



Memorandum

To: Elections Commission
From: John Arntz, Director
Date: May 15, 2026
RE: Director's Report: May 20, 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 April 15, 2026.

I. The Department continues to facilitate candidate filing for the June 2 and November 3, 2026 elections.

- A. For the June 2 Election, the Department is facilitating the write-in candidate filing period through May 19. During this period, individuals seeking to appear on the ballot as write-in candidates must file their Declarations of Write-In Candidacy and submit the required nomination documents to the Department.
- B. For the November 3 Election, the Department has concluded the signature-in-lieu period, which ran through May 11 for candidates seeking election to the Board of Supervisors in Districts 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10. From May 15 through June 9, the Department will conduct the nomination period for these offices, during which individuals seeking to appear on the ballot may obtain and must file nomination documents.

II. The Department has entered the primary operational phase of the June 2 election cycle.

- A. The Department completed the hiring of nearly 300 seasonal staff to support year-round personnel in carrying out various election-related tasks.
- B. Last month, the Department transmitted ballots to approximately 10,000 San Francisco voters serving in the military or residing overseas, using each voter's selected delivery method (email, mail, or fax).
- C. This month, the Department delivered over 500,000 vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot packets to the United States Postal Service for distribution to local voters, including non-citizens registered to vote in the Board of Education contest.
- D. The Department also delivered nearly 500 VBM ballot packets and Voter Information Pamphlets to Prisoner Legal Services for distribution to registered voters in San Francisco county jails. During the voting period, all ballots cast by voters in local jails are collected regularly and securely transported to the Department for processing.
- E. To date, the Department has received and begun processing approximately 23,222 returned VBM ballots. Processing includes scanning ballot envelopes, verifying voter signatures, opening accepted envelopes, extracting ballots, and scanning ballot cards in preparation for tabulation on Election Night.
 - i. All ballot processing takes place in publicly accessible areas and is available for observation both in person and via livestream at sfelections.gov/observe.

- ii. Throughout this process, Department personnel follow established procedures that ensure the integrity of the election and maintain the secrecy of each ballot.
 - iii. To further support transparency, the Department publishes daily ballot processing statistics—such as the number of ballots issued, returned, accepted, challenged, or requiring voter action—through its Election Data tool at sfelections.gov/edata.
- F. On May 4, at the start of the early voting period, the Department launched its Accessible Vote-by-Mail Portal through which any local voter, including those who use assistive technology, can access, download, and mark their ballot.
- G. The Department also opened the City Hall Voting Center on May 4. The Voting Center is open on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (excluding the May 25 holiday), from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the two weekends before Election , and from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. The Voting Center serves all City residents, including eligible non-citizens, by providing in-person voting, accessible equipment, ballot drop-off and replacement services, and language assistance.
- H. The Department opened 37 accessible, outdoor ballot drop boxes across neighborhoods citywide. These drop boxes are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will remain open until 8 p.m. on Election Day, providing voters with a secure and convenient option for returning their ballots.
- I. To provide timely support to voters, the Department expanded its public phone bank to a 15-member team dedicated to handling calls and email correspondence through Election Day. Assistance is available during regular business hours, as well as during the last two weekends before Election Day, with support offered in multiple languages.
- J. The Department has completed recruitment of poll workers needed to staff all 501 polling places, ensuring each site is supported by one Inspector and at least three Clerks, with additional poll workers available to cover anticipated cancellations. Approximately 1,400 of the recruited poll workers are bilingual, supporting the Department's ability to provide language assistance across the City.
- K. The Department is nearing completion of poll worker training. To maximize accessibility and participation, the Department offered a combination of in-person training sessions, online classes, and hands-on voting equipment practice labs, ensuring poll workers are well prepared to carry out their responsibilities on Election Day.
- L. The Department has secured 501 facilities to serve as polling places on Election Day, and is now working on assembling site-specific supplies, signage, and voting equipment, as well as coordinating delivery schedules with polling place hosts.
- M. The Department has posted the election results reporting schedule at sfelections.gov/results.
- i. The Department will issue its first preliminary results report at approximately 8:45 p.m. on Election Night. This initial report will include vote-by-mail ballots received and processed prior to Election Day. Following this release, the Department will publish three additional preliminary reports, each incorporating results from polling places, until vote totals from all 501 polling places have been received and uploaded.
 - ii. On Wednesday, June 3, the Department will issue the number of ballots remaining to be counted. These include VBM ballots returned on or after Election Day as well as provisional ballots cast on Election Day.

