



Memorandum

To: Elections Commission
From: John Arntz, Director
Date: October 10, 2025
RE: Director's Report: October 15, 2025, Elections Commission Meeting

Following is a brief listing 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 September 17, 2025.

I. The Department concluded the Official Canvass and certified the September 16, 2025, Election.

- A. On September 25, 2025, the Department certified the results for the September 16, 2025, Special Recall Election in Supervisorial District 4. Voter turnout was nearly 43%, with 21,542 of the district's 50,273 registered voters participating in the election.
- B. Following certification, the Department submitted the required documentation to the Board of Supervisors, posted the Statement of the Vote and other detailed reports on its website, and issued notifications through its social media channels.
- C. To safeguard the integrity of election records, the Department applied a SHA-512 cryptographic function to the September 16 election results reports and documents, ensuring they remain authentic and unchanged over time.
- D. The Department undertook numerous tasks to ensure the September 16 election was conducted in a free, fair, and functional manner, including: 1) processing new voter registrations and record updates, 2) administering vote-by-mail services for eligible voters, 3) offering in-person voting for one month before Election Day and at 20 polling places on Election Day, 4) recruiting, training, and placing poll workers to assist in-person voters, 5) organizing the secure retrieval of vote data and ballots on Election Night, and 6) conducting the post-election official canvass.
- E. Enclosed with this report are election documents responsive to the Commission's request for post-election review. The following reports are included: Vote-By-Mail Report (Attachment 1), Provisional Ballot Report (Attachment 2), Conditional Voter Registration Report (Attachment 3), Election Day Incident Report (Attachment 4).

II. The Department has entered the primary operational phase of the November 4, 2025, Election.

- A. The Department has mailed more than 500,000 vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot packets to local voters, including military and overseas voters.
 - 1. Due to a one-card ballot and a smaller-than-usual Voter Information Pamphlet (VIP), the Department consolidated all materials into a single mailing. Each vote-by-mail packet includes a ballot, a ballot return envelope, voting instructions, and the Voter Information Pamphlet.
 - 2. From now until October 20, the Department will continue mailing ballot packets on a rolling basis to newly registered voters. Replacement ballots will be mailed through October 30. After that date, when it is too late

to send ballots by mail, voters will be directed to obtain ballots in person at the City Hall Voting Center, through the online accessible vote-by-mail system, or at a polling place on Election Day.

- B. The Department has delivered over 600 vote-by-mail ballot packets to the Sheriff's Office Prisoner Legal Services unit for distribution to registered voters incarcerated in San Francisco County jails. Throughout the voting period, all ballots cast by these voters will be collected regularly and securely transported to the Department for processing.
- C. Since October 6, the Department has been facilitating early voting.
 - 1. The Department has opened its Voting Center in City Hall, with voting hours on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., the weekend of November 1–2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Election Day, November 4, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 - 2. To facilitate ballot returns, the Department has opened 37 ballot drop boxes throughout the City. Each drop box is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until the polls close on Election Night.
 - 3. The Department has also launched its Accessible Vote-by-Mail (AVBM) system at sfelections.gov/access, enabling voters to download and mark their ballots using a screen reader or personal assistive technology, such as a head pointer or sip-and-puff device. For security reasons, the AVBM system does not transmit vote data over the internet.
- D. The Department has secured 100 sites to facilitate in-person voting and ballot drop-off on Election Day. Each voter's assigned polling place is listed in the voting instructions included with their vote-by-mail packet and can also be found online through the Voter Portal and the Voting Site Wait Times Lookup Tool on the Department's website.
- E. The Department has been preparing Election Day supplies and signage for delivery to each polling place and is coordinating with polling place hosts to schedule specific delivery dates and times, ensuring all locations receive their materials in advance of Election Day.
- F. The Department continues to recruit poll workers to staff polling places and to ensure all staffing needs are met, including required multilingual language capacity.
- G. Online training for poll workers began on October 3, and in-person training classes are being offered on Fridays and select weekends throughout October.
 - 1. The Department has expanded poll worker training and resources to help identify and address intimidating conduct and ensure consistent responses to voter intimidation. Updates include an expanded Poll Worker Manual section on Voter Intimidation and Prohibited Activities, revised training modules on recognizing and responding to incidents, and a one-page Quick-Reference Checklist for Election Day.
- H. The Department began Logic and Accuracy testing of voting equipment on September 29 and will continue until all devices used in the election have been tested. Testing is being conducted at the Department's warehouse at Pier 31 and at its office in City Hall, Room 48. These procedures ensure that all equipment accurately records and tabulates votes. Members of the public can observe the testing in person or via livestream at sfelections.gov/observe.

