



## Memorandum

**To:** Elections Commission  
**From:** John Arntz, Director  
**Date:** November 15, 2024  
**RE:** Director's Report: November 20, 2024, Elections Commission Meeting

Following is a brief listing of the work and related information in which the Department of Elections (Department) has been engaged since the previous report issued in relation to the Elections Commission meeting on October 16, 2024.

**I. The Department has successfully completed all pre-election and Election Day activities and released preliminary election results for the November 5 election.**

- A. The Department undertook numerous tasks to ensure the November 5 election was conducted in a free, fair, and functional manner, including: 1) facilitating the filing of nomination papers for 85 local candidates, 2) processing all required documents for 15 local ballot measures and 250 local ballot arguments, 3) processing thousands of new voter registrations and record updates, leading to the highest number of local registrants ever recorded, 4) producing a four-card ballot and a 296-page Voter Information Pamphlet in three bilingual formats, with 34 versions tailored to voters' ballot types, 5) administering vote-by-mail services for half a million voters, 6) offering in-person voting at the City Hall Voting Center for one month and at 501 polling places on Election Day, 7) recruiting, training, and placing approximately 2,500 poll workers to assist in-person voters, and 8) collaborating with more than 100 Deputy Sheriffs and 90 Municipal Transportation Agency Officers to securely retrieve vote data and ballots on Election Night.
- B. Throughout the election cycle, the Department effectively combined its outreach efforts with responsive communication channels to guide voters through the process and ensure a positive, inclusive experience for all San Francisco voters. The outreach campaign included the distribution of election information at approximately 250 events across the city, partnerships with local organizations, public service announcements on local radio stations, ads in community newspapers, and targeted messages on social media and public transportation. Alongside these outreach initiatives, the Department responded to over 17,500 public inquiries via phone and email, assisting voters with questions on registration, vote-by-mail services, polling place locations, and other election-related topics.

Many voters expressed appreciation for the Department's efforts, sharing positive feedback such as the following:

*"SF Elections makes things so easy and I appreciate the well described process!" – Daniel K.*

*"Thank you for your assistance for citizens abroad. We greatly appreciate you and your efforts to ensure citizens living overseas have the opportunity to vote in a free and fair election." – Gabriele F.*

*"Thank you for your prompt, thorough, and super helpful reply; I can't overstate how much I appreciate it. Particularly considering the importance of the subject matter, and the increasing rarity of such high-touch level of service, I'm grateful for the care and attention you have given to my inquiry. I treasure the ability to exercise my*

*civic duty (and privilege) to make my voice heard by voting. Thank you so much again, best of luck and best wishes.” – Matt V.*

*“SF Dept of Elections rocks! Thank you!” – Jonathon K.*

*“Thanks for all the work you do to make voting accessible to all San Franciscans.” – Ian A.*

