

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

**Robin M. Stone, President**  
**Michelle Parker, Vice President**  
**Lucy Bernholz**  
**Cynthia Dai**  
**Renita LiVolsi**  
**Kelly Wong**



**John Arntz, Director of Elections**  
**Marisa Davis, Commission Secretary**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**

**San Francisco Elections Commission**  
**Wednesday, October 16, 2024**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**City Hall, Room 408**  
**1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place**  
**San Francisco, California 94102**  
**& Remote via WebEx**

**Order of Business**

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

President Stone called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Present: President Robin Stone, Vice President Michelle Parker, Commissioner Cynthia Dai, Commissioner Renita LiVolsi, Commissioner Kelly Wong, Commissioner Lucy Bernholz (via remote).

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

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

**2. General Public Comment**

*In Person*

Mr. H. Brown shared a bit of his background and expressed his concerns about voting integrity.

*Remote*

Brent Turner described news articles he sent to Election Commissioners about Mississippi and New Hampshire using open source voting technology.

### 3. **Approval of previous meeting minutes**

Commissioner Dai forwarded her comments, revisions, edits (which were reviewed by the Commission), especially clarification about SB 1328. President Stone will review the edits.

Public Comment

*In Person*

Mr. H. Brown spoke about advertising as it relates to campaigns and was redirected by President Stone to limit comments to the specific agenda item.

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

Director Arntz presented his October 2024 report and relayed information about various deadlines for registration and voting, ballots received so far, phone bank activity, and his expectations about the voting process ahead of and through Election Day.

Vice President Parker noted her appreciation for the report and hopes the public will review the Department of Elections website to learn how it is securing and protecting the integrity of the elections.

Commissioner Wong addressed the e-data report, emphasized that the information is clear, and also inquired about emergency services and outreach with typically underserved neighborhoods and unhoused voters.

Commissioner Dai inquired about opt-out options for voters who receive voter information pamphlets in multiple languages, marketing to shelters, results reporting, and outreach events.

Public Comment

*In Person*

Mr. H. Brown spoke about ballot integrity and proprietary voting machines.

**5. Commissioners' Report**

Commissioner Dai addressed a recent article in the San Francisco Chronicle regarding ranked choice voting and referenced to a new documentary she recently viewed entitled: "Majority Rules" regarding ranked choice voting in Alaska.

President Stone reviewed the steps for the performance evaluation of the Commission Secretary Marisa Davis. Deputy City Attorney Ana Flores said she would review the process and share her legal opinion.

Also reviewed were the calendar dates for the November 20 and December 18 Election Commission meetings, which President Stone affirmed do not fall on holidays and will therefore remain the meeting dates.

**Public Comment**

*In Person*

Mr. H. Brown shared his concerns about the San Francisco voting process (historically and currently), alleged issues with illegitimate ballots, and concerns with voting integrity issues.

**6. Cast Vote Records Policy**

Commissioner Dai presented on her concerns regarding perceived potential for state-wide cast vote record policy changes from the Secretary of State and related impact on San Francisco practices. Commissioner Dai proposed that the Commission submit a letter advocating its position.

Vice President Parker expressed curiosity about intention of Secretary of State's office and uncertainty about role of San Francisco.

President Stone expressed a differing opinion regarding potential changes, impact to San Francisco, and authority of the Secretary of State. She suggested the Elections Commission not involve itself in advocacy matters related to elections outside the jurisdiction of San Francisco.

Commissioner Wong agreed with Vice President Parker about engaging with Secretary of State but expressed that the matter was not urgent and the Commission could wait until after the start of the new legislative session in Sacramento.

Public Comment

*In Person*

Mr. Brown expressed his concerns that the Commission is not treating what he considers long-standing failure to protect voting transparency via open-source voting technology.

*Via Remote*

Mr. Steven Hill stated he was told by Senator Bradford's office that the Secretary of State was asking for a ban on all release of cast vote records and asked the Elections Commission to perform outreach in the form of an official letter to the Secretary of State.

The full Commission discussed to pros and cons of reaching out and communicating with the Secretary of State regarding technicalities and their legislative stances, well as the lack of urgency, but also being mindful of not unduly advocating a position specific to San Francisco.

**7. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

The Commission discussed its end of year meeting schedule. Commissioner Dai requested that the Commission discuss the cast vote record issue with the Secretary of State in November.

No public comments.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM.