



## Memorandum

**To:** Elections Commission  
**From:** John Arntz, Director  
**Date:** March 13, 2026  
**RE:** Director's Report: March 18, 2026, Elections Commission Meeting

Following is a brief summary 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 February 18, 2026.

### I. The Department continues to facilitate candidate filings for the June 2, 2026, election.

- A. On March 9, the Department conducted the random drawing to select and assign letters to identify each of the four local measures that will appear on the ballot.
- B. On March 12 at noon, the Department concluded the intake period for proponent and opponent ballot arguments. On March 16 at noon, the Department will conclude the intake period for rebuttal and paid arguments. Each submission deadline will be followed by a 10-day public examination period.
- C. The nomination period for federal, state, and local offices closed on March 6, except for U.S. Congress, District 11, where it was extended to and closed on March 11 because the incumbent did not file nomination papers by the March 6 deadline. The Department has posted final candidate lists, along with Chinese character-based names and transliterations and ballot designations at <https://www.sf.gov/candidates>.

### II. The Department has entered the main preparatory phase of the June 2, 2026, election.

- A. The Department concluded the Ballot Simplification Committee (BSC) meetings on Thursday, March 5, during which BSC members prepared fair and impartial summaries of each local ballot measure for publication in the Voter Information Pamphlet.
- B. The Department has completed preparation of the content and artwork for the materials that will comprise the vote-by-mail packet. As part of this project, the Department revised ballot return instructions with the goal of reducing the number of ballots that cannot be counted due to late postmarks or delivery delays.
  - i. The revised instructions advise voters mailing their ballot on Election Day to take the ballot to a post office counter and request a manual postmark, rather than rely on collection times posted on mailboxes, as ballots deposited in mailboxes may not receive a same-day postmark. Instructions for military and overseas voters returning ballots close to Election Day recommend using a private courier service to ensure timely delivery.
- C. The Department has been developing official ballot templates, with most of this work scheduled to be completed this month. These tasks include organizing the matrix of jurisdictional ballot types; processing information from the Secretary of State for state and federal candidates appearing on the ballot; processing information for local measures

and candidates; updating ballot instructions and developing ballot template in English and Vietnamese; proofing ballot content and layout; and submitting final ballot templates to the printing vendor.

- i. In early April, the Department will focus on producing audio, touchscreen, and downloadable ballot formats.
  - ii. In addition to official ballots listing federal, state, and local contests, and local measures, the Department will produce a ballot for non-citizen voters that lists only the Board of Education contest. This ballot will be printed on a single card in the five required languages—English, Chinese, Filipino, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
  - iii. All ballot formats must be produced by April 18 to meet the statutory deadline for transmitting ballots to voters serving in the military or living overseas.
- D. The Department has been preparing the Voter Information Pamphlet (VIP) and its translated versions, which will include information on voting options, a sample ballot, the availability of translated and accessible voting resources, and information about local measures and candidates. The Department will distribute the VIP to voters in late April, concurrently with vote-by-mail ballot packets.
- i. All voters will receive the VIP in English through their selected delivery method (postal mail or email). Voters who have requested election materials in Chinese, Filipino, Spanish, or Vietnamese will also receive a copy in that language.
  - ii. For this election, the Department chose to feature its personnel on the cover of the VIP. By showing the people behind the process, the Department hopes to give voters a more personal connection to the work that goes into every election and to help strengthen trust in our local election process.
  - iii. In addition to the VIP, the Department will produce a Voter Information Booklet (VIB) containing information specific to the Board of Education contest for non-citizen voters.
- E. The Department has contacted former polling place hosts and secured the availability of approximately 450 of the 501 locations needed for the June election. Based on the responses received, the Department will need to identify approximately 50 new facilities due to the unavailability of some previously used polling places.
- F. The Department has begun poll worker recruitment by sending outreach communications to individuals who have previously served as poll workers and by partnering with local organizations to staff each of the 501 polling places with one Inspector and at least three Clerks. To date, the Department has recruited approximately 1,700 individuals and still needs an additional 800 poll workers to account for expected cancellations.
- G. The Department has been updating its poll worker training curriculum, building on efforts undertaken during the last election cycle to provide poll workers with guidance on protecting voters from intimidation, maintaining safe, politically neutral, and welcoming polling places, and responding to incidents of disruption or voter intimidation on Election Day. For the June election, the Department will introduce a quick-reference guide for poll workers and field support staff to use on Election Day.

