

SAN FRANCISCO ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Proposed Resolution on Recommendation for Federal Legislation to Require Election Plans by Election Administrators in each Election Jurisdiction for Federal Elections

Approved: October 20, 2021

WHEREAS, The ability for the public to observe and assess whether an election is free, fair and functional is fundamental to trust and faith in the conduct and outcome of an election and is a foundation of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, Following the November 2020 Federal Election and in particular the US Presidential contest, allegations of election negligence, malfeasance and fraud have been an on-going topic in many jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, There is increasing interest in election observation by political and citizen groups which, without an Election Plan, will be doing so in ignorance and without the transparency of a document which defines election policies, practices and procedures; and

WHEREAS, The absence of an Election Plan against which to assess whether plans, procedures and policies were adequate to assure a fair, free and functional election and to assess whether the plan was followed in the conduct of the election; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Elections, consistent with its mission to provide equitable access to voting and election-related services and to conduct free, fair, and functional elections creates and publishes an Election Plan that is reviewed and approved in public by the San Francisco Elections Commission; and

WHEREAS, The Election Plan has proven essential and is exemplary for understanding how the elections will be conducted, and after the election how well they were executed according to that Plan; and

WHEREAS, under San Francisco Charter Section 3.100(2), the Mayor is responsible for “[c]oordination of all intergovernmental activities of the City and County,” now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The San Francisco Elections Commission urges Mayor London N. Breed to call on Congress to enact legislation that requires all election administrators in all jurisdictions to publish an Election Plan for Federal Elections that, at a minimum, describes the election administrator’s staffing, changes in policy, practice or procedures from prior elections, voter outreach and education, polling place hours and locations, vote-by-mail, in-person, accessible and overseas voting policies and processes, provisional voting processes, voter and ballot challenge and adjudication processes, chain of custody of ballots and voting data, election equipment description and logic and accuracy testing process, method and time for voting results reporting, post-election ballot processing and canvass, voter support policies and processes, poll worker roles and qualifications, public observation policies and processes, election calendar and calendar of observable events.