Memorandum

To:	Elections Commission
From:	John Arntz, Director
Date:	November 11, 2022
RE:	Director's Report: November 16, 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 October 19, 2022.

I. The Department completed all pre-election and Election Day activities for the November 8 election and released preliminary election results reports.

A. In this election cycle, the Department carried out all legally-mandated activities, adhered to all applicable deadlines, provided accessible and equitable registration and voting options, and maintained operational transparency.

B. Successful completion of election tasks included facilitation of filing nomination papers for 48 candidates, the processing of papers for 14 ballot measures, and the acceptance of 247 ballot arguments; the processing of nearly 18,000 voter record updates and new registrations; the providing of multilingual and multi-format election information at approximately 250 neighborhood events; the response to over 4,000 public inquiries via telephone and email; the production of an official five-card ballot in three bilingual formats and with 34 distinctive ballot faces corresponding to each ballot type; the production of a 256-page long Voter Information Pamphlet and its 93 versions corresponding to each ballot type and language, and in various accessible formats; the facilitation of universal vote-by-mail services for half a million voters; the procurement of 501 polling places; the facilitation of early in-person voting service during the 29-day period; the recruitment and training of 1,800 adult and 900 high school student poll workers; and the organizing and training of over 100 Deputy Sheriffs and 90 Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA) Officers to securely retrieve vote data and ballots.

C. On Election Day, the Department facilitated the opening of all in-person voting sites, made voting services available during voting hours, securely collected vote data and ballots after the close of the polls, and reported preliminary election results. To complete these tasks, the Department ran 1) the Election Center, which provided support to poll workers from 5:15 a.m. until approximately midnight; 2) the Poll Worker Dispatch Center, which fulfilled requests for back-up poll workers between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.; 3) the Data Collection Center, which received and uploaded 501 memory cards delivered by MTA officers between the close of the polls and approximately midnight; 4) the Processing Center, which received voted ballots and other vital materials retrieved from each of the 501 sites and delivered by Deputy Sheriffs between the close of the polls and approximately 2 a.m. the following morning.

D. On Election Night, the Department issued four preliminary summary results reports, along with several detailed reports: 1) the Statement of the Vote, which shows results data by precinct, district, and neighborhood, 2) Ranked-Choice Voting Reports (in PDF and Excel), and 3) the Cast Vote Record, which contains raw data of votes cast in

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the election (in JSON). The Department also transmitted results to the Secretary of State (SOS) via a secure process for which the Department had completed SOS' two system tests and certification process in advance.

E. Beginning November 9, the Department began posting the approximate number of ballots left to count on its website on a daily basis.

F. Beginning November 10, the Department also began issuing preliminary results reports on a daily basis, announced those results postings via press releases and social media, and facilitated question and answer sessions with Director Arntz and members of the media and the public at City Hall.

II. The Department continues to count vote-by-mail and provisional ballots for the November 8 election.

A. Since November 9, the Department has been maintaining a 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. ballot processing schedule. As of November 11, 4 p.m., the number of ballots counted and reported is 195,327; the number of ballots left to count is approximately 110,000, of which 101,000 are vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots and 9,000 are provisional (PV) ballots.

B. Department personnel will continue to process and count VBM ballots postmarked by Election Day and received in the mail by November 15. As of November 11, 349 VBM ballots remain challenged. In accordance with state law, the Department has only challenged VBM ballots in cases where 1) the ballot envelope was not signed, 2) the signature on the ballot envelope did not compare to any on file, 3) the voter had already voted in the election (e.g., at a polling place), 4) the ballot return envelope contained no ballot, or 5) the ballot envelope was postmarked/returned late.

C. If any VBM ballot challenge is curable (e.g., no signature on the envelope), the Department attempts to contact the voter within 24 hours via the Voter Portal, postal mail, email, and/or telephone. Beginning November 16, a team of Department drivers will attempt to hand-deliver notices to voters who have not yet responded to any of these notifications (The Department also notifies voters in local jails, through Prisoner Legal Services personnel, when their ballots require corrective actions). To date, 179 voters have cured their challenged VBM ballots. The Department will continue to count ballots of voters who cure the challenge up to two days before certification.

D. The Department has begun initial processing of 9,000 PV ballots. Challenge reasons, cure procedures, and cure timelines for signature issues on PV ballots parallel those for VBM ballots.

III. The Department continues to conduct various Official Canvass activities for the November 8 election.

A. On November 9, the Department commenced the Official Canvass which, among other tasks, includes the hand tallies of ballots cast in 1% of randomly chosen precincts, as well as 1% of VBM and PV ballots, also chosen at random. At 9 a.m. Friday, November 18, in the Department's office in City Hall Room 48, the Department will randomly select precincts and batches to include in the manual tallies of ballots. Then, at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, November 19, the Department will begin the manual tallies of these randomly selected ballots in its warehouse on Pier 31. The manual tally is conducted to verify that the voting equipment properly tabulated ballots and accurately reported results and is open to public observation in person and via live stream from the Department's website.