- iii. Beginning Thursday, June 4, and continuing through Friday, June 12, the Department will release updated preliminary results reports at approximately 4 p.m. each day, except Sunday, June 7.
 - iv. After June 12, the Department will continue to release results updates as ballots are counted and will post notice of any revised reporting schedule on its website.
 - v. Under state law, the earliest date the Department may certify the election results is Thursday, June 25
- N. On June 3, the Department will commence the Official Canvass. As part of this legally mandated process, the Department will conduct a manual tally of 1% of ballots cast in the June 2 Election. This tally serves to verify voting equipment has accurately tabulated ballots and reported results.
- i. On Tuesday, June 16, at 9 a.m., the Department will randomly select 1% of the ballots cast in the June 2 Election for the manual tally and will begin tallying those ballots the following day, June 17. The process is open to public observation, both in person and via livestream at sfelections.gov/observe.

III. 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 3 ballot. The Department is currently processing nine statewide initiative petitions, with random sample results due to the Secretary of State throughout June, on June 10, 11, 17, 18, and 24. At present, 15 statewide petitions are in circulation, with filing deadlines in the coming months, including one in May, one in June, four in July, six in August, and three in October. At the local level, more than 10 petitions are in circulation, all with a filing deadline of July 6.
- B. The Department has achieved compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1, meeting federal accessibility standards ahead of the original April 24, 2026, deadline. Beginning in January 2026, the Department conducted a review of its digital content, including webpages, forms, and PDFs, to identify and remove accessibility barriers. The Department also prioritized accessibility improvements to key voter tools, including the Voter Portal. Subsequent to the Department's compliance efforts, the federal deadline for digital accessibility requirements was extended to April 2027. As a result, the Department is well positioned, having already met these standards in advance, and will continue to maintain and enhance accessibility across its digital platforms.
- 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.

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

- A. The Department delivered Voter Information Pamphlets (VIPs) to all local voters via their selected delivery method (email or mail). The VIP is also available in other formats, including PDF, HTML, XML, audio and large print.
 - i. The Department also mailed a Voter Information Booklet to every registered non-citizen voter.

- B. This month, the Department convened its quarterly Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) meeting. The LAAC serves as a forum for community-based organizations and stakeholders to provide input and guidance on the Department's language access services and outreach efforts..
 - i. The meeting included a review of updates related to the June 2 Election, including vote-by-mail voting and in-person voting opportunities. Additional topics included an overview of the Department's efforts to ensure voting is free from intimidation and interference, the availability of bilingual official ballots and reference ballots, and in-person language assistance. The Committee also received updates on non-citizen registration and voting and reviewed opportunities for public observation of election processes.
- C. 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. Outreach staff partnered with community organizations and government agencies, including Chinese for Affirmative Action, Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs, Latino Task Force, the San Francisco Environment Department, City College of San Francisco, the San Francisco Public Library, and other community partners to provide voter registration and share information about the June 2 Election.
 - ii. Outreach staff also hosted resource tables at community events, including The EcoCenter's 16th Anniversary Celebration and the 2026 Yerba Buena Gardens Earth Day Festival. At these events, staff distributed outreach materials and encouraged voters to go green by opting out of receiving a paper Voter Pamphlet.
- D. The Department continues to engage with its outreach partners through the monthly Outreach Community Newsletter.
 - i. Beginning with the April edition, the Department introduced a language selection feature for the newsletter, allowing readers to view content in their preferred language and further supporting language access efforts.
 - ii. The April edition highlighted key election updates, including the distribution of vote-by-mail ballots and reminders to help voters successfully complete and return their ballots. The newsletter also provided information on in-person voting options and emphasized the Department's commitment to transparency by promoting opportunities for public observation of election processes. The April newsletter is available at: <https://www.sf.gov/outreach-community-newsletter-april-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 April 1 and April 30, the Department processed a total of 2,733 affidavits of new registrants. The new registrants reside in the following Supervisorial Districts (SD): SD 1 – 207, SD 2 – 282, SD 3 – 319, SD 4 – 154, SD 5 – 356, SD 6 – 415, SD 7 – 192, SD 8 – 234, SD 9 – 218, SD 10 – 189, and SD 11 – 167.
- B. Between April 1 and April 30, the Department conducted 34 outreach events, reaching an estimated 8,085 attendees. These events were distributed across Supervisorial Districts (SD) as follows: SD 1 – 1, SD 3 – 2, SD 4 – 1, SD 5 – 7, SD 6 – 8, and SD 8 – 1, SD 9 – 11, SD 10 – 1, SD 11 – 2.