



Memorandum

To: Elections Commission
From: John Arntz, Director
Date: June 12, 2026
RE: Director's Report: June 17, 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 May 20, 2026.

I. The Department has successfully completed all pre-election and Election Day activities and released preliminary election results for the June 2 Election.

- A. To ensure the June 2 Election was administered in a free, fair, secure, and functional manner, the Department carried out a broad range of election administration activities that included processing voter registrations and record updates; administering vote-by-mail services; providing accessible in-person voting opportunities during the early voting period and at 501 polling places on Election Day; recruiting, training, and assigning poll workers; coordinating the secure collection and transport of ballots and election materials on Election Night; and initiating the official canvass process to verify and certify election results in accordance with applicable legal requirements.
- B. Throughout the election cycle, the Department complemented its voter outreach efforts with responsive communication channels to assist voters and ensure a positive voting experience. Outreach activities included providing election information at neighborhood events, through partnerships with community-based organizations and public agencies, through several direct voter mailings, and across social media platforms. In addition, during the six weeks preceding the Election, Department staff responded to approximately 4,500 public inquiries received by phone and email. The following are representative examples of feedback received from members of the public:

"The Department of Elections is absurdly well organized and on the ball for a local government department. Clear communication, well-timed follow ups and incredibly helpful staff on the support lines." – GM

"The SF Elections Department is one of the most competent government entities I've ever interacted with. Their website is simple and does exactly what it needs to, and they seem focused on making elections as easy and accessible as possible. If you poke around on their website, you can even find livestreams of all the equipment testing, ballot counting, JSON files of the results and raw scanner data for auditing. They are so transparent." – Nicholas

"I so appreciate your prompt response to my emails. I know you are very busy, and I was shocked to see that my emails were being responded to within minutes. Thank you very much for the information you provided regarding how I will receive my ballot, and as well as informing me of the importance of providing my signature along with my ballot. A million thanks for all your patience and help." – EY

"The Department of Elections is amazing. I've worked as a poll worker for more than ten elections and I always enjoy it. The poll worker team does such a great job training and preparing the poll workers." – SG

“Thank you for being here. I attend a lot of community events, and I see the Department of Elections’ team hosting outreach resource tables all over the city.” – TD

- C. On Election Night, the Department issued four preliminary results reports. The first report included vote-by-mail ballots received before Election Day, while the subsequent three reports incorporated results from ballots cast at polling places, with the final report reflecting results from all precincts. The Department also securely transmitted election results to the Secretary of State using certified reporting systems that had successfully completed all required testing and certification procedures prior to the Election.
 - i. Since Election Night, the Department has released ten updated preliminary results reports, announced each release through a press release, and facilitated question-and-answer sessions with Director Arntz for members of the media and the public at City Hall.
 - ii. Beginning on June 3 and with each subsequent release of preliminary results, the Department posted on its website the approximate number of ballots remaining to be counted.
 - iii. The Department anticipates certifying the local election results on June 25, 2026, the earliest date permitted under California election law.

II. The Department continues to count ballots and conduct other post-election tasks for the June 2 Election.

- A. Based on the number of ballots counted to date, voter turnout for the June 2 Election in San Francisco is approximately 50%.
- B. As of June 11, the Department has counted over 240,000 vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots and identified 917 VBM ballots as challenged. The Department will continue assisting voters in curing challenged ballots through 5 p.m. on June 22, ensuring that all eligible ballots are included in the final certified election results.
 - i. The Department has proactively contacted all voters with curable ballots within 24 hours of identifying the challenge, utilizing multiple communication methods to ensure voters are informed of the steps necessary to resolve issues with their ballots. To date, 545 voters have successfully cured their challenged ballots.
 - ii. The percentage of VBM ballots challenged remains among the lowest in the state, reflecting the Department's effective voter outreach and ballot-curing methods.
- C. The Department has concluded its review of approximately 6,200 provisional (PV) ballots cast at polling places and the City Hall Voting Center. Following the verification of voter eligibility, all accepted PV ballots will be included in the official certified election results.
- D. On June 3, the Department commenced the official post-election Canvass. As part of this legally required process, the Department conducts a manual tally of 1% of all ballots cast, including polling place, vote-by-mail, and provisional ballots selected at random. The purpose of the manual tally is to verify the accuracy of the voting system's tabulation and reporting of election results. The process is open to public observation both in person and via live stream.
 - i. On Tuesday, June 16, at 9 a.m., the Department will conduct a public random selection of the ballots to be included in the 1% manual tally. The tally will commence at 8 a.m. on June 17 and will be open to public observation both in person and via live stream.

- E. The Department continues to retrieve election supplies and voting equipment from 501 polling places and transport these materials to its warehouse. As items are returned, Department staff conduct inventories to ensure that all equipment and supplies are accounted for and stored in accordance with chain-of-custody and security procedures.
- F. The Department continues to process stipend payments for nearly 2,500 poll workers and 501 polling place providers who supported the administration of the June 2 Election.

III. The Department continues to facilitate candidate filing for the November 3, 2026, Election.

- A. On June 9, the Department concluded the nomination period for candidates seeking election to the Board of Supervisors in Districts 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10. During this period, individuals seeking to appear on the November ballot were required to obtain and file nomination documents. From June 10 through June 22, the Department will facilitate the public examination period, during which members of the public may review and legally challenge candidate legal names, ballot designations, qualification statements, and Chinese names and transliterations.
- B. Through July 8, the Department will continue accepting signatures-in-lieu petitions from candidates seeking election to the offices of Assessor-Recorder, Public Defender, Board of Education, and Community College Board. The nomination period for these offices will open on July 13 and close on August 7.
- C. Beginning June 16, the Department will begin accepting ballot measure filings for the November 3 Election. Local ballot measures may be submitted by the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, voters through the initiative petition process, or other entities authorized by law, including the Board of Education and the BART Board of Directors.

