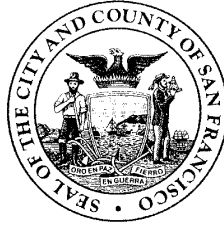


**ELECTIONS COMMISSION**  
*City and County of San Francisco*

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, September 20, 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 6:06 p.m.

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

**Also Present:** Director of Elections John Arntz, Deputy City Attorney Jaime Huling Delaye, Commission Secretary Marisa Davis.

**2. General Public Comment**

*In Person*

Alan Burradell commented that the Elections Commission reputation has steadily grown, even when embroiled in controversies which threaten to erode Commission's status and trust – such as redistricting maps / appointees and the replacement of Director Arntz as two examples of being on the brink of catastrophe but the Commission stepped back in time and he hopes the Commission will divert from another potential catastrophe.

Marie Hurabiell said AB 1248 is an ill-conceived, blunt instrument which can yield unintended consequences – despite FIERCE assertions to the contrary. Diverse appointees are good for San Francisco and there needs to be a continued, robust process regarding redistricting.

Stephanie Lehman spoke about how redistricting is essential and AB 1248 threatens the process by placing appointees into the hands of non-elected officials and making the process more political. She stressed it is far better to have appointments made by officials who are directly accountable to the voters.

Chelsea Waite indicated AB 1248 deals with issues most relevant to Los Angeles that is bad for San Francisco and the Elections Commission should now step away and make no recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to put charter amendment on the ballot regarding redistricting.

Via WebEx

Lauren Girardin – League of Women Voters: AB1248 offers best practices for San Francisco redistricting reform.

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

General consensus approved the July 19, 2023 meeting minutes with no corrections.

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

Director Arntz reported on various Election Department activities including revisions to the Poll Worker Training Manual and training details, Declaration of Candidacy documents, as well as staffing issues (both regular staff as well as poll workers); the budget decrease for the current and next fiscal years and how it will impact staffing activities.

September 19 was Voter Registration Day and the Department collaborated with outreach partners to participate and facilitate registration events throughout the City. A post-event analysis will provide information to refine outreach protocols as well as to field additional requests for more events.

Specific note was made about the launch of the Department's new Outreach Calendar; additionally, the Department has partnered with the San Francisco Library and has compiled two book lists about civic engagement and voter registration. Links these items are available on our webpage under "Resources."

Director Arntz also reviewed the Ambassador Program activities - in addition to high school outreach, the Department also partners with San Francisco Juvenile Hall. President Stone offered kudos regarding this internship program as it provides valuable leadership training and empowerment for young voices.

Director Arntz also reported on the status of the “I Voted” sticker contest. On this meeting date, there were approximately 250 entries (amount increases daily), so this has proven to be a very popular event. Voting will take place, via Survey Monkey, October 10 – 17, 2023.

There was Commissioner inquiry as to the cost savings realized by the Go Green initiative which will be reviewed after the election cycle.

### **Public Comment**

*Via WebEx*

No public comment.

### **5. Commissioners Reports**

Vice President Jerdonek presented his memo “A Multilanguage Open Source Ranked Choice Voting Results Reporter” and outlined the program he created to improve ranked choice voting (RCV) reporting and to remove technical barriers in the current results reporting. More specifically, Open Source Reporter can generate reports in screen-reader friendly HTML and multi-languages. The Commissioners all expressed their overt support and appreciation for this program and thanked Vice President Jerdonek for his work and insight regarding this project and his collaboration with Director Arntz and the Elections Department.

President Stone presented information about the process for presenting Department proposed legislation for the Board of Supervisors an agenda item that will she has been working on with Director Arntz. This agenda item will be slated for the October meeting.

### **Public Comment**

*Via In Person*

*Via WebEx*

Pedro Hernandez, Legal and Policy Director California Common Cause offers their support and encouragement for this RCV Reporter program, especially for the language component and he further commented this is a model for outreach providing clarity and transparency.

Lauren Girardin, League of Women Voters of San Francisco indicated the importance of equal accessibility via language issues as well as a variety of access issues such as screen readers, etc. and is supportive of this program as it provides a clear path toward important information and voting transparency.

Jen Tse, League of Woman Voters offered the suggestion to have Chinese candidate’s name to include a translation of their Chinese name.

Preston Jordan, Albany (Alameda County) City Council Member expressed his interest in this program, especially the first and third round posting and the candidate ordering. Albany started using Ranked Choice Voting in 2022 and this program is of specific interest and Councilman Jordan expressed his appreciation for the program and its RCV features.

John Palmer as a long-time San Francisco voter and business owner stated is appreciation and support for this RCV program and hopes it is implemented.

