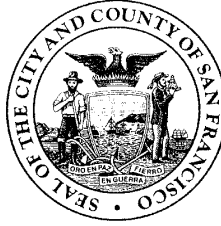


ELECTIONS COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco

**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, & Effective Redistricting for Community Engagement (FIERCE)
Committee of the San Francisco Elections Commission
Wednesday, May 31, 2023
7:00 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

Due to technical difficulties, the audio portion of the recording did not commence until item 3.

Chair Dai called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Chair Cynthia Dai, Commissioner Renita LiVolsi, and 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 Parker stated the Commission's land acknowledgment.

2. General Public Comment

There were no public commenters.

3. Redistricting Initiative

Chair Dai made some opening remarks, thanking members of the public who submitted written comment prior to the meeting, reviewing the packet item attachments, and introducing the invited panelists:

- **Russia Chavis Cardenas**, Voting Rights & Redistricting Program Manager, [California Common Cause](#)
- **Lauren Girardin** (she/her), Redistricting Team, [League of Women Voters of San Francisco](#)
- **Sietse Goffard**, Senior Program Coordinator, Voting Rights, [Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus](#)
- **Chema Hernández Gil**, Member, [2021-2022 Redistricting Task Force](#)
- **Jenny Tse**, Advocacy Chair, [League of Women Voters of San Francisco](#)

Mr. Goffard indicated both AB 1248 and AB 764 have advanced past the Assembly and explained why Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus supports them. Ms. Girardin highlighted the recent report outlining challenges in the past redistricting cycle that prompted the legislation ([The Promise of Fair Maps: California's 2020 Local Redistricting Cycle: Lessons Learned and Future Reforms](#)). The panel discussed the implications of AB 1248 on San Francisco if passed, such as the designation of the Ethics Commission as the vetting/selection entity (per the City Attorney's legal analysis) including a recent amendment adjusting the number of members selected randomly from the vetted pool. Mr. Gil noted that alternates, which the RDTF lacked, are crucial and also highlighted the importance of stipends to reduce barriers for participation. While agreeing on stipends, Ms. Girardin noted that the low pay of other San Francisco commissions may not be a good model and that the League of Women Voters could only endorse a measure that specifies a formula or process to determine a stipend rather than an absolute amount. She also expressed concern that the minimum timeline for establishing the taskforce was insufficient, mentioning that San Francisco began recruiting for the RDTF before an informational website was even created. AB 764 addresses the need for an outreach plan well in advance of the process.

However, the panel agreed that AB 1248 accomplishes "90% to 95%" of the recommended reforms aligned with best practices and would definitely be an improvement as a basis for model legislation, acknowledging there might be some nuances for San Francisco to consider in its own charter amendment. Ms. Tse asserted that the City would still fall under the FAIR MAPS of 2019, which provides for ranked criteria, even if pending legislation does not pass.

Commissioner Parker suggested at least one additional meeting to review key reforms, possibly inviting additional former RDTF members, and requested clarification from the City Attorney on their memo. Commissioner LiVolsi also wanted to hear from more community members. Chair Dai thanked the panel for their time.

Public comment:

- Alan Burradell commented on language in the Redistricting Initiative Process Project Plan.
- Forrest Liu identified himself as a Stop Asian Hate activist and shared his experience of the redistricting process.
- Josephine Zhao identified herself as a leader for the Chinese immigrant community and urged the committee to include them in this process.

4. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Commissioners agreed to have another meeting, again inviting past RDTF members, this time to comment on AB 1248 and AB 764.

Public comment:

- Josephine Zhao thanked the Committee for taking more time.
- Jen Tse from the League of Women Voters suggested asking the City Attorney for a legal analysis of AB 764 as well.

5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.