

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

Christopher Jerdonek, President  
Robin M. Stone, Vice President  
Lucy Bernholz  
Cynthia Dai  
Nancy Hayden Crowley  
Renita LiVolsi  
Vacancy



John Arntz, Director of Elections

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES **\*\*DRAFT\*\*****

**San Francisco Elections Commission**  
**Monday, December 12, 2022**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**City Hall, Room 408**  
**1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place**  
**San Francisco, California 94102**  
**& Remote meeting via WebEx**

*Per the Elections Commission bylaws, meeting minutes should comply with Roberts Rules. Robert's Rule 48:1-16 states, "the minutes should contain mainly a record of what was done at the meeting, not what was said by the members.... To modify the rules governing what is regularly to be included in the minutes requires adoption of a special rule of order"*

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

President Jerdonek called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Present:** President Christopher Jerdonek, Vice President Robin M. Stone, Commissioner Lucy Bernholz, Commissioner Cynthia Dai, Commissioner Nancy Hayden Crowley, and Commissioner Renita LiVolsi. (The seat appointed by the Board of Education is vacant.)

**Also Present:** Director of Elections John Arntz and Deputy City Attorney Ana Flores. The Commission secretary position is vacant.

Commissioner LiVolsi stated the Commission's acknowledgment of the Ramaytush Ohlone people, which the Commission adopted at its last meeting.

**2. General Public Comment**

*Via WebEx*

- [Mr. Patel](#) – Expressed concern for Open Source Voting and a potential vendor, Voting Works.
- Brent Turner spoke in support of Open Source Voting and the Commission’s efforts toward its adoption.

**Commented [CD1]:** I didn’t catch the full name, but wrote down “Patel.” Maybe the same person as commented later? Per Sunshine Ordinance we have to (try to) name speakers if they identify themselves.

**Deleted:** Unidentified Public Commenter

### 3. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution on Continuation of Remote Elections Commission Meetings

Commissioner Hayden-Crowley moved that the Commission adopt the resolution as drafted; seconded by Vice President Stone.

There were no public commenters.

#### MOTION ON RESOLUTION ON CONTINUATION OF REMOTE ELECTIONS COMMISSION MEETINGS

President Jerdonek	Yes
Vice President Stone	Yes
Commissioner Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner Hayden Crowley	Yes
Commissioner LiVolsi	Yes
6 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain	

Motion passes unanimously

### 4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

September, October, and November regular meeting minute drafts were presented for Commission review. Commissioner Dai proposed a postponement of September and October meeting minutes. Commissioner Dai moved to approve November meeting minutes with proposed revisions. Commissioner Hayden Crowley seconded the motion.

No Commission discussion on the motion.

Public Comment  
*Via WebEx*

- David Pilpel – Expressed confusion with suggested revisions for November meeting minutes and provided specific revisions for September draft.

Commissioner Dai amended motion per public commenter feedback. Commissioner Hayden-Crowley seconded the motion as amended.

**MOTION TO APPROVE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES DRAFT, WITH PROPOSED REVISIONS.**

President Jerdonek	Yes
Vice President Stone	Yes
Commissioner Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner Hayden Crowley	Yes
Commissioner LiVolsi	Yes

6 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain  
Motion passes unanimously

**5. Board of Supervisors Resolution of Intent to Not Appropriate Funding for Executive Recruitment Services and Urging Reappointment of Incumbent Director of Elections**

Vice President Stone **moved** to agendize the contract renewal of incumbent Director John Arntz at the next regular Elections Commission meeting in January 2023 on the basis of lack of funds, with an additional commitment to work with the Board of Supervisors on future funding and process. Commissioner Bernholz seconded the motion.

**Commented [CD2]:** Verb form of motion is "to move" as noted in your excellent Robert's Rules reference ☺.

**Deleted:** motioned

Deputy City Attorney Flores inserted "closed session" as a required amendment to the motion. Vice President Stone amended motion. Commissioner Bernholz seconded the motion as amended.

Commission discussed nuances of **the** new motion in context of **the** adopted motion from November regular meeting and debated amendments to the motion. Commissioners generally agreed about the need for more processes to support future Commissions.