III. The Department continues outreach for the November 4, 2025, Election, promoting voter registration and election services.

- A. The Department updated its digital tools, including the Voter Portal and the Voting Site Wait Times Lookup Tool, and created a dedicated webpage (<https://www.sf.gov/november-4-2025-statewide-special-election>) to provide voters with information and resources for the November 4 election.
- B. The Department's outreach team continues to engage vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities, including individuals with disabilities, language-diverse populations, justice-involved residents, people experiencing housing insecurity, and youth.
 - 1. In September, staff partnered with several local government agencies and community-based organizations, including the Glide Foundation, the OCEIA San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative, the UCSF Student Center, and the Latino Task Force, to provide registration assistance and share information on the upcoming election, accessible resources, and youth civic engagement opportunities. Staff also hosted resource tables at the Fiesta de las Americas and Sunday Streets Western Addition Street Festivals, sharing information on language and accessible services, registration eligibility requirements, and poll worker service opportunities with interested residents.
- C. The Department concluded its Fall 2025 High School Elections Ambassador Program, with more than 50 students from 16 public and private schools participating and pre-registering over 125 future San Francisco voters.
- D. The Department continues to engage with community partners through its monthly *Outreach Community Newsletter*.
 - 1. The September 2025 edition provides key updates on the upcoming November 4 Statewide Special Election, including where voters can find reliable and trusted election information. The newsletter also highlights the Department's youth civic engagement initiatives and provides an update on recent outreach events, showcasing efforts to connect with communities across the City. This edition also features a Partner Spotlight on the Latino Task Force. The September newsletter is available at <https://www.sf.gov/outreach-community-newsletter-september-2025>.

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

- A. The Department submitted its FY 2024-25 Language Access Ordinance (LAO) Compliance Report to the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA). OCEIA will compile reports from all City departments and prepare a citywide evaluation for the Board of Supervisors and the Immigrant Rights Commission.
 - 1. In FY 2024–25, the Department met its language access goals through several initiatives:
 - a. Produced and distributed more than 300,000 quadrilingual election mailers, expanded outreach through digital tools and media campaigns, and provided multilingual election information through various outreach channels.
 - b. Administered registration and voting in the Board of Education contest with clear educational materials and partnered with community organizations to provide outreach on eligibility requirements.

- c. Began preparations to provide election materials and services in Vietnamese in anticipation of its addition as San Francisco's official language in 2026, including the development of a comprehensive implementation plan and the issuance of voter notifications.
- ii. For FY 2025-2026, the Department established the following language access goals:
 - a. Incorporate Vietnamese into election services and programs, including hiring bilingual staff and producing translated materials.
 - b. Enhance the accessibility and clarity of election materials prior to the June 2026 Primary Election, ensuring they are multilingual, inclusive, and easy to understand.
 - c. Upgrade the Department's website to meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines WC standards by April 2026, enhance the Voter Portal, and expand multimedia resources translated into all covered languages.
- B. 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. 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 September 1 and September 30, the Department processed a total of 2,599 affidavits of new registrants. The new registrants reside in the following Supervisorial Districts (SD): SD 1 – 199, SD 2 – 256, SD 3 – 253, SD 4 – 217, SD 5 – 265, SD 6 – 353, SD 7 – 187, SD 8 – 260, SD 9 – 220, SD 10 – 239, and SD 11 – 150.
- B. Between September 1 and September 30, the Department conducted 21 outreach events, reaching an estimated 9,346 attendees. These events were distributed across Supervisorial Districts (SD) as follows: SD 3 – 2, SD 5 – 6, SD 6 – 1, SD 7 – 4, SD 8 – 1, and SD 9 – 7.