

ELECTIONS COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco

Michelle Parker, President
Elections Renita LiVolsi, Vice President
Rebecca Bers
Neil
Hallinan
Trevor
McNeil
Dena Aslanian-Williams



John Arntz, Director of
Marisa Davis, Commission Secretary

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2026

6:00 p.m.

City Hall, Room 408
1 Dr. Carlton B.
Goodlett Place San
Francisco, California
94102 & Remote via
WebEx

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

President Parker called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Present: President Michelle Parker, Vice President Renita LiVolsi, Commissioner Rebecca Bers, Commissioner Trevor McNeil, and Commissioner Neil Hallinan.

Excused Absences: Commissioner Dena Aslanian-Williams.

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

President Parker stated the Commission's land acknowledgement of the Ramaytush Ohlone people.

President Parker had to delay the introduction of new Commissioner Dena Aslanian-Williams (appointed by the District Attorney), as she was not present at the meeting due to illness. She will have the opportunity to introduce herself at the February 2026 Regular Commission meeting.

2. General Public Comment

The speaker suggested that the recently passed state Proposition 50 should be suspended after the 2026 elections, for a return to non-partisan redistricting, and requested a resolution by the Commission regarding the same.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the San Francisco Election Commission November 19, 2025 meeting were approved by general consensus.

There was no public comment.

4. Director's Reports and Communications

Discussion regarding the December 2025 and January 2026 Director's Reports, which included budget development, enhanced language accessibility for voters, and website accessibility updates. Director Arntz also reported on budgetary processes and emphasized the need for efficiency, and referred to the upcoming required budget review meetings.

There was no public comment.

5. November 4, 2025 Statewide Special Election Review

Director Arntz provided a brief review of the November 2025 election, noting turnout was 56%, with much voting happening on Election Day in-person vs ahead of time by mail. He confirmed the election process remains efficient despite reduced overtime and weekend work, with minimal impact on results timing and the consolidation of polling stations proved effective in accommodating voter needs.

Public Comment:

- Commenter noted the consolidation of polling stations seemed to work well, with sufficient activity at polling stations. They wondered if this would continue into future elections.
- George from the SF Election Integrity Team mentioned he didn't receive anything in the mail telling him where his polling place was, and that it took a little work to find out where it was. He also commented that it was unfortunate it takes 12 days to count votes. He prefers all voters vote on Election Day.

A motion to approve the results of the November 4 Statewide Election was made by Vice President LiVolsi and seconded by Commissioner Bers.

President Parker	Yes
Vice President LiVolsi	Yes
Commissioner Bers	Yes
Commissioner Hallinan	Yes
Commissioner McNeil	Yes
Commissioner Aslanian-Williams	Absent

Motion passed.

6. 2025-2026 Elections Commission Priorities

The Commission reviewed language for the first goal and description as drafted by President Parker, which reads:

- 2026 SFEC Goal: Improve the Commission's Ability to Effectively Serve via Educational

Opportunities

- Description: The Commission will engage in at least four educational sessions during 2026, which will increase commissioners' and the public's understanding of topics relevant to the Commission's purpose of ensuring that San Francisco elections are free, fair and functional, and better position commissioners to be effective in their public service.

The Commission reviewed and discussed information about three of the four topics that will be included in this goal, and reviewed potential months the presentations and discussion will take place. Topics included:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its implications on Elections
- Barriers to Voting: Understanding Language Access Concerns for San Francisco Voters
- Open Source Voting

President Parker suggested a second 2026 goal: Commissioners increase public awareness of all the tools, resources, and procedures of the department that facilitate free, fair and functional elections. She provided a rationale that the Department has created an large library of resources about elections, yet many in San Francisco still don't understand how some aspects work, e.g. ranked choice voting. Deliverables might include links in Commissioner email signatures and Commissioners identifying organizations in their networks to share this information with.

Public Comment:

- George shared his perspective that open source voting will add transparency to election counting procedures, and suggested the Commission pay attention to some procedures Shasta County is using.

A motion to approve the two Commission goals was made by Vice President LiVolsi and seconded by Commissioner Bers.

President Parker	Yes
Vice President LiVolsi	Yes
Commissioner Bers	Yes
Commissioner Hallinan	Yes
Commissioner McNeil	Yes
Commissioner Aslanian-Williams	Absent

Motion passed

7. Commissioners' Reports

President Parker shared the only date available for the first budget review in January 29 and asked who would be available to participate that day, in order to determine the make-up of the BOPEC, which is the standing committee that will do the first review. Vice-President LiVolsi will chair the committee. Of the Commissioners present, only VP LiVolsi and Commissioner McNeil were available. President Parker will ask Commissioner Aslanian-Williams, and if she isn't available, President Parker will serve as the third member. The second review will take place at the February Regular Commission Meeting, and the budget

is due to the Mayor's office by February 23.

President Parker reminded Commissioners that all of the 2026 meeting dates had been emailed to them by Secretary Davis, and asked that people provide advance notice if they knew they would be unavailable for any meetings. She also shared that she will begin drafting the 2025 Annual Commission Report for review at the February or March regular meeting.

There was no public comment.

8. Election of Commission Executive Officers

A nomination of Michelle Parker to continue as president was made by Commissioner Bers, who accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made. A nomination of Renita LiVolsi to continue as vice-president was made by Commissioner Bers. No other nominations were made.

There was no public comment.

President

President Parker	Parker
Vice President LiVolsi	Parker
Commissioner Bers	Parker
Commissioner Hallinan	Parker
Commissioner McNeil	Parker
Commissioner Aslanian-Williams	Absent

Unanimous - President Parker to serve as President until December 31, 2026

Vice President

President Parker	LiVolsi
Vice President LiVolsi	LiVolsi
Commissioner Bers	LiVolsi
Commissioner Hallinan	LiVolsi
Commissioner McNeil	LiVolsi
Commissioner Aslanian-Williams	Absent

Unanimous – Vice President LiVolsi to serve as Vice President until December 31, 2026

9. Possible Closed Session – Personnel Exception

There was no public comment.

A motion to hold Item 9 in Closed Session was made by Commissioner Bers and seconded by Vice-President LiVolsi.

President Parker	Yes
Vice President LiVolsi	Yes
Commissioner Bers	Yes
Commissioner Hallinan	Yes

Commissioner McNeil	Yes
Commissioner Aslanian-Williams	Absent

Motion passed.

Closed Session was held and Open Session was reconvened.

A motion to not disclose closed session discussion regarding public employee performance evaluation as specified in San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a) was made by Commissioner Bers and seconded by Vice-President LiVolsi.

President Parker	Yes
Vice President LiVolsi	Yes
Commissioner Bers	Yes
Commissioner Hallinan	Yes
Commissioner McNeil	Yes
Commissioner Aslanian-Williams	Absent

Motion passed.

10. Agenda Items for Future Meetings and Commissioner Announcements

February's meeting will include the second review of the budget.

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:26pm