

ELECTIONS COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco

Christopher Jerdonek, Vice President
Lucy Bernholz
Cynthia Dai
Robin Shapiro
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy



John Arntz, Director of Elections

Martha Delgadillo, Commission Secretary

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
(Approved on September 21, 2022)

San Francisco Elections Commission
Wednesday, July 20, 2022
6:00 p.m.
City Hall, Room 408
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102
& Remote meeting via WebEx

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:12 p.m.

Present: Vice President (VP) Christopher Jerdonek, Commissioner Lucy Bernholz, Commissioner Cynthia Dai, and Commissioner Robin Shapiro. (The seats of the Board of Education, Mayor, and Public Defender are vacant.)

Also Present: Director of Elections John Arntz, Deputy City Attorney Ana Flores, and Commission Secretary Martha Delgadillo.

VP Jerdonek reported that Commissioner Becca Chappell, who was elected President at the last meeting, resigned from the Commission on June 30. He thanked her for her service.

2. General Public Comment

Brent Turner provided a brief overview on the topic of Open Source Voting.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution on Continuation of Remote Elections Commission Meetings

Commissioner Dai moved to adopt the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Shapiro.

**MOTION ON RESOLUTION ON CONTINUATION OF REMOTE ELECTIONS
COMMISSION MEETINGS**

VP Jerdonek	Yes
Commissioner Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner Shapiro	Yes

4 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain
Motion passes

4. Election of Commission Executive Officers

VP Jerdonek opened nominations for President. Commissioner Dai nominated VP Jerdonek for President, and VP Jerdonek accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed.

Public Comment - None

VOTE FOR PRESIDENT

VP Jerdonek	Jerdonek
Commissioner Bernholz	Jerdonek
Commissioner Dai	Jerdonek
Commissioner Shapiro	Jerdonek

Vote was unanimous for VP Jerdonek.

President-elect Jerdonek opened nominations for Vice President. Commissioner Shapiro self-nominated.

Public Comment

Brent Turner supported the nomination.

David Pilpel expressed his support for the nomination.

VOTE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

President-elect Jerdonek	Shapiro
Commissioner Bernholz	Shapiro
Commissioner Dai	Shapiro
Commissioner Shapiro	Shapiro

Vote was unanimous for Commissioner Shapiro.

5. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Approval of Minutes for the April 6, 2022 and June 15, 2022 Elections Commission Meetings.

Commissioner Dai proposed revisions to the June 15, 2022 and April 6, 2022 meeting minutes. President-elect Jerdonek supported the proposed revisions but requested to keep the Land Acknowledgement under future agenda items.

Motion to adopt the draft minutes with Commissioner Dai and President-elect Jerdonek's suggested changes, made by VP-elect Shapiro. Seconded by Commissioner Dai.

Public Comment

David Pilpel suggested some non-substantive changes to the meeting minutes.

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

President-elect Jerdonek	Yes
Commissioner Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
VP-elect Shapiro	Yes

4 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain
Motion Passes

6. Redistricting Process Initiative

Commissioner Dai provided a summary of documents in the meeting packet.

Speaker Gwenn Craig, former Chair of the San Francisco Elections Task Force, provided historical background on the work of the Elections Task Force which brought back districts. They ultimately considered four plans, including single- and multi-member districts, as well as ranked-choice and cumulative voting methods to better represent San Francisco's diverse neighborhoods. The Board of Supervisors failed to put all four on the ballot due concerns about cost and potential confusion. The plan for 11 single-member districts and ranked-choice voting were put on the ballot as Propositions G and H.

Commissioner Dai asked Ms. Craig if there was any preference on the Task Force among the four plans. She said that it was left up to the voters.

President-elect Jerdonek asked Ms. Craig if the task force model used thirty years ago, when Ms. Craig served, could be used again today.

VP-elect Shapiro asked a question about the choice of eleven districts: in 2022 does it meet the same representation needs that it met thirty years ago?

