

ELECTIONS COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco

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



John Arntz, Director of Elections
Marisa Davis, Commission Secretary

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES DRAFT
August 19, 2026 , 2026
6:00 - 9:00 PM
City Hall, Room 408
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102
& Remote via WebEx

Order of Business

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

President Parker called the meeting to order at 6:14 PM.

Present: President Parker, Vice President LiVolsi, Commissioner Aslanian-Williams,
Commissioner Bers

Excused Absence: Commissioner Hallinan
Unexcused Absence: Commission McNeil

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

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

2. General Public Comment

- Tom Slecker shared information about a recent study on voter rolls and non-citizens from the Department of Homeland and advocated support for both Prop 39 and the SAVE Act.
- George Gabouri voiced concerns about non-citizen voting nationally and in San Francisco.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The June 17, 2026 SFEC Regular Meeting Minutes were approved by consensus.

There were no public comments.

4. Director's Reports and Communications

The Director shared regular administrative and operations updates per his August 2026 Director's Report. Specifically:

- a. Updates on preparations for the November election, including nomination and argument periods, ballot development, Voter Information Pamphlet preparations, and temporary staff recruitment and polling place securement. President Parker had questions regarding the number of cards, percentage of voters opting out of printed VIPs, and poll worker training. Commissioner Bers asked questions about website navigation to the Accurate and Complete Vote Count Takes Time page.
- b. Updates regarding the unexpected funds allocated from the state (all counties will receive) to support the voter outreach and increased ballot counting pace. San Francisco will receive \$658,000 after a process initiated by Mayor Lurie.
- c. Director Arntz responded to Vice President LiVolsi's questions regarding any impact of the recent Supreme Court ruling on California Law re: voting by mail. The department will continue to focus on established deadlines in communications.
- d. Director Arntz responded to questions from Commissioner Aslanian-Williams referencing earlier public comment. The Director clarified that there is not a large number of ineligible voters on voter rolls and expressed concerns regarding reviews of data that might rely on old data and processes, given the constant updates to voter registration and cross-referencing to various agencies' data in California.

Public comment:

- Tom Slecker shared difficulties in accessing death index for the state and gave suggestions for data sharing to identify ineligible voters.

5. Assessment of the June 2, 2026 Consolidated Statewide Direct Primary Election Plan

Director Arntz provided and reviewed the following reports, as well as provided insights:

- Vote by Mail Status Report
- Provisional Ballot Stats Report
- Conditional Voter Registration Report (CVR)
- GEARS Report

Commissioners asked questions about outreach and new voter registration, including how the department attempts to find balance in which voter registration events they attend throughout

the city and how they work with organizations who may have insight and relationships in hard-to-reach areas. They also inquired about the sequencing for ballot tabulation, i.e. what order ballots are counted, where to submit ballots to ensure counting prior to election day, how election data is secured via the SHA-512 cryptographic function, and how ballots jammed in ballot scanning machines are handled.

Based on the presentation and information provided by Director Arntz, the following motion was made by Commissioner Bers: the implementation of the approved Consolidated Statewide Direct Primary Election Plan resulted in a free, fair and functional election. Seconded by Commissioner Aslanian-Williams.

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

Motion passed.

Public Comment:

- Tom Slecker made a comment about the reduction in polling places during the last election to 100 from the typical 500.
- George Gabouri gave comment regarding the ballot jams, making a suggestion that San Francisco have two tabulators at each site, in case there is a problem, so that no ballot has to wait to be counted.

6. Annual Performance Review – Director of Elections

There was no public comment.

Motion made by Commissioner Aslanian-Williams: Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957(b) and San Francisco Administrative Code 67.10(b), the Elections Commission will meet in Closed Session to review public employee performance evaluation of the Director of the Department of Elections, John Arntz. Seconded by Vice President LiVolsi.

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

Motion passed.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Vice-President LiVolsi to not disclose any information from the Closed Session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bers.

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

Motion passed.

7. Commissioners' Reports

President Parker indicated she will not be available for the September meeting and asked other commissioners whether they would be available to meet on September 23 if a room was available. Vice President LiVolsi will chair this meeting on the original date if no room is identified. Commissioner Aslanian-Williams will be unable to attend the September meeting.

There were no public comments.

8. Agenda Items for Future Meetings and Commissioner Announcements

Upcoming agendas will include the panel on open source voting, a continued closed session from tonight, and approval of the November Election Plan.

Public Comment:

- Andy Lynch briefly reviewed his comment he submitted by email to the Commission regarding ranked choice voting and the need for clear and continued voter education on how this process work, particularly related to 'continuing' and 'exhausted' ballots.

ADJOURNMENT @ 9:27 PM