

Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 2:47 PM

To: Parker, Michelle (REG) <michelle.d.parker@sfgov.org>

Subject: Public Comment on Item 5 – Preserving Director Authority and Commission Oversight

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Hello,

I submit this public comment regarding Item 5 on the February 18th meeting agenda, and I respectfully request that it be read aloud during the meeting.

I strongly oppose the department's request to modify the classification of the Deputy Director position. This proposed change would undermine the ability of any future Director of Elections to lead the department effectively and would limit the Commission's ability to fully support that Director.

A Director must have the authority to build and rely on a leadership team that aligns with their management philosophy, operational priorities, and long-term vision. The ability to appoint a Deputy Director is fundamental to executive leadership and accountability. Restricting this authority weakens the Director's capacity to implement policy, manage performance, and respond decisively to the operational demands of election administration.

Importantly, this change also limits the Commission's ability to support a future Director. The Commission's oversight role depends on empowering the Director to lead, make staffing decisions, and be fully accountable for departmental performance. By restricting the Director's authority over senior leadership, the Commission would be placed in a position where it expects results without providing the tools necessary to achieve them. This weakens both governance and accountability.

For these reasons, I urge the Commission to reject this request and preserve a leadership structure that allows future Directors and the Commission itself to function effectively.

Thank you for your consideration.

D4 Voter