

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

RESCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

San Francisco Elections Commission
Tuesday, September 24, 2024
5:30 p.m.
City Hall, Room 416
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 5:33 PM.

Present: President Robin Stone, Vice President Michelle Parker (arrived at 5:40), 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

Via remote

Karen Butter, Alameda County Election Commissioner, spoke about SB 1328 and the statement from Senator Bradford's legislative director stating there is nothing in the bill to prevent the release of cast vote records (CVR). The bill is now on the

governor's desk. Anticipating potential consideration of changes to releasing the cast vote records from the California Secretary of State's Office, Ms. Butter hopes to have San Francisco advocate against any policy changes. She noted that the vote tabulation error in 2022 affected elections in Alameda which would not have been discovered quickly in that jurisdiction without the release of the cast vote records.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Dai forwarded her comments, revisions, edits (which also incorporated a correction from Vice President Parker). No other comments were presented. There was general consensus that the revised minutes were approved.

General Public Comment

No public comments.

4. Director's Report

Director Arntz presented his September report and provided information to the Commissioners regarding the details of current and upcoming department plans/activities and new items for voters on the Department's website. He reiterated polling place details and answered questions about overseas, mail-in ballots details, as well as the timeline of ongoing activities leading up to the November election. He discussed general security issues/questions from the Commissioners, including Commissioner Wong's appreciation for the current outreach activities regarding non-citizen and non-English speaking voters.

The Director also answered Commissioners' inquiries about ongoing outreach efforts and the request to get anecdotal feedback from student and poll workers about their experience after the election.

General Public Comment

No public comments

5. Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Dai addressed public commenter Karen Butter's statement regarding cast vote records, referred her to p. 60 of the Department's Election Plan to learn about San Francisco's CVR transparency policies, and shared that SB 1328 passed. She further requested the Commission have a more thorough discussion about the Secretary of State's consideration of CVR policy changes as a specific agenda item. She will provide relevant information, including details from

Senator Bradford's legislative director's communication with advocate Steven Hill about the previously proposed amendment to prevent the release of cast vote records until 30 days after the election as attachments for the next meeting agenda (October 16, 2024).

General Public Comment

No public comments

6. Consolidated Election Plan

Commissioners indicated their support and expressed thanks to Director Arntz and his department for the specificity of the Election Plan, including that it is the "gold standard" and demonstrates for the public just what the Department does to ensure a free, fair and functional election. Commissioners also expressed appreciation for the Director's attentiveness to Commissioner feedback and priorities, including to ranked choice voting education materials, results reporting, and voter outreach. Commissioner Bernholz was pleased regarding an emergency plan of action regarding any threat scenarios.

Director Arntz provided details regarding ballot curing and the services offered to voters needing to cure their ballot. He further added clarification regarding public education regarding results reporting specifically when the ballots are counted when received on or after Election Day. One of the most important messages is the fact there will be no results report on Wednesday following Election Day; the Director will be speaking a lot to the media, issuing press releases, and routinely posting communications on the Department of Elections website.

President Stone asked Director Arntz to provide an oral explanation of how the Department of Elections manages separate voter rolls for non-citizen and citizen voting to ensure election integrity.

Commissioner Wong specifically called out the launch of outreach materials particularly the YouTube RCV and pleased the department has developed a solid strategy to monitor and respond to disinformation, much of which is directed at non-English speakers. She indicated there is report regarding disinformation she will forward to the commissioners and Director Arntz.

General Public Comment

No public Comments

MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2024 CONSOLIDATED GENERAL ELECTION PLAN for the November 5, 2024 was made by President Stone and seconded by Commissioner LiVolsi.

President Stone	YES
Vice President Parker	YES
Commissioner Bernholz	YES
Commissioner Dai	YES
Commissioner LiVolsi	YES
Commissioner Wong	YES

6 Yays 0 Nays
Motion passes.

7. **Alternate Security Plan**

Director Arntz outlined the need for an Alternative Security Plan for the November Election. The San Francisco Charter requires the Elections Commission to approve an alternative security plan when the sheriff appears in the ballot (as he does for this election).

General Public Comment

No public Comments

MOTION TO APPROVE THE DIRECTOR'S ALTERNATE SECURITY PLAN regarding the November 5, 2024 Consolidated Election was made by President Stone and was seconded by Commissioner Dai.

President Stone	YES
Vice President Parker	YES
Commissioner Bernholz	YES
Commissioner Dai	YES
Commissioner LiVolsi	YES
Commissioner Wong	YES

6 Yays 0 Nays
Motion passes.

8. **Employee Waiver Approval**

Director Arntz reviewed the waiver allowing city employees to assist the Department of Elections. He requested the Elections Commission approve the Waiver to allow City employees to assist the department if necessary.

General Public Comment

In person:

George Gaboury from the nonpartisan organization *San Francisco Election Integrity Team* stated while there might not be a need for “last minute” election workers, it is essential that everyone receives the proper training and is thoroughly prepared to perform their duties to properly uphold election standards.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE DIRECTOR’S WAIVER FOR CITY EMPLOYEES TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS was made by Commissioner Dai and was seconded by President Stone.

President Stone	YES
Vice President Parker	YES
Commissioner Bernholz	YES
Commissioner Dai	YES
Commissioner LiVolsi	YES
Commissioner Wong	YES

6 Yays 0 Nays
Motion passes.

9. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Commissioner Dai reiterated her desire to agendize discussion of SB 1328 and cast vote records. President Stone said she would look into timing and plans for evaluating Secretary Davis’ performance.

General Public Comment

No public Comments

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM.