

Location: Via Zoom/In person
San Lorenzo Library Greenhouse Community Room
395 Paseo Grande
San Lorenzo, CA 94580

Date: January 16, 2025
Time: 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call To Order / Roll Call

The Elections Commission meeting of January 16, 2025, convened at 4:09 p.m. in the San Lorenzo Library Greenhouse Community Room. The president, James R. Lindsay, called to order the meeting.

Present

Commission Members: Judy Belcher, Karen A. Butter, Irene Dieter, Susan R. Henderson, James R. Lindsay, Alissa Moore, Karl I. Seabrook, Benita Tsao, and Allie Whitehurst; *ROV:* Cynthia Cornejo, Noe Lucio, and Charles Smithline; *County Counsel:* Jason Allen.

Absent

Commission Members: Alexander Ramon and Zabrae Valentine.
Registrar of Voters: Tim Dupuis.

2. Swearing-In of New Commissioners

There were no new commissioners to swear-in.

3. Approval of Agenda & Election of Officers

(a) Modifications to the agenda can be made here.

Modifications to the agenda were made.

(b) Election of President and Vice-President for 2025

After discussion, a motion to elect Jim Lindsay as president and Irene Dieter as vice president for the 2025 term was made by Commissioner Belcher, seconded by Commissioner Seabrook, and passed 7 to 0.

4. Approval of Minutes of October, November, and December 2024

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Belcher, seconded by Commissioner Butter, and passed 8 to 0.

5. Announcements and Communications

(a) From staff

As a response to an inquiry by Ms. Belcher, Deputy Registrar Cornejo said that the San Lorenzo Library space was not reserved for the year, and that she will continue to

search for location that has the necessary technology and space for the monthly meetings.

(b) From commissioners

Ms. Belcher requested feedback from the commissioners for inclusion in the post-election assessment report.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Public comments were made on agenda items.

5. Monthly Update from the Registrar of Voters office

Ms. Cornejo highlighted a few items and statistics from the staff report and explained the registrar's reasons for utilizing the entire certification period.

6. Old and New Business

(a) Items carried over from a previous meeting.

No items were carried over.

(b) Ongoing Items from Ad Hoc Committees

(1) Cast Vote Record Releases

The committee is not ready to dissolve the committee as they are considering what is within its purview and what is coming up in state legislation.

(2) Commission Rules, Procedures and Best Practices

Commissioner Henderson stated the rules are finalized and ready to be published on the commission's webpage, so the committee has completed its work. A motion to dissolve the Committee was made by Ms. Henderson, seconded by Ms. Belcher and passed 9 to 0.

(3) Structure of the ROV position

Commissioner Valentine promised a report for the February meeting.

(4) Dedicated Staff Support to the Elections Commission

The subcommittee drafted a letter to the Board of Supervisors asking for a management analyst position to be funded within the registrar of voters' budget. As a response to Ms. Tsao's inquiry, Ms. Cornejo said the registrar's office generally does not ask for more positions but sticks within the parameters of their budget provided by the county. Discussion ensued.

The commission will take up this item at the next meeting under items carried over.

(5) ACEC Assessment of the Nov 2024 Election

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

(6) Ad hoc Committee on Voting Participation

Commissioner Moore reported to the commission on the disparity in the amount of Black male voters in the City of Oakland, the committee found that this issue warrants further review through community-based organizations. Several organizations have been contacted, and they are researching the problem and how it may be addressed.

(7) Nominations Committee

A motion was made to recommend to the board, David Wagner, for the expertise in elections and election technology was made by Ms. Tsao, seconded by Ms. Dieter and passed 8 to 0.

7. Special Report from the Registrar of Voters

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

8. New Business

(1) Oakland Special Elections -- Recommendation on RCV voter instructions and number of rankings.

- **Suggestions were made for the ROV to work with Drake Rambke from FairVote to use the same wording and graphics as San Francisco**
- **Ms. Belcher and Mr. Lindsay suggested the commission to encourage and facilitate the registrar of voters to use 10 rankings for all future RCV elections. County counsel advised that it was outside the scope of the commission and the registrar's office, saying the registrar does not tell or encourage a city to choose a certain number of rankings or how to interpret its own city charter. Discussion ensued.**
- **A motion was made to advise the ROV office to encourage that 10 rankings be used in Oakland RCV elections by Ms. Belcher, seconded by Commissioner Whitehurst and passed 5 to 3 with one abstention.**

(2) Approval of Drake Rambke, FairVote

- **The organization Fair Vote has offered to fund and conduct research on why Alameda County ranked choice voting cities have significant over votes. Ms. Cornejo said the registrar of voters is interested in making sure that voters understand how to exercise their right to vote and welcome feedback for improvements. Drake Rambke is a former Colorado Election Administrator. Commissioners discussed specifically what the research would involve, how soon his report would be delivered, and whether he's conducted this research on other elections.**
- **A motion was made that the Alameda County Elections Commission strongly recommends to the ROV's office to work with Drake Rambke to implement changes regarding the Alameda County overvoting anomaly by Mr. Lindsay, seconded by Ms. Belcher and went to discussion.**
- **The motion passed 9 to 0.**

9. Asking for major progress on the Request List

This item was referred to a future meeting.

10. Public Comment on Agenda or Non-agenda Items

Public comments were made on the agenda and non-agenda items.

11. Requests for Future Agenda Items.

There were no requests for future agenda items.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

The next meeting will be held February 20, 2025.