

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

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



John Arntz, Director of Elections  
Marisa Davis, Commission Secretary

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES DRAFT**

**San Francisco Elections Commission**  
**Wednesday, October 18, 2023**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**City Hall, Room 408**  
**1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place**  
**San Francisco, California 94102**  
**& Remote meeting via WebEx**

**Order of Business**

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

President Stone called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Present:** President Robin Stone, Vice President Christopher Jerdonek, Commissioner Cynthia Dai, Commissioner Nancy Hayden Crowley, Commissioner Michelle Parker, and Commissioner Lucy Bernholz (via Remote).

**Absent:** Commissioner Renita LiVolsi

**Also Present:** Director of Elections John Arntz, Deputy City Attorney Ana Flores, Commission Secretary Marisa Davis.

**2. General Public Comment**

*In Person*

Alan Burradell commented that as the FIERCE Committee concludes, the Commission should forward the compiled committee information and data collected to the Board of Supervisors as a report and not a recommendation. The Elections Commission is not a political entity and redistricting should be facilitated at the Board of Supervisors and not by the Elections Commission.

### **3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The September 20, 2023 meeting minutes are being edited and approved by President Stone with approval to finalize granted by the Commissioners.

### **4. Director's Report**

Director Arntz summarized the I Voted sticker contest and indicated the contest closed on October 17<sup>th</sup>, finalists had been chosen, and the top three winners would be announced at a simple ceremony on October 26. Deputy Director Nataliya Kuzina and department staff facilitated a successful project – over 9,000 survey responses; the designs and voting results are available at the Elections Department website. Vice-President Jerdonek indicated there was an opportunity to use ranked choice voting to illustrate the voting process. Commissioner Dai also commented she would have liked a ranked choice voting opportunity. Commissioner Hayden Crowley also thought ranked choice voting is a good idea, however, given the monetary resources necessary for RCV application, we need to be mindful of the cost. President Stone hopes there is a free tool for RCV for projects similar to this as it would be a good educational opportunity to inform people regarding ranked choice voting.

Director Arntz summarized his synopsis by the Department (Election and Technology) Risk-Limiting Audits (“RLA”) an Open Source product and noted the work of Professor Stark from UC Berkeley regarding the polling place and mail-in ballots. The final product iteration will be posted on the Department’s website. Vice-President Jerdonek asked about the March 2024 ballot and Director Arntz reported at the time of this meeting there is one state and one district measure – December 1 (95 days prior to election day) is the deadline. In relation to the RLA, Vice-President Jerdonek asked if any information or results from the November 2022 audit were available and Director Arntz said he could make this information available to the Commission. The Open Source budget has been funding the development of this RLA tool – monies are not coming from the Elections Department budget.

Commissioner Parker offered congratulations regarding the CIO 100 Award and the sticker design project. She also said the ‘one stop shop’ aspect of the seasonal employee hiring process was very innovative and accessible; also, the eData tool was easy to navigate. She asked about proposed budget cuts for the Department and the Director indicated they are still in talks with the Mayor’s office but anticipate this could be 3% (=approximately \$800,000). As the coming fiscal year holds a presidential election, it is not feasible for the Department to endure significant budget cuts.

President Stone indicated she was excited to see the community input incorporated in the Director’s Report as it relates to outreach planning; she also expressed her concerns for the Department regarding proposed budget cuts especially in light of a presidential election year and requested the Director keep the Commission informed as to budget cuts and related financial information. President Stone further stated she was

appreciative of the one sheeter that the Director prepared as this provided good information that showcases the good work of the Department, offers public transparency and gives more insight into the Department's perspective. She was also impressed with the eData dashboard tool.

## **5. Commissioners Reports**

Vice-President Jerdonek referenced the two reports he provided in the packet and asked for feedback regarding the 2022 Annual Report (draft) be forwarded to him. He also mentioned that in September, the state of New Hampshire certified Voting Works as the open source voting system for use starting in November 2024. VP Jerdonek also referred to past guest speaker Professor Alderman, Chief IT Officer at the University of Michigan, who detailed a vulnerability in the Dominion Voting System that affected us in the November 2022 election. It illustrated the need to have a way for security researchers to contact city entities to report vulnerabilities. VP Jerdonek and Commissioner Bernholz will be meeting with the city's Chief Information Security Officer Michael Maxman to discuss voting security issues. Commissioner Bernholz asked about RCV in New Hampshire and if there was any information as to how many New Hampshire jurisdictions will be using Voting Works. VP Jerdonek indicated there is no RCV in New Hampshire and, also, each town in New Hampshire gets to choose their voting system and there are no final numbers yet as to Voting Works totals.

