



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

John Arntz, Director

Memorandum

To: Elections Commission
From: John Arntz, Director
Date: February 13, 2026
RE: Director's Report: February 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 January 21, 2026.

I. The Department prepared its budget proposals for FY 2026–27 and FY 2027–28.

- A. Last month, the Department submitted its draft budget proposals for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026–27 and FY 2027–28 to the Elections Commission. This submission included all required budget forms mandated by the Mayor's Office of Public Policy and Finance and the Controller's Office, along with a memorandum detailing the Department's funding requests, operational priorities, and anticipated resource needs.
- B. In accordance with local law, the Elections Commission conducted the first public review of the proposed budgets at its meeting on January 29. A second public review is scheduled to take place at the Commission's meeting on February 18.
- C. Following the completion of the public review process, the Department will finalize its budget proposals, enter the information into the City's Budget Formulation and Management System, and submit all required budget documentation to the Mayor's Office and the Controller's Office by the Charter-mandated deadline of February 23.

II. The Department is preparing for the June 2, 2026, election.

- A. On February 4, the Department concluded the signature-in-lieu period for candidates seeking election to the Board of Education and the Superior Court. Following this period, the Department began the nomination period on February 9, during which candidates may obtain and must file nomination documents for these offices, as well as for state offices appearing on the June ballot. The nomination period will continue through March 6.
- B. The Department continues to facilitate the intake of local ballot measures to appear on the June ballot and will continue to accept filings through February 20. These measures may be submitted to the Department by the Mayor, four or more members of the Board of Supervisors, by voters through the initiative petition process, or certain other agencies including the Board of Education or BART Board.
- C. The Department has begun hiring and onboarding seasonal employees to aid its full-time staff in completing tasks for the June 2 election cycle. Over the next three months, the Department expects to hire approximately 200 temporary employees to assist with vote-by-mail ballot envelope signature comparison tasks, poll worker recruitment and training, preparation of supplies, and provision of early voting services.

- D. The Department has begun preparing for the Ballot Simplification Committee (BSC) meetings scheduled to commence on Monday, March 2. At these meetings, BSC members will prepare a fair and impartial summary of each June election local ballot measure for publication in the Voter Information Pamphlet. These meetings will likely continue through Friday, March 6.
- E. The Department has developed production plans and detailed timelines for the production and distribution of official ballots and Voter Information Pamphlets and has met with its translation, printing, and assembly vendors to coordinate schedules and confirm their ability to meet both the Department's internal operational deadlines and the statutory deadlines associated with the upcoming election.
- F. The Department has begun securing the use of former polling places and confirming their availability in order to determine how many substitute facilities may need to be identified and secured.
 - i. The Department will provide the full number of polling places—501—for the June 2 election. While the Department was able to consolidate precincts for recent special elections and generate cost savings for the City, state law does not permit precinct consolidation for statewide elections.
- G. This month, the Department will commence poll worker recruitment by sending outreach communications to individuals who have previously served as poll workers. For the June 2 election, the Department plans to staff each polling place with one Inspector and at least three Clerks, requiring the recruitment, assignment, and training of more than 2,000 volunteers.
- H. The Department conducted targeted outreach to voters serving in the military and overseas who currently receive their ballots by mail. This correspondence reminded these voters of the alternative ballot delivery options available to them, including online and fax transmission, which can expedite ballot delivery and support more timely ballot return in upcoming elections. As a result of this outreach, nearly 100 voters elected to switch to email ballot delivery.
- I. The Department is working to implement a state-mandated expansion of language assistance triggered by updated Secretary of State determinations and the anticipated certification of Vietnamese as a required language for the City. As part of this implementation, the Department will send two targeted mailers this month.
 - i. The first mailer will be sent to voters born in countries where Bengali, Burmese, Hindi, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, Mongolian, Thai, and Urdu are spoken, informing them of their option to request facsimile ballots. (Although state law requires facsimile ballots to be provided only in specified precincts, the Department exceeds this requirement by extending this option to all voters and by providing copies at all polling places on Election Day, rather than only at designated locations.)
 - ii. The second mailer will be sent to voters born in Vietnam, informing them of the option to receive official ballot and the Voter Information Pamphlet in Vietnamese for future elections. (Although the City is yet to certify Vietnamese as a required language, the Department is proactively expanding its services and materials in advance of the deadline to ensure access for voters who may benefit from receiving materials in Vietnamese.)
 - iii. Both mailers will provide voters with instructions on how to submit requests for translated materials to the Department. These requests will be processed in the voter registration database and used for the future distribution of election materials, beginning with the June 2026 election.