Public Comment  
*In person*

- Deanna Mitchell – Self-identified as a part-time employee in Department of Elections. Shared support for Director Arntz and concern for Commissioner judgment.
- Unidentified Public Commenter – Expressed support for Open Source Voting and Director Arntz.
- Resident Leo Samuelson – Self-identified as a City Hall employee who has worked in the Department of Elections and expressed support for Director Arntz.
- Kaneshi Kawa – Expressed support for Open Source Voting and concerns about why it has not moved forward.
- David Schmidt – Self-identified as volunteer on behalf of California Clean Money Campaign. Expressed support for Open Source Voting and Commission decision regarding the Director's contract.
- Brent Turner – Expressed concern with election integrity without Open Source Voting and support for the Commission's decision on the basis of equity.

**Commented [CD3]:** Samuelson?

**Commented [CD4]:** I wrote down "Carla Ishikawa"?

- Jonathan Auberg – Self-identified as an employee in the Department of Elections, and expressed support for the Director.

*Via WebEx*

- David Pilpel – Expressed support for the motion and that the Director’s position is administrative. Expressed concern about Commission credibility.
- Nataliya Kuzina – Self-identified as Department of Elections manager who signed letter in support of Director. Expressed support for Director and Board of Supervisors’ resolution.
- Resident Dave Baker – Expressed support for Director and concerns with the Commission.
- Nina (last name inaudible) – Expressed support for Director Arntz and his efforts around equity.
- Oganessian – Self-identified as a minority voter. Expressed support for Director and department, and stated that Open Source Voting is only one component of elections.
- Darle Oganessian - Self-identified as a person of color and young voter. Expressed support for Director and Department.
- Jim Soper – Self-identified as Co-Chair of National Voting Rights Task Force. Expressed support for Open Source Voting.
- Tiff Lee – Expressed support for the Board of Supervisors’ resolution and Director.
- Resident of Richmond District – Self-identified Department manager. Expressed Support for Director and his efforts around equity.
- Resident Mikhail – Expressed support for Director.
- Barney McKellah – Expressed support for Director and work of Commission.
- Shane Keely – Expressed support for Director and Commission efforts.
- Mayank Patel – Self-identified as a person of color. Expressed support for Director and his track record with equity.
- Chris Romero – Self-identified with a disenfranchised community. Expressed support for Director.
- Public Commenter (Name inaudible) – Self-identified as former Department of Elections employee. Expressed support for Director.
- Unidentified Public Commenter – Self-identified as Asian American and white, Department of Elections employee. Expressed support for Director.
- Mike Glico – Expressed support for Director, Board of Supervisors Resolution.
- Carly – Self-identified as a new Department of Elections employee. Expressed support for Director.
- Resident John Welch – Expressed support for Director.
- Resident Tim Meijer – Expressed support for Open Source Voting.
- Valery Shilov – Self-identified Department of Elections employee. Expressed support for Director.

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Commissioner Stone thanked members of public for their participation.

**MOTION TO AGENDIZE CLOSED DOOR SESSION TO CONSIDER REAPPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR JOHN ARNTZ AND COMMIT TO WORKING WITH BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON FUTURE FUNDING AND PROCESSES**

President Jerdonek	Yes
Vice President Stone	Yes
Commissioner Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner Hayden Crowley	Yes
Commissioner LiVolsi	Yes
6 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain	

Motion passes unanimously

Commissioner Dai moved that the Commission ask the Board of Supervisors to consider legislation that would automatically appropriate adequate funding for an open selection process no later than one year prior to the 30-day notice period of the Director's contract renewal. Commissioner Dai stated the need to take advantage of Supervisor Aaron Peskin's offer to clear a way for future Commissions to act and establish this as a normal, every five-year process. President Jerdonek seconded.

**MOTION TO ASK THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO CONSIDER LEGISLATION THAT WOULD AUTOMATICALLY APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE ELECTIONS COMMISSION TO CONDUCT AN OPEN SELECTION PROCESS NO LATER THAN ONE YEAR PRIOR TO THE 30-DAY NOTICE PERIOD FOR THE DIRECTOR'S CONTRACT RENEWAL.**

President Jerdonek	Yes
Vice President Stone	No
Commissioner Bernholz	No
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner Hayden Crowley	No
Commissioner LiVolsi	Yes
3 Yays 3 Nays 0 Abstain	

Motion fails 3-3.