### III. The Department continues to carry out its general administrative functions.

- A. The Department prepared and submitted an Accept and Expend Resolution to the Board of Supervisors to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of \$416,431 in funding allocated by the California Secretary of State to support replacement of the voting and election management systems. This funding supplements the \$1,949,858 previously approved by the Board of Supervisors through Resolution No. 232-20 for voting system replacement.
- B. The Department prepared and submitted an Ordinance amending its Surveillance Technology Policy for indoor security cameras, which was previously approved by the Board of Supervisors under Ordinance 221043. Under the existing policy, the Department uses indoor security cameras to provide live streaming of certain election operations to the public to promote transparency and, in limited circumstances, for security purposes. The proposed amendment primarily provides the Department with greater flexibility by allowing the use of vendors other than the current provider, provided those vendors are approved by the City.
- C. The Department continues to work toward compliance with federal digital accessibility requirements in advance of the April 24, 2026, deadline. The Department has been remediating website pages, PDFs posted on its website, and online applications to ensure they meet accessibility standards. In cases where certain materials cannot be fully remediated or where remediation would impose an undue burden, the Department will apply consistent criteria to document those determinations and will provide accessible alternatives where feasible.
- D. The Department continues its voter roll maintenance efforts to ensure voter records remain accurate and up to date. This work includes processing registration updates and cancellations, issuing voter notices and address confirmation postcards, and integrating data received from state and local agencies, which includes information from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the National Change of Address (NCOA) system, reports of deceased individuals from the Department of Public Health, and notifications from the Secretary of State regarding prison commitments and conservatorships.

### IV. The Department continues its voter outreach, promoting voter registration and election services.

- A. This month, the Department will launch its June election outreach campaign by mailing approximately 300,000 multilingual notices to every household in San Francisco. These notices are designed for both registered voters and eligible but unregistered residents, providing key information about the upcoming election, how to register to vote and participate, opportunities to serve as a poll worker, and raising awareness about the availability of non-citizen registration and voting in the Board of Education election. The mailer will also inform voters that they may opt out of receiving the printed Voter Information Pamphlet to help save paper and City resources, and will include links for doing so. Finally, translated versions of the notices will highlight the availability of bilingual ballots in the respective language and provide instructions on how to request election materials in that language.
  - i. The mailer features the Department's outreach theme for the June election: "Our Community. Our Direction. Vote in the June 2, 2026 Election." This theme was chosen to highlight the idea that elections help shape the future of San Francisco and that every resident's voice matters. Through this message, the Department hopes to encourage voters to participate in the upcoming election and to view voting as a community-centered responsibility.



- F. The Department continues to engage with its outreach partners through the monthly Outreach Community Newsletter.
- i. The February edition features information on the Department's efforts to ensure all voting sites are secure, accessible, and free of interference or intimidation; the certification of Vietnamese as the City's newest official language; and the work underway to incorporate Vietnamese into election services. The issue also includes highlights from the Department's recent Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) meeting, a Partner Spotlight recognizing the longstanding collaboration with Project Homeless Connect to help ensure residents experiencing housing insecurity have access to the resources needed to register and vote, and a recap of recent community outreach activities. The February newsletter is available at: <https://www.sf.gov/outreach-community-newsletter-february-2026>

**V. 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. Between February 1 and February 28, the Department processed a total of 1,959 affidavits of new registrants. The new registrants reside in the following Supervisorial Districts (SD): SD 1 – 119, SD 2 – 222, SD 3 – 205, SD 4 – 136, SD 5 – 205, SD 6 – 246, SD 7 – 153, SD 8 – 201, SD 9 – 189, SD 10 – 166, and SD 11 – 117.
- B. Between February 1 and February 28, the Department conducted 23 outreach events, reaching an estimated 4,676 attendees. These events were distributed across Supervisorial Districts (SD) as follows: SD 4 – 1, SD 5 – 9, SD 6 – 1, SD 7 – 3, SD 9 – 5, SD 10 – 2, and SD 11 – 2.