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

- A. The Department is preparing to conduct its first 2026 meeting of the Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) this month. The Committee has been established for many years and has long served as a forum for community-based input and guidance on the Department's language access services and outreach efforts. Through this ongoing collaboration, LAAC helps ensure that voters with limited English proficiency are able to access election information and services.
 - i. The upcoming meeting will include discussions on the expansion of language assistance resulting from updated Secretary of State determinations; updates on the implementation of Vietnamese into the Department's services and programs; preparations for the 2026 elections, including facilitation of non-citizen registration and voting in the Board of Education election; seasonal employment and poll worker opportunities; and outreach priorities focused on enhancing voter registration in limited English proficiency communities and promoting awareness of translated election materials.
- B. The Department is nearing the final phase of its transition to the City's Cisco Network, which is part of the City's modernization of its telecommunications system. This transition will eliminate physical desk phones and move personnel to computer-based phone services, with new phone numbers assigned to the Department. Existing extensions will continue to function and will be forwarded to the new numbers to ensure continuity of service.
 - i. The Department is currently working with the Department of Technology (DT) to finalize all required programming and technical configurations. Once the transition is fully implemented, Department staff will participate in training and will update training materials and operational documentation for the phone bank and other operations to reflect the new system.
- C. The Department continues to work toward compliance with federal digital accessibility requirements in advance of April 24, 2026, deadline. These requirements apply to all City departments and commissions and cover websites, online applications, forms, PDFs, videos, third-party platforms, and social media content. The rule is intended to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to government services and information delivered through digital platforms.
 - i. To meet these requirements, the Department has completed an inventory of its public-facing webpages, web applications, and electronic documents to identify content requiring remediation. Based on this review, the Department has developed a prioritized remediation schedule and has begun remediating high-priority content supporting core voter registration and services.
- 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. These updates include 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 weekly 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. The Department continues to engage with its outreach partners through the monthly Outreach Community Newsletter, which was introduced last year to strengthen collaboration and has continued to receive positive feedback.
 - i. The January edition highlights the importance of early voter engagement and keeping voter registration up to date, and shares information about expanded language access services and non-citizen registration and voting in Board of Education elections. It also features opportunities to get involved as poll workers or temporary elections staff. In addition, the newsletter invites community members to join the Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) and contribute their feedback and perspectives to help inform how language access services are delivered to voters across San Francisco. The January newsletter is available at: <https://www.sf.gov/outreach-community-newsletter-january-2026>
- B. The Department's Outreach Team continued to engage vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities, including individuals with disabilities, language-diverse populations, justice-involved residents, people experiencing housing insecurity, and youth.
 - i. In January, staff partnered with several non-profit organizations including the Latino Task Force, Project Homeless Connect, the Glide Foundation, and the Curry Senior Center, providing voter registration assistance and sharing information on the upcoming 2026 elections and language and accessible resources.
 - ii. Outreach staff also hosted several voter resource tables at the UN Plaza Farmer's Market and the San Francisco Main Library assisting residents with registering to vote and signing up for poll worker service.

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 January 1 and January 31, the Department processed a total of 2,208 affidavits of new registrants. The new registrants reside in the following Supervisorial Districts (SD): SD 1 – 144, SD 2 – 252, SD 3 – 260, SD 4 – 118, SD 5 – 318, SD 6 – 304, SD 7 – 160, SD 8 – 196, SD 9 – 171, SD 10 – 156, and SD 11 – 129.
- B. Between January 1 and January 31, the Department conducted 9 outreach events, reaching an estimated 1,502 attendees. These events were distributed across Supervisorial Districts (SD) as follows: SD 2 – 1, SD 5 – 5, and SD 9 – 3.