

AI and Elections Questions from Commissioners

General Wonderings:

- **Relevant AI Risks.** What AI-related risks do you see as most relevant to San Francisco elections over the next 2–4 years, and which of those concern you most? How are you already addressing these concerns or what recommendations do you have to address them?
- **The Commission's Role.** What role should the Elections Commission play in public education and oversight regarding AI and elections, and where do you see the Commission adding the most value?

AI tool use and disclosure in the SF Elections Dept:

- **Inventory & Disclosure.** The panelists were clear that the public should know what AI tools are being used before they ask. Can you provide the Commission with a complete inventory of any AI or algorithm-assisted tools currently in use by the Department, including tools embedded in vendor systems the Department may not have directly selected, such as Copilot?
- **Copilot Specifically.** The City has deployed Microsoft Copilot to employees, including presumably Department of Elections staff. What specific functions, if any, is your staff using Copilot for, and has any use-specific risk assessment been done to distinguish lower-risk uses like drafting communications from higher-risk uses that could touch voter data or eligibility?
- **Admin Code Requirements.** Could you share about the City's current policies around disclosure around AI technologies procured or received? I understand that this exists in the Admin code.

Voter Data:

- **Flagging and Deduplication.** Both Ms. Noble and Dr. Koyejo warned that even using AI to flag, not decide, potential duplicate registrations or deceased voters carries a meaningful risk of biased errors, and that humans presented with AI output tend to defer to it. Is the Department using or considering any AI-assisted flagging in voter roll maintenance, and if so, what does the human review process actually look like in practice?
- **Bias & Marginalized Communities.** Ms. Noble testified that AI systems have demonstrable biases that often pattern along race, name, zip code, and neighborhood, precisely the characteristics that correlate with marginalized communities. If the Department is using any AI-assisted tool in voter registration or list maintenance, has it been tested specifically for differential error rates across demographic groups?
- **Guardrails with Voter Data.** What guardrails does the Department have in place to ensure that any use of AI tools within the Department does not allow sensitive voter data to be fed back into an LLM and/or otherwise compromised?

Voter Education:

- **Handling Questions from Voters.** What training do staff get who handle voter questions get as it relates to voter use of AI?
- **Avoiding AI Misinformation.** What is the Department doing to affirmatively help the local voting populace avoid AI misinformation? It seems that some of the more disadvantaged voting populations that the Department is already doing outreach to might be likely targets (according to our guests in March) - is AI education being woven into that outreach?
- **AI Literacy Work.** Are you aware of any City department doing AI literacy work or offering resources to the public?