

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

Date: November 21, 2024

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call To Order / Roll Call

The monthly Elections Commission meeting of November 21, 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: Judy Belcher, Karen A. Butter, Irene Dieter, Susan R. Henderson, James R. Lindsay, Alissa Moore, Alexander H. Ramon, Karl I. Seabrook, Benita Tsao, Zabrae Valentine, Allie Whitehurst; *Registrar of Voters:* Tim Dupuis, Noe Lucio; *County Counsel:* Jason Allen.

Absent

Commission Members: all commissioners were present. *Registrar of Voters:* Cynthia Cornejo.

2. Swearing in of New Commissioners – Karl I. Seabrook

Karl I. Seabrook was sworn-in in public.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Adjustments were made to the agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes October 17, 2024

The minutes will be submitted for approval at the next meeting.

5. Announcements and Communications

(a) From staff

There were no announcements from staff.

(b) From commissioners

Commissioner Butter reported she visited the Registrar of Voters to observe ballot processing.

Commission Belcher noted she referenced the wrong election at the October meeting, the correct election is that of November 8, 2022, and that The Elections Commission received information from a member of the public regarding the County of San Francisco's ranked choice voting rankings.

6. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Public comments were made for all agenda items.

7. Monthly Report from Registrar of Voters Office

- **Registrar Dupuis provided a status update on the number of ballots issued, received, counted, and to be cured for the November 5, 2024, General Election.**
- **The 1% Manual Tally has been completed.**
- **The registrar chose to perform a 100% Manual Tally for the City of Newark contest in which two potential winners are only four votes apart.**
- **Commissioner Tsao requested disaggregated voter turnout by different groups, as part of evaluating targeted outreach efforts.**

8. Old and New Business

(a) Items carried over from previous meetings

(1) Black Male Voting Numbers

- **Commissioner Moore raised the issue of the disproportionate number of Black males voting. She asked the commission to enforce Proposition 17 by making recommendations regarding political education to the Board of Supervisors and the Registrar of Voters.**
- **A motion was made to set-up an ad hoc committee on the issue of low voter turnout composed of Ms. Moore, Ms. Whitehurst and Mr. Lindsay by Ms. Dieter, seconded by Ms. Moore, and passed unanimously.**

(b) Ongoing Items from Sub-committees

(1) Cast Vote Record Releases

- **Ms. Butter reviewed the commission's activities promoting the release of the cast vote records.**
- **There were discussions regarding policies on releasing small precinct detail reports.**
- **There were discussions regarding the differences of Charter County Policy and Secretary of State policies.**

(2) Elections Commission October Report to the Board of Supervisors
Mr. Lindsay noted that the Board of Supervisors hasn't agendized the commission report.

(3) Structure of the ROV position
The subcommittee will report in January.

(4) Commission Rules, Procedures and Best Practices Committee

- **Commissioner Dieter summarized the process taken to create the Rules, Procedures and Best Practices Committee, and stated that changes can be made to this living document.**
- **The commission specifically discussed the dissemination of public email communications, that correspondents shouldn't have any expectation of privacy.**
- **A motion to was made that the commission adopt (C) that EOC@acgov.org will go to all commissioners, the commission clerk, the registrar of voters and the deputy registrar of voters by Mr. Ramon, seconded by Ms. Whitehurst and passed six ayes, three noes and two abstentions.**
- **A motion was made to adopt the rules, procedures with Ms. Tsao and Ms. Henderson to make non-substantive edits by Ms. Dieter, seconded by Ms. Valentine, and passed unanimously.**

(5) Dedicated Staff Support to the Elections Commission
The committee will report at the January meeting.

(6) Nominations Committee
The committee will report at the January meeting.

(c) Special Report from the ROV -- no special reports until January 2025

8 -- Old and New Business (continued)

(d) New Business

- (1) Plan to Analyze and Report to the BOS re. the 2024 election administration
 - (a) What do we want included in the analysis?
 - (i) It should apply to all races in 2024, not just November 2024
 - (ii) It should include what the department did well and where it needs to improve.
 - (iii) ROV department staff should be consulted for the report
 - (b) Discuss some of the Controversies and Criticisms of the Nov 2024 Election Administration and hear from the Alameda County election administrators on their points of view on these items.
 - (i) Voter Information Guides did not arrive or arrived late for lots of people
 - (ii) CVRs controversy (already discussed above)
 - (iii) Alleged slow count (getting results earlier)
 - (iv) Continued concerns about election administration observation

A motion to schedule a special meeting on December 19th for the sole purpose of beginning the post-election assessment by commissioners was made by Ms. Butter, seconded by Ms. Valentine, and passed unanimously.

- (2) Oakland RCV Overvote Anomaly

This item was postponed to the January meeting.

9. Public Comment on Agenda or Non-Agenda Items

Public Comments were made for non-agenda items.

10. Requests for Future Agenda Items

The issue of AB-626, Elections Code 30165 will be placed on the January 2025 agenda. Ms. Belcher requested the issue of public email communications be revisited.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be January 16, 2025.