

Alameda County Elections Commission

Meeting Agenda

June 18, 2026

4:00 p.m.

1225 Fallon Street, Room G-1

Oakland CA 94612

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88558477599>

Teleconference Location: City Hall, 34009 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City, CA 94587. Pursuant to Government Code section 54953(b), this notice and agenda will be posted, and members of the public may attend and provide public comment at the teleconference location.

Pursuant to California Government Code section 54957.5, any public records related to a matter subject to discussion at this meeting that are distributed to a majority of the Elections Commission's members less than 72 hours before the meeting will be made available for public inspection through the meeting at the Registrar of Voters' Office, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, California 94612, Room G-1.

1 Call to Order / Roll Call

2 Agenda Changes

3 Approval of Meeting Minutes

Attachment - pp. 3-5

4 Announcements and Communications on Issues Not on the Agenda

No discussion on these items.

- a. From staff
- b. From commissioners

5 Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Speaking times are 3 minutes per person. If your comments are complex or if you did not have enough time, we always appreciate it if you send your input to the Elections Commission at Elections.Commission@alamedacountyca.gov.

6 Monthly Update from Registrar of Voters (ROV) Office

7 Ongoing Agenda Items

7-A Ad Hoc Committee Reports - Temporary and task-specific committees were formed to address particular issues. The point person for each committee has an asterisk by their name.

7-A(1) Voting Participation (Seabrook,* Moore, Whitehurst, Lindsay, Hernandez) – Discussion Only
This committee is looking into how the ROV can increase voter participation in Oakland Districts 6 & 7.

7-A(2) Youth Participation (Varlack,* Whitehurst, Butter, Hernandez) – Discussion Only
This committee is working to support efforts to strengthen youth civic engagement regarding elections, and to coordinate with the ROV on outreach and program development.

7-A(3) Budgeting for Elections (Wagner,* Pham, Lindsay) – Discussion Only

This committee is working with the ROV office to produce a written fee schedule that clearly defines exactly how jurisdictions will be charged with an explanation of those charges, including RCV, Youth Voting, and the reallocation of five or more ballot measures for the 2026 elections.

7-A(4) Rules and Procedures (Dieter,* Henderson) – Discussion Only

This committee is updating the commission's [rules and procedures](#). Commissioners will discuss and provide feedback on the attached proposed changes.

Attachment - p. 6

8 Regular Agenda Items

8-A Ranked Choice Voting Memorandum of Understanding – Action Item

At the October 2025 meeting, the ROV provided the commission a copy of the 2010 Ranked Choice Voting Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Alameda and the cities of Oakland, Berkeley, and San Leandro. The City of Albany was not included. Clause 3d of the MOU states, "The County/Registrar shall require any jurisdiction that adopts RCV to become a part to this MOU as a condition of conducting RCV elections for that jurisdiction. Prior to the accession of a new party, all parties shall negotiate in good faith to agree upon an equitable formula for determining the amount in which the new party shall reimburse the cities for a fair share of the setup costs they have incurred, and for sharing the costs of RCV after accession." The commission will hear about the status of updating the RCV MOU, possibly provide recommendations to the ROV, and/or refer this matter to the commission's "Budgeting for Elections" ad hoc committee.

8-B General Memorandum of Understanding – Action Item

A general MOU, distinct from an RCV MOU, between the ROV and each jurisdiction for which it administers elections could be useful. It would document the expectations of each party, including the structure of charges for the number of ballot measures. The commission will hear about the status of a general MOU, possibly provide recommendations to the ROV, and/or refer this matter to the commission's "Budgeting for Elections" ad hoc committee.

8-C June Post-election Assessment – Action Item

The commission must conduct a post-election assessment in collaboration with the ROV and report it to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. To start that process, commissioners and the ROV are encouraged to provide feedback about the June elections. The commission will consider (1) combining both June elections into one assessment and provide input for inclusion to the assessment and (2) forming an ad hoc committee or appointing one commissioner to bring back a draft assessment for approval at the July meeting.

