

Department of Elections

Strategic Plan Highlights



MISSION

The Department of Elections conducts all public federal, state, district, and municipal elections in the City and County in a manner that is free, fair, and functional. The Department is responsible for conducting elections under the rules and regulations established by federal, state, and local laws – notably, the Voting Rights Act, the Help America Vote Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the City’s Language Access Ordinance; maintaining an open process that inspires public confidence in the election system; providing and improving upon a public outreach and education plan to engage eligible potential voters in San Francisco; and continuing to improve its services by streamlining processes and anticipating the future needs of San Francisco voters.

GOALS AND INITIATIVES

1. Ensure equal access to information for all residents

Provide equal access to programs and materials for all voters and potential registrants, and continue to expand awareness of translated materials and services

2. Expand programs serving new registrants

Provide timely services and outreach to new registrants resulting from an implementation of the Motor Voter Act (AB 1461), which provides for automatic voter registration through the Department of Motor Vehicles

3. Administer conditional voter registration

Implement processes to facilitate Conditional Voter Registration (AB 1436), which allows people to register and to vote after the close of the regular registration period 15 days before Election Day

4. Replace the City’s voting system

Facilitate the replacement of the current voting system by leasing a newer system while the City considers the feasibility of developing an open source voting system

5. Implement an accessible vote-by-mail system

Implement a remote accessible vote-by-mail system (AB 2252), which allows voters with disabilities and those serving in the military or living abroad to receive and mark a ballot electronically and then print and return the voted ballot

6. Administer non-citizen voting

Implement procedural and operational aspects of administering voting in School Board elections for certain non-citizens (Proposition N) in time for the next scheduled School Board election in November 2018

7. Expand digital services and tools

Continue to enhance online services and the website’s usability aimed at improving customers’ experience and meeting the growing demand for digital information

8. Cultivate community partnerships

Strengthen connections with community partners through bolstering their participation in the Department’s advisory committees and Voter Information Network to improve information and service delivery to San Francisco voters

9. Consider implementation of the Voter’s Choice Act

Prepare and provide information to facilitate the City’s decision whether to adopt the provisions of the California Voter’s Choice Act and to conduct elections under a new election model beginning in 2020