B. As part of the Official Canvass, the Department will pilot an open source risk-limiting auditing (RLA) software[1] for which the City's Department of Technology (DT) developed a front end user interface. The Department will audit three contests in the November 8 election: District Attorney, and Supervisorial Districts 4 and 6. The new front end user interface, developed by DT, simplifies the execution of the many steps required to complete an RLA. The interface is capable of conducting multiple audits and will allow the Department to generate reports for current and past audits, with information on who participated as audit board members, whether those members agreed on voter intent, and all of the other information required by the Secretary of State for conducting RLAs. (This application is also integrated with the city's single sign-on (SSO) implementation, which simplifies access control list (ACL) management.) After this pilot for the November 8 election, the Department will provide feedback to DT regarding suggested changes or updates to the interface.

C. The Department continues retrieving supplies and voting equipment from 501 polling places for transport to the Department's warehouse on Pier 31, where personnel will review the materials prior to securely storing them.

D. The Department has begun processing stipends for nearly 2,000 poll workers and 501 polling place providers and preparing for mailing/distribution of checks.

E. The Department continues post-election voter roll maintenance processes. These include the review of polling place rosters to identify voters who indicated a language preference and updating those voters' records in the Election Information Management System; scanning signed forms and attaching those to the corresponding voters' records to broaden signature pool for future ballot processing; resuming the processing of registration applications and maintenance messages transmitted through the state's VoteCal System; and resuming the mailing of voter notification cards triggered by the processing of voter registration applications.

IV. **The Department will certify the November 8, 2022 election by the legal deadline of December 8, 2022.**

Upon election certification, as in past elections, the Department will post on its website essential information generated from the voting system that allows the public to audit the voted ballots and voting system equipment. The posting of the following information is unique to San Francisco in California, and possibly in the country as well.

A. *Images of voted ballots.* The City's voting system captures images of each voted ballot cast, creating a visual history of how ballots were marked. After reviewing each of the likely 1.5 million ballot cards cast in this election to redact information that personally identifies voters, the Department will post these ballot images on its website, allowing the public to view all voted ballot cast in San Francisco in the November 8 election.

B. *Ballot Audit Review Application.* When posting the ballot images, the Department will also post the "Ballot Audit Review" application that allows members of the public to sort and view the ballot images according to specific precincts, districts, and contests.

C. *AuditMark.* The Ballot Audit Review application includes an option to view an explanation at the bottom of each ballot image indicating how the voting equipment interpreted and tallied each vote mark. These explanations, or AuditMarks, provide the public with information on how the voting system operates in relation to the recording and reporting of every vote cast in this election.

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[1] See **https://github.com/pbstark/SHANGRLA** and **https://github.com/michelleblom/audit-irv-cp/tree/raire-branch**

D. *Cast Vote Record.* The Department will post this file that lists each vote recorded on each ballot card in JSON format. The data provided in the Cast Vote Record is captured from the ballots as the ballots are scanned by the voting equipment and before vote tabulation occurs, allowing members of the public to tabulate votes from specific precincts, districts, etc. and compare against the official election results.

E. *Voting Equipment Logs*. The Department will post all transaction logs from the voting equipment used at polling places. The logs detail the machines' operation from the logic and accuracy testing prior to the equipment's transport to polling places, the beginning of Election Day when poll workers turn on the equipment, through the tabulation of ballots inserted by voters, and when the poll workers close the polls and turn off the machines.

F. *SHA-512 Cryptographic Hash Algorithm*. Also unique to San Francisco elections, the Department will publish and apply a SHA-512 cryptographic function to reports associated with the November 8 election to establish the integrity of the results in a verifiable manner. Hashing the results reports, the letter of certification, the statement of vote, and other documents the Department issues upon certification provides certainty to the public that election documentation is secured, consistent through time, and authentic.

V. **The Department provided an update on the status of the open source voting system pilot program.**

A. On November 4, 2022, the Department provided a memorandum and associated documents (Attachment 1) to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors explaining the reasons the pilot program using the VotingWorks' system did not occur at the November 8, 2022 election.

B. Before the system could be implemented for a pilot program in San Francisco at a general election, the Secretary of State must adopt the final regulations for such programs. VotingWorks also must complete the development of its system to conduct general elections in San Francisco, including the functionality to conduct ranked-choice voting elections.

VI. **The Department has begun considering the impact of Assembly Bill 1416 and Local Measure H.**

A. Assembly Bill (AB) 1416 will go into effect in 2023. 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.

B. Voters' likely approving local measure H will add the contests for Mayor, City Attorney, District Attorney, Sheriff, and Treasurer to presidential general elections beginning in November 2024.

C. These new laws will result in an increase in the length of future San Francisco ballots. Not only will a longer ballot lead to increases in postage, material and staff costs, the Department's current ballot processing equipment may not be able to handle ballots comprised in excess of the current five-card ballot.

D. The Department has begun considering operational and staffing impact, including the space needed to handle and process the ballots, equipment modifications or replacement, outreach to voters and campaigns, production of new vote-by-mail materials, and USPS mailing requirements, should the ballot exceed five cards in the upcoming presidential election.

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

There are no items to report under this section.