Ms. Craig responded that people were not amenable to change.

Speaker Alesandra Lozano, California Common Cause's (CCC's) Voting Rights & Redistricting Program Manager, gave her presentation via WebEx. She provided a

brief background on how CCC monitored 60 jurisdictions in the past redistricting cycle at the local level. She compared and contrasted other local redistricting bodies in the Bay Area and the rest of the state, noting that San Francisco is an outlier in onboarding commissioners. Commissioner Bernholz asked if their data shows budgets by jurisdiction and jurisdiction size for comparison purposes, and Ms. Lozano agreed to follow-up with this information.

President-elect Jerdonek asked if there are any recommendations on what parts of City government should run the applicant selection process to ensure that it is apolitical. Ms. Lozano replied with some example non-partisan entities. President-elect Jerdonek asked if the same criteria could be used for selecting members of a city charter commission.

Commissioner Dai stated the focus for the next meeting planned for September.

Public Comment

David Pilpel asked if the presentations of both speakers could be made available in written form.

Lauren Girardin commented on the exchange regarding the number of supervisors: have any jurisdictions established when the number of council members should change?

7. Review of the June 7, 2022 Consolidated Statewide Direct Primary Election

Director Arntz said the biggest challenge was that over one hundred poll workers came down with COVID and that it spread to office personnel. Despite that, he felt the election was conducted in a free, fair, and functional manner.

VP-elect Shapiro asked what guardrails are in place for Election Day incidents. Director Arntz explained the processes that should take place when there is adverse behavior between polling place inspectors and other poll workers.

Commissioner Dai asked about the relative number of ballots received after the 7-day deadline versus a late postmark. Director Arntz said that all envelopes are tracked, even prior to Election Day.

Public Comment – None

8. Commission Annual Report for 2021

Commissioner Bernholz said that her report is as required and that it had been revised per the changes requested when it was introduced previously; it is now complete for approval by the Elections Commission.

Commissioner Dai asked if item 3.8 could be edited to say where the funding for the Request for Proposals (RFP) came from. Commissioner Dai also asked if the last sentence of item 3.7 could be edited to include the word “was.”

Commissioner Shapiro moved to adopt the draft with the two minor changes.
Seconded by Commissioner Dai.

Public Comment

David Pilpel said he agrees with the report the way it was submitted today.

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

President-elect Jerdonek	Yes
VP-elect Shapiro	Yes
Commissioner Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes

4 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain
Motion Passes

9. Letter to Commission appointing authorities

Sending a letter to the appointing authorities who have vacancies.

VP-elect Shapiro suggested that the letter have the names of all Commissioners listed as signers. The rest of the Commission agreed it might help.

Public Comment

David Pilpel made suggestions on to whom the letters should be sent.

Motion to approve the letter with needed non-substantive changes made by VP-elect Shapiro. Seconded by Commissioner Dai.

MOTION FOR LETTER TO COMMISSION APPOINTING AUTHORITIES

President-elect Jerdonek	Yes
VP-elect Shapiro	Yes
Commissioner Dai	Yes
Commissioner Bernholz	Yes

4 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain
Motion Passes

10. Director’s Report

VP-elect Shapiro asked Director Arntz for more information about the community outreach plans and if she could shadow the meetings of the Racial Equity Team, if possible.

Public Comment – None

11. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Dai summarized her letter, submitted as an attachment, containing suggestions on how the Department's election results page could be improved and made clearer for the public.

President-elect Jerdonek mentioned he attached a letter from the Secretary of State stating her opposition to SB 1480.

Public Comment – None

12. Agenda items for future meetings

- Racial Equity
- Land Acknowledgement
- Elections Results Reporting
- Sole-source Contracts

Public Comment

David Pilpel commented on future meeting items and suggested the Annual Performance Review of the Commission Secretary as an item. Also, when opening an item for public comment, the item being discussed should be announced.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.