Attachment – p. 7

9 Special Report from the ROV – none

10 Adjournment (by 6:30 p.m. if viable)

If you would like to receive email notifications for upcoming agenda postings, please send an email to https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAALAME/subscriber/new?topic_id=CAALAME_467

Attachment for Agenda Item #3 – Draft May Meeting Minutes

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2026

4:00 PM

1225 Fallon Street, Room G-1
Oakland CA 94612

1 Call to Order / Roll Call

The Elections Commission meeting convened at 4:08 p.m. with President Dieter presiding as chair.

Present

Karen Butter, Irene Dieter, Susan Henderson, James Lindsay, Alissa Moore, Alexandra Ritzie-Hernandez, Tiega Varlack, David Wagner, and ex officio Thai Nam Pham (participated via teleconference at 34009 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City, CA pursuant to Gov. Code § 54953(b)(3)).

Absent

Commission Members: Judy Belcher, Alexander Ramon, Karl Seabrook, and Allie Whitehurst.

Registrar of Voters: Cynthia Cornejo, Noe Lucio, Shaheer Siddiqui, and Charles Smithline.

County Counsel: Jason Allen

2 Swearing-in of New Commissioners

There were no new commissioners to swear-in.

3 Approval of Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

4 Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the April 16, 2026 Elections Commission meeting minutes by Commissioner Lindsay, seconded by Commissioner Varlack, and was approved unanimously.

5 Announcements and Communications on non-agenda items

a. From staff

Interim Registrar Cornejo demonstrated the new interactive touchscreen kiosks for observers, noting that the procedures for processes performed in the room are also posted on the wall in the observer area.

b. From commissioners

President Dieter reminded commissioners about the importance of attending the commission meetings so that we can meet our quorum.

6 Public Comment on Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

7 Monthly Update from Registrar of Voters Office (video time 4:50)

Interim Registrar Cornejo reviewed the calendars of election events and deadlines for the June 2 statewide primary elections and the June 16 special 14th congressional district primary election and how the two election material sets are differentiated. She explained how the recently enacted border redistricting affects the 14th congressional district voters in the two June elections and the maps available on the ROV's website. Ms. Cornejo also explained how the Vote on the Go program works in practice. Comments, scenarios, and more discussion ensued.

8 Regular Agenda Items

8-A Ongoing Items from Ad Hoc Committees (video time 32:40)

8-A(1) **Voting Participation**

Commissioner Lindsay reported that the committee met with a consultant to generate basic data by district to answer their questions about population, number of registered voters and turnout by ethnicity, age, etc. Commissioner Ritzie-Hernandez explained that the committee needs to do more research to understand what the numbers mean and how it impacts participation, which could show what partner organizations to contact. Commissioner Moore added that the committee wants to identify more data such as education and other cultural components. Commissioners discussed this initial information.

8-A(2) **Youth Participation**

Commissioner Varlack reported that she would like to get an updated list of schools the ROV Outreach team has visited over this year and would like to piggyback on the Voting Participation Committee's data so that they can study why certain youth are not engaging in voting. A motion was made for Commissioner Ritzie-Hernandez to join the committee by Commissioner Varlack, seconded by Commissioner Butter, and passed unanimously.

8-A(3) **Budgeting for Elections**

Commissioner Lindsay noted that the committee met with the registrar and staff who explained in detail the billing methodology used to distribute actual election costs to the jurisdictions, and they liked the wording. The ROV said that the information be made available on the website and the election billing, and that the ROV will meet with the city clerks possibly in July.

8-A(4) **Rules and Procedures**

President Dieter announced that feedback was being sought on changes to the commission rules regarding public comment procedures, the frequency of meetings, and Brown Act scenarios as described in the agenda packet.

Commissioners Lindsay and Pham said they had no problem with removing the language about public comments being heard collectively. Commissioner Pham added that he prefers hearing non-agenda items at the beginning of the meeting and that the chair should have the discretion on how to handle the number of speakers on any item. Commissioner Henderson said it could be harder for the public to know when to show up to speak on a particular item, and the chair would need to know how many speakers are lined up to speak on each item. Commissioner Lindsay suggested making the default speaking time two minutes and that written public comments be added to the agenda packet. President Dieter described the value of having correspondence posted with the agenda.

A discussion ensued on removing the language in the rules that states the commission does not meet in August and December. President Dieter explained that the ordinance states that the commission shall meet monthly but no less than ten times per year, allowing for when a meeting might be cancelled for unforeseen circumstances. Commissioner Pham said he didn't see how the commission could get around "shall" meet monthly, but that the commission could consider adopting a calendar annually for the following calendar year. President Dieter reported that the author of the ordinance said the commission was to meet monthly. Jason Allen said the language of the ordinance is not clear because it says the commission shall meet monthly and it says the commission will meet at least 10 times a year. It is not clear who the author of the ordinance was, and that the ordinance's legislative history is limited to the Board's public discussion—so comments by a purported author of the ordinance after the ordinance has passed are not relevant when interpreting the ordinance—but that the ordinance says that the commission will meet no less than ten times a year. Commissioner Wagner said he supported removing the language to allow for flexibility. Commissioners Lindsay and Henderson said that the ordinance language allows planning meetings only 10 times a year.

Some commissioners said they found the appendix with the Brown Act Scenarios helpful or didn't care either way.

8-B Scheduling Another Commission Meeting (video time 1:26)

President Dieter explained that because the commission did not meet in January due to a lack of quorum and the ordinance states the commission must meet 10 times a year, the commission had to schedule another meeting to make up for the one that was missed. A discussion ensued. A motion to hold an additional meeting in August that will be held on August 27 was made by Commissioner Butter, seconded by Commissioner Varlack, and passed unanimously.

8-C Voter Information Guides (video time 1:34)

President Dieter described the impetus for the discussion. Ms. Cornejo explained the differences between the state and the county voter information guides— including the mail protocols, who publishes it, the offices, candidate statement requirements, and what is mandated versus discretionary. Ms. Cornejo explained that voters can opt out of getting paper guides. Questions were asked and feedback and recommendations were given by commissioners, including adding a table of contents, page numbers, and an explanation of what is and what is not in each guide.

8-D General Administration (video time 1:58)

Ms. Cornejo explained the two reimbursement agreements approved by the Board of Supervisors, and the approval process required by the supervisors.

9 Special Report from the ROV (video time 1:59:45)

Ms. Betty David presented the Registrar of Voters' outreach efforts to empower students to become future voters and civic leaders in the AC Youth Voice Leadership Program Plan, including becoming a student poll worker. Youth leaders are deputized to engage their peers at the schools and hold their own registration drives, and the ROV is working with teachers for an incentive program. The outreach team also partners with stakeholder groups and organizations.

Commissioners voiced their questions and comments during the presentation. Commissioner Lindsay suggested that the ROV send out a lesson plan to school government teachers.

10 Public Comment on Agenda or Non-agenda Items

No public comments were made.

11 Adjournment

The meeting ended at 6:38 p.m.

Attachment for Agenda Item #7-A(4) Rules and Procedures

The commission will consider the following additions to the rules and procedures. Commissioners are also invited to suggest other changes to the rules.

(a) **Brown Act Meeting Reminders Protocols** - When attending from a hotel, commissioners may want to work with the hotel in advance so that participation can be from a conference room, hotel business center, or another part of the hotel. Commissioners appearing remotely must publicly state if anyone else (18+) is present and their relationship to the member.

If any commissioner is attending remotely, all votes during the meeting must be taken by roll call—no votes by acclamation.

If a quorum is not present after a roll call, the chair will announce that the meeting has been cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

(b) **Clerk Responsibilities** - Commission Agendas, Minutes, & Webcasts
Agendas are typically posted the Friday before a scheduled meeting.
Webcasts are typically posted within a week after the live broadcast.
Minutes are posted after being approved by the commission.

(c) **Agendizing Matters** - Anyone from the public who wishes to have a topic agendized must enlist a commissioner to make the request.

(d) **Terms for Serving as President and Vice-President** - The nominations and election of these two Elections Commission officers [*should take place in the month prior to the new term of office, which typically begins*] at every January meeting.

(e) **Ad Hoc Committees** - Any commissioner wishing to join an existing ad hoc committee may do so after approval by majority vote.

(f) **Member Responsibilities**

1. Attend all regular meetings. Staff is available to assist members in determining the appropriate remote attendance option.

2. Prepare for and participate in meeting discussions. Review the packet before each meeting and come prepared to discuss relevant topics. If commissioners have any clarifying questions before the meeting, they may contact the President of the Commission or ROV support staff as early as possible.

3. Maintain an open mind and think at the county-wide level. During commission meetings, listen carefully to fellow members' opinions and consider the broader regional implications of decision points. Be open to altering your perspective based on information presented in the discussion, by staff, or through regional insights shared by fellow members. Ask questions to staff and fellow commissioners to gain deeper understanding and clarity, particularly with regard to how decisions may impact different areas within the county.

4. In order to be well-informed, representative voices for the community, commissioners are encouraged to make site visits and read election-related materials in support of Registrar of Voters activities and programs.

6. Attend at least one Board of Supervisors meeting a year if possible. Remote attendance is available.

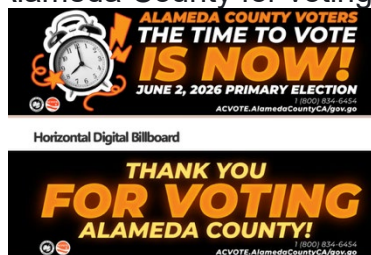
7. Communicate with your nominating authority. Regularly communicating with your nominating authority will allow you to establish priorities for the Registrar of Voters or nominating authority and gather additional information on the goals and objectives of the community.

Attachment for Agenda Item #8-D – Post-election Assessment

In general, the purpose of the post-election assessment is to highlight what worked well and to identify issues in need of improvement. Commissioners and the ROV are encouraged to add issues compiled from public comment, news articles, first-hand experiences, etc. Below is a list of ideas to assist the commission in getting started in today's brainstorming session.

Enhancements Implemented

1. Observation Points at ROV Office - Kiosks were installed with interactive explanations of procedures being observed. Observer Guidelines were also included.
2. Implemented Elections Code section 3016.5 – Voters were able to check in at Vote Centers and cast their vote-by-mail ballot without the return identification envelope. To enable this process, vote centers had access to near real-time information of encrypted registration data and voter history for all voters on an electronic device commonly known as Poll Pads (also known as electronic poll books or E-Pollbooks).
3. Publicity – Beyond distributing the ballots and voter guides, there were additional helpful materials mailed and information made available in neighborhoods. There were also large billboards preparing and thanking Alameda County for voting.

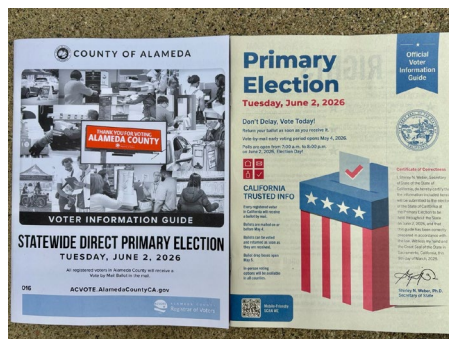


The ROV distributed an "Election Tool Kit" to the media in advance of the election. The tool kit includes election information, important dates, social media calendar, observation information, and marketing graphics. The Tool Kit is located online at https://acvote.alamedacountyca.gov/acvote-assets/02_election_information/PDFs/20260602/toolkit20260602.pdf. The ROV provided to the media footage of the vote-by-mail processing areas to use for their story coverage.

4. Avoiding Confusion Between June 2 and June 16 elections – For those living in the 14th Congressional District, the ROV office provided clear color-coded envelopes, different size ballot cards, and clear explanations that distinguished the two elections. The ROV added a webpage dedicated to the 14th Congressional District with information on boundaries and maps for voters to have a better understanding of their eligibility to vote in the special congressional election. A video presentation with information on the differences between June 2 and June 16 elections was available online at <https://acvote.alamedacountyca.gov/info/20260616>.
5. Outreach Team – The ROV Outreach team has attended over 190 events and visited over 14 schools during High School voter education week to encourage youth participation at the polls and preregistration.

Possible future enhancements

1. Voter Information Guides



(a) County Voter Information Guide - Enhance the county voter information guide as follows:

- Omit the words “statewide direct” from the cover page like the state did.
- Include a table of contents and page numbers.
- Include an introductory page that explains what is and what is not in the voting guide, including a notation if the items are to be found in the state information guide.
- Reverse the order of instructions for how to fold the ballot to first instruct the voter to fold the pages separately..

(b). State Voter Information Guide - Send a recommendation to the Secretary of State to:

- Add the word “statewide” to the coverage page.
- Make more noticeable the sentence “Candidates who did not accept the spending limits are not permitted to submit statements,” perhaps including it on every candidate statements’ page. The sentence “Some eligible candidates who accepted the spending limits choose not to buy space for a candidate statement” should follow.
- Include a page that explains what is and what is not in the voting guide, including a notation if items are found in the county information guide.

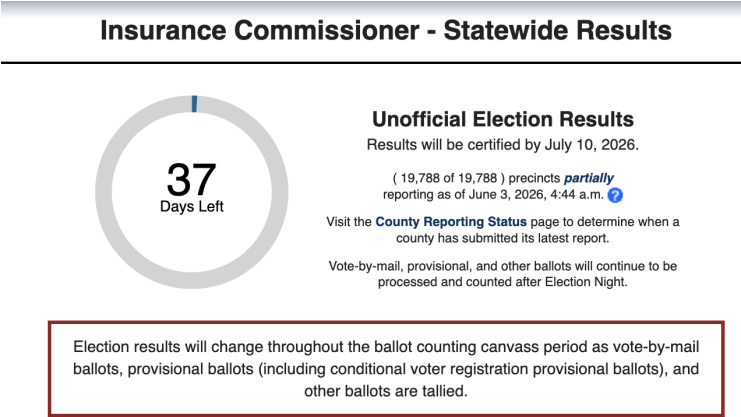
2. Hotline - Create a hotline for jurisdictional leaders to use for emergencies, such as having full ballot boxes or if a Vote Centers are out of voter guides or are experiencing difficulties.

3. Website results – The “100%” reported notation continues to be a problem. It conveys that 100 percent of all the votes have been counted when it is not the case. In addition, it would also be helpful to include a “county results” notation. Conversely, the Secretary of State’s website results page states, “partially reporting,” which is very clear. The following screenshots were taken at the same time during the canvassing period to illustrate the differences.

County screenshot shows (100.00%)

Insurance Commissioner	—
546 of 546 Precincts Reported from Vote Centers (100.00%)	Vote for One (1) Only

Secretary of State screenshot shows “precincts *partially* reporting”



4. County Results Homepage – The ROV has updated the [Results page](#) to include the word, “Preliminary” to the header and added a “Results Update Schedule” link. However, it may still be confusing. The ROV should consider placing the unprocessed ballots on the homepage instead of having to click and scroll to get to the schedule.

(a)

Direct Primary Election - June 02, 2026
Preliminary/Unofficial - Post Election Update #1

Last Updated: Friday, June 05, 2026; 4:06 PM

[Click here to request the Cast Vote Record](#)
[Click here for the June 2 Results Update Schedule.](#)

(b)

[Election Results](#)
[Election Results Update Schedule](#)

- Friday, June 12, 2026

[Click here to request a Cast Vote Record file.](#)

Estimated Unprocessed Ballots Report
as of 4:50 PM Monday, June 8, 2026.

- Cumulative total number of processed ballots: **394,910**
- Number of ballots tabulated since the last report: **150,375**

Estimated number of unprocessed ballots in the following categories:

- Ballots voted at a voting location: **0**
- Vote by Mail Ballots received on or before Election Day: **0**
- Vote by Mail Ballots received after Election Day through E+7: **16,796**
- Ballots forwarded by other counties: **1,262**
- Provisional Ballots: **233**
- Conditional Voter Registration (CVR): **1,467**
- Other (includes unprocessed ballots that are damaged, need to be remade, or require further review: **293**
- TOTAL ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNPROCESSED BALLOTS: **20,051**
- Ballots left to cure: **1,600**

Next vote results expected: June 12, 2026 at 4:00 PM