

**County of Alameda County  
Elections Commission  
Minutes**

Location: Via Zoom/In person  
Alameda County Training & Education Center  
125 – 12th Street, 4th Floor  
Suite 400 Hayward/Union City Rooms  
Oakland, CA 94612

Date: February 15, 2024

Time: 4:00PM – 6:00PM

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## **Minutes**

### **A. Call To Order / Roll Call at 4pm**

The monthly elections Commission meeting of February 15, 2024 convened at 4:00 p.m. in the Hayward/Union City Rooms. The clerk, Noe Lucio, ROV, called to order the meeting.

#### **Present**

*Commission Members:* Zabrae Valentine, James R. Lindsay, Stephanie F. Singer, Irene Dieter, Karen A. Butter, Alexander H. Ramon, Avni Desai, Susan R. Henderson; *Registrar of Voters:* Tim Dupuis, Cynthia Cornejo, Lolita Francisco, Noe Lucio; *County Counsel:* Ray Lara.

#### **Not Present**

*City Clerk:* Anna Brown

### **B. Swearing In of New Commissioner**

Commissioner Dieter was sworn in in public.

### **C. Approval of Minutes of January 18, 2024**

A motion was made to accept the meeting minutes by Stephanie Singer, seconded by Irene Dieter, approved unanimously.

#### **D. Announcements**

- (a) Announcements from staff: there were no announcements
- (b) Announcements from commissioners

Commissioner Valentine announced that she plans to review the arrangements the Registrar of Voters has constructed for the March 5, 2024 election process observers. Commissioners Ramon and Singer expressed interest in joining Ms. Valentine.

Commissioner Lindsay checked with staff regarding the workings of the sound system. As it only seems to affect one person, that person may move to the other side of the room.

Mr. Lindsay noted that the agenda is now published on both the Alameda County Supervisors' and the Registrar of Voters' websites.

Mr. Lindsay announced a new email address that will reach all the commissioners and the staff supporting the commission: [EOC@acgov.org](mailto:EOC@acgov.org)

#### **E. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Public comment was allowed for all agenda items.

#### **F. Presentations and Reports**

- (a) Report from Registrar of Voters Office

Registrar Dupuis listed current voter issues seen by the office as well as known elections and potential upcoming elections.

- (b) Presentation of the Alameda County Election Administration Plan

Mr. Dupuis noted that Alameda became a Voter's Choice Act County in 2022. Alameda County followed the Voters Choice Act statutes, and the Secretary of State approved the process and both resulting versions of the Election Administration Plan. The second version is in place and will be reviewed again four years hence. The plan is posted on both Alameda County's and the Secretary of State's websites.

- (c) Questions and answers about the Brown Act

Mr. Lindsay confirmed that any one commissioner may speak with a member of the public or press, but he will need to confirm with the caller that he can't comment on hearsay regarding the subject opinions of any other commissioner. Mr. Lara said that doing so violates the Brown Act.

#### **G. Action Items**

- (a) Report from sub-committee on nominations and consideration of nominating Benita Tsao, Judy Belcher, and Lila Hensler as at-large commission members from impacted groups.  
A motion was made that the commission nominate Benita Tsao and Judy Belcher for the Elections Commission by Mr. Ramon and seconded by Ms. Dieter, approved unanimously.
- (b) Consideration of recommending to the Board of Supervisors that the ROV be made a full-time position.

A motion was made to form a subcommittee to research the nature of the position by Ms. Valentine and seconded by Ms. Singer, approved unanimously.

A motion was made that Commissioners Valentine and Singer form the sub-committee by Ms. Singer and seconded by Mr. Ramon, approved unanimously.

- (c) Discussion and possible action on Election Department appropriate responsiveness to questions and comments from commissioners, government staff, the press, and the public.

A motion was made to postpone Item G(c) to as soon as possible, preferably to the April meeting by Ms. Dieter and seconded by Ms. Singer, approved unanimously.

Ms. Valentine requested the registrar compile a list of the categories of inquiries received, and the scope of the conditions the ROV experiences, Ms. Singer asked that the registrar include the number of inquiries received by category, Ms. Dieter asked that the registrar add to the descriptions the legal constraints or time limits imposed for each category.

#### **H. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

Public comment was allowed for non-agenda items.

#### **I. Requests for Future Agenda Items**

Ms. Butter would like to discuss voter engagement and how the registrar can make that stronger, legal compliance regarding ranked choice voting and public records, the processes of voter role maintenance, and a response to the document, "A Troubling Anomaly in the 2022 Election" by Hunter Cobb and John Guerrero.

#### **J. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.