- C. On Election Night, the Department securely collected all vote data following the close of the polls and reported preliminary election results. To ensure smooth coordination of all Election Day and Election Night activities, the Department operated: 1) the Election Center, which provided support to poll workers from 5:15 a.m. until approximately midnight; 2) the Poll Worker Dispatch Center, which fulfilled requests for additional poll workers from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.; 3) the Data Collection Center, which received and uploaded 501 memory cards delivered by MTA officers between the close of the polls and midnight; and 4) the Processing Center, which received voted ballots and other vital materials from all 501 polling places, delivered by Deputy Sheriffs between the close of the polls and approximately 2 a.m. the following morning.
- D. On Election Night, the Department issued four preliminary results reports, including the Summary report, Ranked-choice voting summary and detailed reports, District and Neighborhood statement of the vote, and Citywide statement of the vote. Additionally, the Department transmitted preliminary election results to the Secretary of State (SOS), following all established security procedures.
- E. Following Election Day, the Department began posting daily updates on its website, sharing estimates of the remaining ballots to be counted. These ballots include vote-by-mail ballots returned on or after Election Day via mail, drop boxes, and polling places, as well as provisional ballots cast at polling places and the City Hall Voting Center. Starting Thursday, November 7, the Department has issued daily preliminary results reports, communicated via press releases and social media. Additionally, Director Arntz has hosted Q&A sessions for the media and public to address any questions about election results and ballot processing timelines.
- F. To keep the media and public informed about the Department's activities, preliminary results, and ballot counting timeline, the Department has issued several press releases. Listed from most recent to oldest, the press releases issued since the last Commission meeting include:
  - 1. [The Department of Elections Releases Preliminary Results Report #12 and Update on the Estimated Number of Ballots Left to Count for the November 5, 2024, Consolidated General Election](#)
  - 2. [The San Francisco Department of Elections Schedules Selection of Ballots for Manual Tally for the November 5, 2024, Consolidated General Election](#)
  - 3. [The Department of Elections Releases Preliminary Results Report #11 and Update on the Estimated Number of Ballots Left to Count for the November 5, 2024, Consolidated General Election](#)
  - 4. [The Department of Elections Releases Preliminary Results Report #10 and Update on the Estimated Number of Ballots Left to Count for the November 5, 2024, Consolidated General Election](#)
  - 5. [The Department of Elections Releases Preliminary Results Report #9 and Update on the Estimated Number of Ballots Left to Count for the November 5, 2024, Consolidated General Election](#)
  - 6. [The Department of Elections Releases Preliminary Results Report #8 and Update on the Estimated Number of Ballots Left to Count for the November 5, 2024, Consolidated General Election](#)
  - 7. [The Department of Elections Releases Preliminary Results Report #7 and Update on the Number of Ballots Left to Count for the November 5, 2024, Consolidated General Election](#)

8. [The Department of Elections Releases Preliminary Results Report #6 and Update on the Number of Ballots Left to Count for the November 5, 2024, Consolidated General Election](#)
9. [The Department of Elections Releases Preliminary Results Report #5 and Update on the Number of Ballots Left to Count for the November 5, 2024, Consolidated General Election](#)
10. [The Department of Elections Releases the Estimated Number of Ballots Left to Count for the November 5, 2024, Consolidated General Election](#)
11. [The Department of Elections Announces Timeline for Reporting of Results for the November 5, 2024, Consolidated General Election](#)
12. [Today is Election Day for the November 5, 2024, Consolidated General Election](#)
13. [The Department of Elections Will Operate 501 Neighborhood Polling Places on Election Day, November 5](#)
14. [The Department of Elections Reminds the Public of Electioneering Prohibition](#)
15. [The Department of Elections Urges Every Eligible San Franciscan to Cast a Ballot in the November 5 Election](#)
16. [The Department of Elections Announces the November 5 Election Results Reporting Schedule](#)
17. [The Department of Elections Provides Ballot Delivery and Pickup Services](#)
18. [The Department of Elections Opens the City Hall Voting Center on the Two Weekends Before Election Day](#)
19. [The Department of Elections Reminds Voters to Return Their Completed Ballots](#)
20. [The Department of Elections Urges New Voters to Register by October 21 to Receive a Ballot in the Mail](#)

**II. The Department continues to count ballots and conduct other post-election tasks for the November 5 election, utilizing extended work hours.**