**6. Review of the November 8, 2022 Consolidated General Election**

Director Arntz shared how well the election ran, notwithstanding unanticipated weather issues, and his appreciation for the Department's efforts running their fifth election in one year. Commissioners asked questions about the election.

Public Comment  
*In person*

Commented [CD8]: Wasn't it 4?

- Unidentified Public Commenter – Suggested the Commission should work more with the Department.
- Brent Turner – Expressed concern with proprietary election software.

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*Via WebEx*

- Mayank Patel – Thanked Vice President Stone for visiting processing center. Invited full Commission to observe.
- Mr. Oganessian – Self-identified field election deputy. Shared that this was a hard election, but expressed appreciation for hard-working teams who pulled it off.
- David Pilpel – Expressed disagreement with previous public commenter regarding proprietary software. Asked Commission to move that it was a free, fair, functional, election.

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Commissioner Dai moved that the Commission recognize the November election as free, fair, and functional. Vice President Stone seconded the motion.

No Commissioner discussion.

**MOTION TO RECOGNIZE THE NOVEMBER 2022 ELECTION AS FREE, FAIR, AND FUNCTIONAL.**

President Jerdonek	Yes
Vice President Stone	Yes
Commissioner Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner Hayden Crowley	Yes
Commissioner LiVolsi	Yes
6 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain	
Motion passes unanimously	

**7. Director’s Report**

Director Arntz shared updates, including a routine call with the Secretary of State’s office regarding Open Source Voting. Commissioner Bernholz mentioned that the Commission must conduct and plan for two budget reviews.

Public Comment

*In person*

- Brent Turner – Self-identified with the Southern Poverty Law Center. Expressed support for Open Source Voting and the need to understand different software and systems.

*Via WebEx*

- David Pilpel – Shared the Commission’s need to review the budget and consider current discussion regarding the Director’s position in the context of the City’s anticipated budget deficit.

**8. Redistricting Process Initiative**

Vice President Stone [moved](#) to postpone the agenda item until January. Commissioner Bernholz seconded.

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Commissioner LiVolsi asked President Jerdonek to have the topic listed first on the next agenda, should the motion pass. Commissioners and Deputy City Attorney Flores debated when to discuss the topic and came to a resolution. Vice President Stone withdrew the motion.

Public Comment

*In person*

- Brent Turner – Expressed concern with delaying the discussion.

*Via WebEx*

- David Pilpel – Shared order of agenda for January and expressed concern for Commission credibility.

**9. Commissioners’ Reports**

Vice President Stone shared an update on the vacant secretary position and the City’s hiring process. Commissioners shared feedback.

President Jerdonek shared that he had been contacted by a reporter regarding Commission progress toward racial equity. Also shared information regarding the City’s surveillance technology policies. Director Arntz provided additional context on the policies.

Commissioner Dai shared recent media [activities](#) regarding the Director’s appointment [on behalf of the Commission](#) and [summarized](#) a meeting [she was invited to by](#) Supervisor Aaron Peskin.

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Public Comment

*In person*

- Brent Turner – Expressed support for the Commission’s recent media attention and for Open Source Voting as an equity issue.

*Via WebEx*

- David Pilpel – Reminded the Commission about non-interference clause in the City Charter and the role of the Commission in the Department’s daily management.
- Mayank Patel – Suggested the Commission consider equity in its hiring process for the secretary position.
- Jonathan Goldberg – Shared context about the City’s surveillance technology policies.
- Mr. Ogenesian – Expressed concern with emphasis around Open Source Voting.

**10. Agenda items for future meetings**

Commissioners discussed agenda and potential dates to conduct assessment of Department of Elections Budget.

Public Comment

*In person*

- Brent Turner – Asked the Commission to consider having experts present on Open Source Voting.

*Via WebEx*

- David Pilpel – Reminded commission of proper meeting notice requirements.

President Jerdonek shared that racial equity should be agendized for the next meeting.

**Meeting was adjourned at 11:01 p.m.**