IV. The Department continues to carry out its general administrative functions.

- A. The Department continues to process statewide and local initiative petitions that may qualify for the November ballot. To date, the Department has completed and submitted random sample results to the Secretary of State for ten statewide initiative petitions. Currently, 14 statewide petitions remain in circulation, with filing deadlines occurring in the coming months, including one in June, four in July, six in August, and three in October. At the local level, two petitions were submitted in May and are currently under review, and eight petitions remain in circulation, all with a filing deadline of July 6 in order to qualify for the November ballot.
- B. The Mayor's Budget Office released the Mayor's proposed citywide budget for the next two fiscal years on June 1, 2026. The proposed budget is currently under review by the Board of Supervisors.
 - i. As part of the annual budget process, the Department compiled and submitted budgetary information in response to a request from the Board of Supervisors' Budget and Legislative Analyst regarding the Mayor's proposed reductions and potential additional budget savings.
 - ii. The Director presented the Department's budget proposal at the first Budget and Finance Committee hearing on June 10 and will attend the second hearing scheduled for June 18.
- C. The Department continues its voter roll maintenance to ensure that 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 from state and local agencies. As part of this process, the Department incorporates updates from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), which captures address changes and new voter registrations, information from the National Change of Address (NCOA) system, which provides address updates for voters who

have moved, reports from the Department of Public Health that identify records of deceased individuals, and weekly updates from the Secretary of State that include information on prison commitments and conservatorships.

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

- A. The Department's Outreach Team continued to engage vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities, including individuals with disabilities, language-diverse populations, people experiencing housing insecurity, and youth.
- i. In May, Outreach staff partnered with community organizations and government agencies serving focus populations, including the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, Chinese for Affirmative Action, the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs, the Glide Foundation, the Latino Task Force, and Project Homeless Connect, to provide voter registration assistance and share election information.
 - ii. Outreach staff hosted resource tables at several community events, including Carnival, the UN Plaza Farmer's Market, and job fairs at the LGBTQ Center, EDD SF, and Glide. Outreach staff also conducted audiovisual presentations at several senior housing facilities including 111 Jones, the Herald Hotel, and Mariposa Gardens. At these events, staff assisted with voter registrations and shared election information.
 - iii. Outreach staff also conducted several youth-focused events, including a History of Voting Rights presentation and voting system demonstration at Lincoln High School, a pre-registration drive at John O'Connell High School, and a voter resource table at Larkin Street Youth Services Voter Registration Resource Fair.
 - iv. Outreach staff concluded the Spring 2026 High School Election Ambassador Program and hosted a recognition ceremony for program's participants. 34 students representing 13 San Francisco high schools participated in the program. Collectively, the ambassadors conducted more than 75 voter outreach events and pre-registered 167 future San Francisco voters.
- B. The Department continues to engage with its outreach partners through the monthly Outreach Community Newsletter.
- i. The May edition highlighted important information for voters participating in the June 2 Election, including available voting options, voter assistance services, and election deadlines. The newsletter featured information on emergency ballot delivery and return services for voters unable to travel and conditional voter registration available through Election Day. The newsletter also provided information about election observation opportunities, explained the Department's preliminary results reporting process, and encouraged community partners to help disseminate official election information to voters throughout San Francisco.
 - ii. The May newsletter is available at: <https://www.sf.gov/outreach-community-newsletter-may-2026>

VI. Legislative and legal updates that impact the Department's operations and services.

- A. The Department continues to monitor pending litigation before the U.S. Supreme Court concerning the acceptance of vote-by-mail ballots received after Election Day. The case, *Watson v. Republican National Committee*, challenges a Mississippi law that permits the counting of ballots received after Election Day and otherwise timely postmarked.

A decision is expected before the conclusion of the Court's current term in June and could have implications for California's vote-by-mail ballot receipt deadline, which currently allows ballots postmarked on or before Election Day to be counted if received within seven days after the Election.

Should the Court require ballots cast in federal elections to be received on or before Election Day in order to be counted, the Department will need to update voter instructions, outreach materials, website, and other public communications, and conduct additional voter education to ensure voters are aware of this change.

- B. A local ordinance, [File # 260217](#), affecting the Ballot Simplification Committee will take effect on June 29, 2026. The ordinance renames the Committee as the Ballot Simplification Council, relocates its provisions to Chapter 5 of the Administrative Code, and modifies its membership by replacing one Board of Supervisors appointment with an appointment made by the San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent. This change applies only to future appointments and will not affect current members. Department staff are currently reviewing the ordinance and evaluating any necessary updates to related administrative and public-facing materials.

VII. 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 May 1 and May 31, the Department processed a total of 2,321 affidavits of new registrants. The new registrants reside in the following Supervisorial Districts (SD): SD 1 – 171, SD 2 – 271, SD 3 – 280, SD 4 – 118, SD 5 – 292, SD 6 – 269, SD 7 – 166, SD 8 – 225, SD 9 – 192, SD 10 – 212, and SD 11 – 125.
- B. Between May 1 and May 31, the Department conducted 54 outreach events, reaching an estimated 12,116 attendees. These events were distributed across Supervisorial Districts (SD) as follows: SD 1 – 2, SD 2 – 2, SD 3 – 3, SD 4 – 1, SD 5 – 15, SD 6 – 5, SD 7 – 2, SD 8 – 3, SD 9 – 10, SD 10 – 6, and SD 11 – 5.