- A. According to the most recent statewide report from the Secretary of State, San Francisco is currently leading in voter turnout among California counties with over 350,000 registered voters. (This report is preliminary and will remain unofficial until all counties have completed processing their ballots.)
  1. Historically, general elections since 1916 that included the contest for president in San Francisco have averaged a turnout of 77%. As of November 15, the turnout for the November 2024 election is slightly greater than 77% and will likely exceed the historical average for presidential elections.
  2. As of November 15, a total of 403,466 ballots have been counted and reported, which represents approximately 1.6 million ballot cards. While the Department may identify additional valid ballots during the official canvass and tally a small number of ballots cured by voters prior to certification, the majority of ballots cast in the November 5 election have already been processed.
- B. As of November 15, the Department has counted 352,528 VBM ballots and identified 805 VBM ballots as challenged. The Department has proactively contacted all voters with curable ballots within 24 hours of ballot receipt utilizing multiple channels, including the Voter Portal, postal mail, email, and telephone, ensuring that voters are aware of how to address the issue.
  1. To date, 569 voters have successfully cured their challenged ballots. Of those, 415 voters utilized the Department's newly launched online signature cure portal, introduced before the November 5 election to streamline the cure process and enhance convenience for voters.
  2. The percentage of VBM ballots currently challenged due to signature discrepancies is among the lowest in the state. The Department will continue assisting voters in curing challenged ballots up until two days before certification, ensuring that all eligible ballots are counted in the final results.

- C. The Department is nearing completion of the review process for approximately 19,000 provisional (PV) ballots cast at polling places and the City Hall Voting Center. Of these, over 17,000 have been accepted and counted, while approximately 2,000 remain under challenge or in review. The reasons for challenges, as well as the procedures and timelines for curing these ballots, mirror those established for VBM ballots.
- D. On November 6, the Department commenced the Official Canvass. One of the legally mandated tasks during this process is the manual tally of 1% of poll ballots, as well as 1% of VBM and PV ballots, all randomly-chosen. The manual tally is conducted to verify that San Francisco's voting equipment has accurately tabulated the ballots and reported results, and is open to public observation, both in person and via live stream on [sfelections.org/observe](https://sfelections.org/observe).
  - 1. On Tuesday, November 19, at 10 a.m., the Department will randomly select 1% of the ballots cast in the November 5 election for the manual tally.
  - 2. On Thursday, November 21, at 8:30 a.m., the Department will begin tallying the selected ballots at its warehouse on Pier 31.
- E. The Department has been retrieving supplies and equipment from polling places and transporting them to its warehouse on Pier 31, where Department personnel conduct an inventory of all returned items, ensuring that every piece of equipment, including voting machines, ballots, signage, and other materials, is accounted for.
  - 1. After the inventory process is completed, the items are securely stored at the warehouse, in accordance with established security protocols and archival compliance requirements.
- F. The Department is nearing completion of stipend processing for nearly 2,600 poll workers and 501 polling place providers who supported the November 5 election, and is now preparing to mail out the checks.
- G. The Department continues its post-election voter roll maintenance, which includes reviewing rosters for updated language preferences and making corresponding updates to voter records. Additionally, staff are scanning signed forms for attachment to voter records (for future ballot processing), resuming the processing of registration and maintenance messages through the state's VoteCal system, and restarting the mailing of voter notification cards.
- H. The Department will certify the local results of the November 5 election by the state-mandated deadline of December 5, 2024, and cannot certify prior to December 3 in accordance with state law. Upon certification, the Department will post final election results on its website and announce the results via a press release.

### III. Responses to the Commission's request for information to be included in the Director's monthly report.

*Data on registration rates and outreach events: 1) Total new registrations, 2) New registrations by supervisory districts, 3) Tactics employed (outreach, community engagement, grant funding, etc.) and in which districts, 4) Tactics employed by districts.*

- A. A. Between October 1 – October 31, the Department processed affidavits for 7,941 new registrants, residing in the following Supervisorial Districts (SD): SD 1 – 636, SD 2 – 1,032, SD 3 – 959, SD 4 – 488, SD 5 – 864, SD 6 – 1,009, SD 7 – 580, SD 8 – 796, SD 9 – 619, SD 10 – 505, SD 11 – 453.
- B. Between October 1 – October 31, the Department conducted 127 outreach events; which had approximately 17,600 people in attendance collectively. The number of such events by Supervisorial District was: SD 1 – 6, SD 2 – 4, SD 3 – 15, SD 4 – 6, SD 5 – 26, SD 6 – 26, SD 7 – 5, SD 8 – 12, SD 9 – 6, SD 10 – 15, SD 11 – 6.