

**ALAMEDA COUNTY ELECTIONS COMMISSION  
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Thursday, November 20, 2025  
Time: 4:00 PM  
Location: Via Zoom/In person  
San Lorenzo Library  
395 Paseo Grande  
San Lorenzo, California 94580

**1. Call To Order / Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by President James R. Lindsay.

Present

*Commission Members:* Karen A. Butter, Susan R. Henderson, James R. Lindsay, Alexander Ramon, Karl I. Seabrook, Tiega N. Varlack, David Wagner, and Thai Nam Pham by teleconference at 34009 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City CA 94587.

*Registrar of Voters:* Tim Dupuis, Cynthia Cornejo, Shaheer Siddiqui, and Charles Smithline.

*County Counsel:* Jason Allen.

Absent

*Commission Members:* Judy Belcher, Irene Dieter, Alissa Moore, and Allie Whitehurst.

**2. Swearing In of New Commissioners**

There were no new commissioners to swear-in.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

No modifications were made to the agenda.

**4. Approval of Minutes of October 16, 2025**

A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Commissioner Ramon, seconded by Commissioner Seabrook, and passed by acclamation.

**5. Announcements and Communications**

a. From staff

There were no announcements from staff.

b. From commissioners

President Lindsay reminded everyone that there will be no meeting in December, and that the commission will be electing its next president and vice-president at the January meeting. He announced that Commissioner Valentine's term ended and she has chosen not to continue. Lindsay volunteered to ask the Board of Supervisors if they want assistance from the commission in seeking her replacement.

## 6. Public Comment on Agenda Items

No public comments were made on agenda items.

## 7. Monthly Update from Registrar of Voters Office (video time: 5:29)

Registrar Dupuis said the ROV has been focused on the November 4 statewide special election and the Washington Township Healthcare District election. Vote centers, drop boxes, one percent manual tally, voter turnout, and upcoming pertinent dates were discussed. There are about 3,000 Vote-By-Mail signatures to be cured. Deputy Registrar Cornejo explained facets to curing and the training process. Mr. Dupuis said the county has 30 days to certify the election, but not before December 2. He added that the processes for the June 2026 election have begun and the onboarding of candidates will begin on December 19.

## 8. a. Ongoing Items from Ad Hoc Committees (video time: 18:10)

### (1) Voting Participation

Commissioner Seabrook reported that the committee wants to redefine itself and will be preparing a mission statement so they may better focus on what the group is aiming for as they move forward. They plan to leverage input from other groups. President Lindsay added that it is a long-term project as opposed to a short-term project.

### (2) Nominations

Commissioner Ramon reported that the committee has received four additional applications and presented the qualifications of candidate Alexandra (Sasha) Ritzie-Hernandez for the vacant impacted communities' seat—namely, language barriers. A motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors for Sasha Ritzie-Hernandez to fill Seat 6 was made by Commissioner Ramon, seconded by Commissioner Seabrook, and passed unanimously, 7 to 0.

President Lindsay volunteered to send the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. He added that ad hoc committees may not be standing committees, but he would first like to check with the county to see if they would welcome assistance on filling the voting rights organization seat. If they say no, the committee should close.

### (3) Youth Participation

Commissioner Varlack reported that the committee has not met yet, but plans to work with the ROV to build out the internal program already started, to partner with local leaders and school districts to find out where the youth are and how to get them signed up to vote, and to reach out to the people in the juvenile justice and foster care systems to get them educated on their rights. Commissioner Butter added that they also want to partner with the community groups that are already working with the school districts.

## b. New Business

### (1) November 2025 Post-election Assessment (video time: 28:05)

President Lindsay pointed out that the attachment in the agenda packet was meant to

serve as a starting point for a brainstorming session. Commissioners Butter, Wagner, and Pham volunteered to work on the report, and Butter sought feedback from commissioners on their observations of the election.

Commissioner Seabrook said that voter turnout exceeded his expectations and liked seeing the pre-election advertisements to vote early. Commissioner Ramon agreed, saying the advertisements were a driver for good voter turnout. Butter said she liked the thank-you-for-voting billboard announcement. Lindsay said he got his voter information guide early, but that he heard complaints others did not. Pham said that election day was the busiest day and was a positive experience, but the drop box location was in the parking lot area not at city hall itself. Commissioner Henderson said it would be nice if the vote-early announcements explained that those votes would be counted on election day and that people won't have to wait long for the results. Henderson also mentioned that Alameda County posted its first batch of numbers way ahead of San Francisco. Mr. Dupuis responded that the news media and the public get the data at the same time.

A motion to create an ad hoc committee to provide a post-election assessment report to be staffed by Commissioner Butter, Commissioner Wagner, and Commissioner Pham was made by Commissioner Varlack, seconded by Commissioner Henderson, and passed unanimously, 7 to 0.

## **(2) Recruitment for ROV position (video time: 41:50)**

President Lindsay listed possible actions the commission could take to help increase the field of candidates applying for the job, including spreading the word about the opening to those who might be interested, forming an ad hoc committee to consider other ideas, and/or offering assistance to the Board of Supervisors. Lindsay said he did not think forming a committee was necessary or that it would be helpful, so he would not recommend that. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Dupuis said the job opening will be posted on the county's website and that the county will do recruiting several ways to get the word out.

Lindsay said that he did not think the commission had to take any official action with a motion and he volunteered to send a letter to the supervisors saying the commission will spread the word on the open ROV position and let them know that if there is anything else the commission could do to be helpful in the process, the commission would do it.

## **(3) Youth Voting at Vote Centers (video time: 49:35)**

President Lindsay said that one piece of the legislation in Berkeley and Oakland that allows youth to be able to pre-register and vote at vote centers has not yet been implemented.

Mr. Dupuis said that the youth there can vote by mail, but youth voting has not yet been integrated for in-person voting at vote centers. They are looking at the next steps.

Ms. Cornejo said that, after the November election is certified, the ROV will restart conversations with the vendors about advancing the technology for in-person youth voting at voting centers and with Berkeley and Oakland Unified School Districts. Ms. Cornejo added that the ROV already partners with school districts and encourages students to pre-register and to apply to be poll workers.

A motion was made to encourage the ROV's office to work with its vendors to develop a technological solution that would allow youth to pre-register and vote in vote centers by the November 2026 election by Mr. Lindsay, seconded by Commissioner Varlack, and passed 7 to 0.

#### **9. Special Report from the ROV**

There was no special report from the ROV this month.

#### **10. Public Comment on Agenda or Non-Agenda Items**

One public comment was made.

#### **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.