

# REG Biannual Surveillance Report 2026

Fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are required.

## General Description ▾



**1. Please (a) describe the technology or technologies and (b) make a clear notation of which policy each technology corresponds to.**

The Department of Elections uses network-connected video cameras that transmit live video to a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) streaming platform. The system is used to provide publicly accessible live streams of observable election activities through [sfelections.gov/live](https://sfelections.gov/live), allowing members of the public to remotely observe election processes.

The Department currently has one approved Surveillance Technology Policy, and all networked cameras and associated cloud-based streaming technology used for this purpose operate under that policy. Accordingly, the networked cameras and SaaS streaming service both correspond to the Department of Elections' approved Surveillance Technology Policy.

**2. How was the surveillance technology or technologies used by your department during the reporting period? Provide a 3-4 sentence description for each technology listed.**

During the reporting period, the Department of Elections used its networked cameras and SaaS-based streaming service to provide live public access to observable election activities. The Department maintains [sfelections.gov/live](https://sfelections.gov/live), which lists observation schedules and provides access to available camera views. The cameras are activated only when a scheduled observable election activity is taking place. When no observable activity is scheduled, the cameras are turned off and no live stream is provided.

## Surveillance Technology Goals ▾



**3. Has the surveillance technology been effective at achieving its identified purpose?**

Yes

**4. In 4-10 sentences, please explain how the technology has or has not been effective.**

The technology used at [sfelections.gov/live](https://sfelections.gov/live) has been effective in increasing transparency and public access to the election process. By providing live video streams of observable election activities, members of the public can see election procedures as they occur without needing to be physically present. This expands access for individuals who may be unable to travel to an observation location because of distance, scheduling, or other limitations. The live streams also help demonstrate that election procedures are conducted openly and consistently, supporting public confidence in the process. Providing remote observation complements in-person observation while allowing the Department to reach a much larger audience. Overall, the technology has been an effective tool for improving accessibility, transparency, and trust in election administration.

**4.a. Provide quantitative data to support your response. This should include crime statistics for the radius where the technology operates if that was a motivating factor in acquiring the surveillance technology.**

Internal usage statistics demonstrate significant public engagement with the Department's live-streaming technology at [sfelections.gov/live](https://sfelections.gov/live). During the June 2026 election, the site received nearly 4,000 public views on Election Day alone. Throughout the broader election cycle, the live streams also received hundreds of public views per day, showing sustained use beyond Election Day. These figures indicate that the technology is providing meaningful public access to observable election activities and allowing substantially more people to observe election processes than could reasonably attend in person.

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## Complaints, Concerns and/or Accidental Receipt of Face Recognition Technology ▾



**5. How many complaints or concerns has your department received from the public about the surveillance technology?**

The Department of Election has not received any complaints about the surveillance technology from the public.

**6. Please summarize the complaints or concerns which your department received about the surveillance technology.**

The Department of Election has not received any complaints about the surveillance technology from the public.

**7. How many complaints or concerns has your department received from the public about the receipt of information from face recognition technology?**

The Department of Elections does not use any face recognition technology.

**8. Please summarize the complaints or concerns which your department received about the receipt of information from face recognition technology.**

The Department of Elections does not use any face recognition technology.

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## Violations ▾



**9. Were there any violations of the Surveillance Technology Policy or Surveillance Impact Report, reported through community members, non-privileged internal audits, or through other means in the last year?**

No

## Requested Modifications ▾



**10. Is your department requesting to modify the Surveillance Technology Policy or Policies covered in this report?**

Yes

**10.a. List a detailed request of the modification(s), clearly explaining (a) what the request is and (b) why your department is requesting to make this change.**

The Department of Elections is requesting a modification to the terminology used in its current Surveillance Technology Policy. The existing policy references specific vendors and products, such as Google Nest, that are no longer viable or appropriate for the Department's current live-streaming needs. The Department proposes replacing vendor-specific references with technology-neutral descriptions, such as **\*\*network-connected cameras\*\*** and **\*\*cloud-based or SaaS streaming services\*\***.

This change would allow the policy to accurately reflect the type and purpose of the technology being used without tying the Department to a particular manufacturer, product, or service provider. The requested modification would also make the policy more durable over time by allowing the Department to replace or upgrade equipment and streaming services as technology changes, while continuing to operate within the same approved use, purpose, and privacy requirements. Any replacement vendors or technologies would remain subject to the City's applicable **\*\*Committee on Information Technology (COIT)/Cybersecurity Risk Assessment (CRA) and Chief Information Officer (CIO) review and approval processes\*\***, ensuring that the Department only uses technologies and vendors that have completed the required City review.