Commissioner Dai reported on AB 1248 and also indicated there is a FIERCE meeting scheduled for October 30. After this meeting the Committee will provide a written overview with proposed recommendations for the Board of Supervisors. Chair Dai is also seeking clarity from the City Attorney on issues we must comply with and areas with more degrees of freedom. Commissioners want an opportunity to weigh in before a final report is drafted and Commissioner Parker requested that any concerns be sent to Chair Dai before the October 30 meeting. Commissioner Hayden Crowley asked for City Attorney weigh in on what is and is not in our jurisdiction and the Commission's role on the recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. CA Flores reiterated that the commission does not have the authority to put this charter on a ballot but they can communicate and give recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. VP Jerdonek asked CA Flores about AB 764 and she indicated her office is reviewing this legislation and may or may not issue public opinion. VP Jerdonek also asked Chair Dai about the process for the final FIERCE report and the process for Commissioners to review and weigh in before the report is finalized. President Stone stated the 2024 Commission top priority will be the elections, supporting the department and focusing on policies and procedures; she hopes the Commissioners can and will review the FIERCE report and provide feedback so this can be wrapped up in December. Once this report is passed to the Board of Supervisors we should step back and just focus time and energy on running the elections. Commissioner Hayden Crowley questioned how the recommendations will be reviewed and voted upon. Commissioner Parker asks that any questions, concerns or issues be forwarded to the FIERCE Committee before the November Commission meeting.

President Stone reported the Commissioner laptops have arrived and Commissioners will receive an email from Secretary Davis about the process for retrieving a laptop.

President Stone has forwarded to Director Arntz a list of priorities as agreed upon by the Commission and in the next weeks and months they will review the same; she will also discuss with him the process for individual Commissioners to work with the Department on voter registration activities

Offsite special meeting is confirmed for December 1 and information to be forwarded as it is developed.

In the last two regular meetings, there have been discussions regarding legislation which impacts the Department. The Commission inquired how they can review the Department's position and rationale to fully understand any impact as well as pros and cons as identified by the Department. The Commission also is seeking clarification on what they can or cannot opine on. The Commission would like 30-day notice to review and respond; Commissioner Dai suggested 30 days is not enough time but President Stone commented 30 days was a reasonable period of time as more time could conceivably slow down the work of the Elections Department. Also 30 days still encompasses at least one regular Commission meeting and formal notice will be sent to all Commissioners. As a reminder Commissioner Hayden Crowley stated all proposed legislation notices are posted on the Board of Supervisor's website and the BoS also sends notification to affected Departments so there should be no opposition to our posting of proposed legislation notification on our website.

President Stone moved to adopt the process for proposed Department of Elections legislation and Commissioner Hayden Crowley seconded the motion.

## **Public Commenters**

### *In person*

Alan Burradell commented on DCA Flores having to repeatedly respond to (essentially) the same inquiry from the Commission regarding such matters as a charter amendment and/or redistricting and he urges the Commission to focus on elections in the coming year and let the Board of Supervisors deal with redistricting which is a political matter.

### *Remote*

Lauren Girardin from League of Women Voters said they believe the Commission and the FIERCE Committee are the proper entities to report on redistricting to the Board of Supervisors and appreciates the work and transparency that has been provided. The League also appreciates the report on the process for the proposed Department of Elections legislation.

Commissioner Dai proposes an amendment to the proposal indicating proposed legislation will be posted to our website.

The Commission will take up a conversation at a future meeting as to a way to 'push' meeting notices, agendas, website postings, etc. to interested parties.

**MOTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS LEGISLATION**  
(with amendment as proposed by Commissioner Dai):

President Stone	YAY
Vice President Jerdonek	YAY
Commissioner Bernholz	YAY
Commissioner Dai	YAY
Commissioner Hayden Crowley	YAY
Commissioner LiVolsi	No Vote - Excused Absence
Commissioner Parker	YAY

6 Yays 0 Nays 1 Absent  
Motion passes.

**6. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

VP Jerdonek inquired about ballot labeling and President Stone said she and Director Arntz are in discuss regarding this matter and this topic will be agenized at a future meeting.

There were no public commenters.

**7. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.