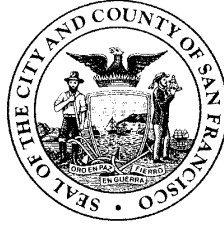


**ELECTIONS COMMISSION**  
*City and County of San Francisco*



**FAIR, INDEPENDENT, & EFFECTIVE  
REDISTRICTING FOR COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT (FIERCE)  
COMMITTEE**

Cynthia Dai, Chair  
Renita LiVolsi  
Michelle Parker

John Arntz, Director of Elections  
Marisa Davis, Commission Secretary

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES (Approved 7-31-23)**

**Fair, Independent, and Effective Redistricting for Community Engagement  
(FIERCE) Committee of the San Francisco Elections Commission  
Monday, June 26, 2023  
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**

Chair Dai called the meeting to order at 6:12pm.

**Present:** Chair Cynthia Dai, Commissioner Renita LiVolsi, Commissioner Michelle Parker

*The Chair has excused the Director of Elections from attending the meeting, which is permitted by Article VI of the Commission's Bylaws.*

Commissioner LiVolsi stated the Commission's acknowledgment of the Ramaytush Ohlone people.

**2. General Public Comment**

- Forrest Liu expressed concerns about Chair Dai and asked for her resignation.
- Paulina Fayer asked for Chair Dai's resignation.
- Gabe Schreier asked for Chair Dai's resignation.

### 3. Redistricting Initiative

Chair Dai provided introductory comments about why the commission has taken on the redistricting reform initiative, referencing attachments in the agenda and past meetings on the topic. The committee's charge is to refine and finalize best practices and recommend structural and process improvements for San Francisco.

Mr. Yee shared that the second California Redistricting Commission passed its maps on time and without any lawsuits. He elevated three reasons for their success: a selection process focused on impartiality, clear ranked constitutional criteria, and adequate staffing. Mr. Yee responded to Commissioners' questions about specific components.

Chair Dai summarized key points of proposed state legislation AB 1248 and AB 764, as well as implications for San Francisco according to the City Attorney's analysis before inviting former RDTF members to comment. (Gwenn Craig, Chair of the very first RDTF, was unable to participate due to an emergency.)

- **Arnold Townsend**, Chair, [2021-22 Redistricting Task Force](#)
- **Jeremy Lee**, Member, [2021-22 Redistricting Task Force](#)
- **Eric McDonnell**, Chair, [2011-12 Redistricting Task Force](#)

Reverend Townsend, Mr. McDonnell, Mr. Lee and Mr. Yee shared their perspectives on the various components of the proposed state legislation, including the member selection process and influence of appointing authorities, type of majority required for final maps, funding/staffing of the task force, and stipends for task force members. They also shared thoughts about consultants involved in the process, the importance of educating the public, insulating the RDTF from political interference, and possible vetting bodies.

Chair Dai laid out the options for the committee: recommend that it generally likes the provisions in AB1248 and/or AB 764, or recommend it as a foundation for San Francisco's own charter amendment. She noted that the City Attorney said that if AB 1248 doesn't pass and San Francisco struck all the language from the Charter referencing the RDTF, the Board of Supervisors would become the redistricting body but would be required to follow all the Fair Maps Act provisions.

Commissioner Parker said the commission should help align San Francisco with best practices, educating itself and the public. She acknowledged some public perception that the commission's Redistricting Initiative has been one-sided, political or rushed, and that it's important to have public trust in the commission, its process, and inclusiveness. She suggested the committee take time to include more voices as well as

wait to see what happens with the assembly bills before making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, who would be responsible for crafting language for legislation.

Commissioner LiVolsi shared her desire for intentional inclusion in the process, and agreed on taking more time and monitoring pending state legislation. One of her chief concerns was that the community have confidence in the task force member application vetting process and the members who are selected.

Chair Dai agreed that the vetting agency is the biggest question for her, and that it should be a non-political process. She noted that the Board of Supervisors is in a better position to make that decision with a more robust community engagement process, and that the committee need only suggest high-level concepts, like having a trusted vetting authority, to the Board. The question is whether the committee believes AB 1248 is a good basis for San Francisco's charter.

Commissioner Parker agreed that AB 1248 contains many good components but waiting for a final decision on AB 1248 and including others might help advance trust in this process. Commissioner LiVolsi concurred. Chair Dai summarized that the committee would report on what it has heard so far and pause a bit on recommendations. Commissioner LiVolsi stated the learning and work need not stop however. Commissioner Parker agreed and invited the public to suggest topics and content for future review.

Chair Dai reminded the public of the committee's limited scope of finalizing recommendations to the full commission, and acknowledged the many written public comments the committee has received.

**Public Comment:**

- Stephanie Lehman identified herself as a former elected delegate to the California Democratic Party and expressed concern about the Elections Commission's role.
- Alan Burradell was encouraged that the committee wants to pause and wait to see what happens with the state bills, expressed concern about the Commission's role and priorities, and thanked the committee for the panel.
- Paulina Fayer agreed with Commissioner Parker that trust is important and asked the Commission to stop the process.
- Marguerite Hutchinson from District 2 congratulated the committee on the conclusion to pause and thought the panel was interesting and enlightening.

- Todd Davis from District 3 said the committee is rushing a process that isn't even needed and should instead be focused on why the task force's work was made political vs. left alone to do its job.
- Michael Lauer from District 8 thanked two commissioners for recommending a pause and suggested that Election Commission focus on its charge to set policy for the Department of Elections and its proper administration.
- JConr B Ortega thanked the committee for the pause and stated that some people are upset with the 2022 election outcomes and that the commission should leave the city Charter alone.
- Richard Purina from District 3 said that the 2022 redistricting task force performed their duties successfully, and the committee should not try to fix what isn't broken.

The committee determined that each member of the committee would share their own reflections on the process thus far at the upcoming June 28 full commission meeting. Commissioner Parker noted she would not be able to attend and would write up a statement.

#### **4. Agenda items for future meetings**

Commissioner LiVolsi suggested the committee wait to set new meeting topics pending feedback from the full Commission. The committee concurred. Chair Dai invited the public to review the topics previously covered and suggest new ones.

There was no public comment.

#### **5. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm.