cards cast in the election, allowing any member of the public, using the "Ballot Audit Review" application, to sort ballot card images by precinct, district, or contest and/or to see how any vote mark was interpreted and recorded by the voting system.
- E. Enclosed are the November 8 election documents responsive to the Commission's request for information to be included in its post-election review, including the Vote-By-Mail Report (Attachment 1), the Provisional Ballot Report (Attachment 2), the Conditional Voter Registration Report (Attachment 3), the Election Day Incident Report (Attachment 4), Data and Graphs (Attachment 5).

II. The Department is completing conclusory activities for the November 8, 2022 election.

- A. The Department is reviewing polling place rosters to identify voters who indicated a language preference and updating records in its Election Information Management System accordingly. The Department is working on scanning all the forms signed by voters and attaching those to voter records with the goal of expanding a pool of signatures that can be considered for future election signature comparison and ballot processing.

- B. The Department has resumed the processing of registration applications and maintenance messages transmitted through the state's VoteCal System; it has also resumed the mailing of voter notification cards.
- C. The Department has begun securing November 8 ballots, rosters, and other vital voting materials at its warehouse for the duration of applicable retention periods as required under state law.
- D. The Department has been processing separation paperwork for seasonal employees who worked in the Department during the November 8 election cycle.
- E. The Department has begun to evaluate the impact of its November 8 outreach strategies on San Francisco voters in general as well as their impact on communities of focus: a) unhoused voters, b) voters living in permanent supportive and affordable housing, c) first time voters, d) non-English speaking voters, e) voters in medical facilities, and f) voters involved in the justice system.
- F. With the conclusion of outreach activities undertaken by local community-based grantee organizations under the Department's 2022 Outreach Partnership Grant, the Department has begun reviewing the final reports submitted by all 15 grantees to evaluate how these partnerships benefited the Department's outreach efforts, compile best practices introduced by grantees that could be incorporated in future Department's outreach strategies, and note any lessons learned for the Department to keep in mind when administering future outreach grants.
- G. The Department has begun reviewing and analyzing the responses submitted by members of the public to a series of surveys administered throughout the November 8 election cycle with the goal of utilizing this survey data to evaluate the effectiveness of current services and programs.

III. The Department has begun various short, mid, and long-term operational and administrative projects.

- A. The Department has begun planning the first phase (January 2023 – August 2023) of its 2023 outreach program. The primary objective of this first phase will be to deliver barrier-free voter registration and poll worker opportunities, with a focus on 1) newly naturalized citizens, 2) residents with criminal history, including those on parole, 3) residents with no fixed address or experiencing homelessness, and 4) soon to be voters (ages 16/17).
- B. The second phase (September 2023 – March 2024) of the Department's outreach program will focus on educational topics specifically related to the March 2024 Primary Presidential Election, such as how registered political party preference, or lack thereof, will affect voters' options with regard to the presidential contest on their ballots and how voters registered with no party preference can request party ballots in the March primary.
- C. The Department has begun revising the content of various informational webpages and online tools that reference election dates and deadlines, elected officials, or future elections, to reflect the certification of the November 8 election. Concurrently, the Department has been planning staffing resources and timelines for transitioning to the new SF.gov format and will hold a meeting with City's Digital Services personnel regarding those plans.
- D. The Department is continuing to consider ways to implement the changes required under Assembly Bill (AB) 1416 while actively exploring options to mitigate any significant ballot length increase. (The main provisions AB 1416 direct the Secretary of State to produce ballot labels for statewide ballot measures that include the names of supporters and opponents and require a county elections official to do the same for local measures if the county board of supervisors decides to do so at least 30 days before the deadline for submitting ballot measure arguments.)

- E. The Department has begun preparing budget proposals to support both fixed and variable operating expenses for all operations necessary to conduct the two elections scheduled in the FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 budget cycle: the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election and the November 5, 2024, General Election.
- F. In December, the Mayor's Office will issue its budget and policy instructions and priorities that will further inform the Department's drafting of its budget proposals. The Department will submit its final FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 budget proposals to the Mayor's Office and the Controller's Office by February 21, 2023, as required by local law.
- G. The Department will submit its FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 budget proposals to the Elections Commission by January 27, 2023. In accordance with San Francisco Administrative Code §3.3, the budget proposals must be reviewed at two public meetings, with the first meeting occurring at least 15 days before the meeting in which the Commission approves the Department's budget proposals.

IV. Responses to the Commission's request for information to be included in the Director's monthly report.

- A. There are no items to report under this section.