Steve Chessin, Santa Clara County Citizens' Advisory Commission on Elections stated he was impressed with the RCV Results Reporting and indicated Santa Clara County uses the same Dominion equipment and they are considering changing their elections to RCV. He believes if San Francisco implements VP Jerdonek's RCV Results Reporting then Santa Clara County could also use it; additionally, this would be a great service to the RCV Community throughout California.

## **6. Fair, Independent, and Effective Redistricting for Community Engagement Committee Updates**

Commissioner and FIERCE Chair Dai provided an overview regarding the FIERCE Committee activities regarding July, August and September meetings, specifically the ongoing proposed reforms and related process and deadlines. July meeting focus was on the presentation by Dr. Sara Sadhwani, a commissioner on the 2020 California Citizens Redistricting commission and her expertise regarding the process and challenges of redistricting reforms in Los Angeles. The August and September meetings focused on reviewing the proposed reforms – AB1248 and AB764 – both of which have passed the legislature and are awaiting the signature of the governor, media talking points, the April 2022 City Attorney memo, and reviewing the information Commissioner Parker had synthesized into a precise PowerPoint deck entitled: "Proposed Reforms for Fair & Effective Independent Redistricting." This report highlights the structure of the committee, line drawing criteria, funding, process, and timing and Chair Dai reviewed how these items were presented and discussed at the August and September meetings as well as legislative timelines.

### **Public Comment**

#### *In Person*

Alan Burradell emphasized that a robust discussion is essential as redistricting is an overtly political matter and the Commission could 'place their finger on the scale' with their recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

#### *Via Webex*

Russia Chavis, California Common Cause stated independent redistricting commissions that adopted Fair Maps better reflect the interests of communities over incumbents.

Jen Tse, San Francisco League of Women Voters reminded the Commission about November 2020 Prop C and the impact on who can serve.

Lauren Girardin, San Francisco League of Women Voters emphasized fair elections need fair maps and the drawing of such maps needs to be free from the influence of elected officials. Minimally, the charter needs to be amended to remove the current map and deadlines and the timing trigger as San Francisco should not wait for census data.

## **7. 2023-2024 Policies and Priorities**

President Stone stated that the mandate of the Commission is not just ensuring elections are free, fair and functional but is also tasked with establishing department policy and priorities. These topics before the Commission include Ranked Choice Voting Results Reporting, Voter Registration Policy Reporting, and Open Source Voting Systems.

### **Public Comment**

*Via Webex*

David Schmidt, California Clean Money Campaign voiced his support for Vice President Jerdonek's open source voting program and encourages a demonstration of a system before the 2024 general election.

Alec Bash, former San Francisco resident and voter also supports the open source voting program and discussed the issue of lack of voter participation in San Francisco due (in part) to the lack of national campaigns. He encourages registration events and making this a Commission priority as discussed.

Preston Jordan, Albany (Alameda County) City Council Member again expressed his interest in and support of ranked choice voting.

Steve Chessin, Santa Clara County Citizens' Advisory Commission on Elections Santa Clara County shared that his county also uses the same Dominion equipment that San Francisco and has yet to obtain the right choice voting module from Dominion and hopes San Francisco adopts this proposal as it would be beneficial to all California counties.

Jim Lindsey, Alameda County Elections Commission former San Francisco citizen also supports Open Source Voting and believes the proposed Reporting can and will be a state-wide best practice. Mr. Lindsey also emphasized greater registration outreach through trusted community groups.

Commissioner Hayden Crowley moved to adopt the proposed policies and procedures as presented and President Stone seconded.

### **MOTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED POLICIES AND PRIORITIES FOR 2023 / 2024**

President Stone	YAY
Vice President Jerdonek	YAY
Commissioner Bernholz	YAY
Commissioner Dai	YAY
Commissioner Hayden Crowley	YAY
Commissioner LiVolsi	No Vote – Left @ 9PM
Commissioner Parker	YAY

6 Yays 0 Nays 1 Absent  
Motion passes.

### **8. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

Vice President Jerdonek indicated he is scheduling up a BOPEC meeting and will present its annual report at the next Election Commission regular meeting. Commissioner Hayden Crowley suggests a review of the Elections Department Outreach calendar to identify potential registration events Commissioners can participate in with Department staff. President Stone indicated a FIERCE update will not be on October's meeting agenda as Commissioner Dai said the next FIERCE meeting will take place at the end of October, after the next regularly scheduled Elections Commission meeting. President Stone is also drafting the annual report.

President Stone will seek Commissioners' requests for the October 18 meeting agenda topics in early October and also said the 'offsite retreat' will be scheduled for early December will include a tour of the Department of Elections warehouse at Pier 31 and a meeting at the North Beach Public Library meeting room. The agenda and specific details for this special meeting will be posted at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

There were no public commenters.

### **8. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.