



Alameda County Elections Commission

Approved Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2026

4:00 PM

1225 Fallon Street, Room G-1
Oakland CA 94612
Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87981215132>

1 **Call to Order / Roll Call**

The Elections Commission meeting convened at 4:10 p.m. with President Dieter presiding as chair.

Present

Karen Butter, Irene Dieter, Susan Henderson, Jim Lindsay, Alissa Moore, Alexander Ramon, Alexandra Ritzie-Hernandez, Karl Seabrook, Tiega Varlack, David Wagner, and Allie Whitehurst.

Registrar of Voters: Cynthia Cornejo, Noe Lucio, Charles Smithline, and Shaheer Siddiqui.
County Counsel: Jason Allen and Brandon Fields

Absent

Commission Members: Judy Belcher and Thai Nam Pham.

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 Minutes of February 19, 2026**

A motion was made to approve the February 19, 2026 Elections Commission meeting minutes by Commissioner Varlack, seconded by Commissioner Butter, and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of March 19, 2026

A motion was made to approve the March 19, 2026 Elections Commission meeting minutes by Commissioner Lindsay, seconded by Commissioner Butter, and passed unanimously.

5 **Announcements and Communications on non-agenda items**

a. From staff

County Counsel Jason Allen introduced Deputy County Counsel Brandon Fields. Interim Registrar Cynthia Cornejo announced that the ROV has started working on the June 16 Congressional District 14 special election.

b. From commissioners

Commissioner Lindsay encouraged commissioners to attend the monthly meetings on time for the full meeting to ensure a quorum. President Dieter reminded commissioners to email her any requested agenda topics, and for ad hoc committees to submit reports to the clerk and president eight days before the meeting. She also reminded the ad hoc committees that there is

information in the Elections Administration Plan that might help with their work. Commissioner Moore announced that the annual Quest for Democracy Conference, a political education event for 500 to 1,000 individuals will be held May 2-4 at the California State Capital.

6 Public Comment on Agenda Items

Public comments were made on agenda items.

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

Interim Registrar Cynthia Cornejo reported important dates and activities for the June 2, 2026 Primary Election, and important dates and special processes and messaging for the June 16, 2026 Congressional District 14 Special Primary Election. She mentioned that details are listed in the agenda attachment. She delineated the techniques the ROV is implementing to reduce voter confusion as well as potential envelope sorting errors in the Congressional District 14 primary. Commissioners Butter, Lindsay, Henderson, Ramon, and Varlack asked related questions.

8 Regular Agenda Items

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

8-A(1) November 2025 Post-election Assessment

President Dieter announced that she sent the updated assessment to the supervisors, which is attached to the agenda. She asked all the commissioners to keep a running list of their own observations as input for the June elections assessments. A motion to disband the November 2025 election assessment subcommittee was made by Commissioner Varlack, seconded by Commissioner Seabrook, and passed unanimously.

8-A(2) Voting Participation

Commissioner Seabrook reported the committee has built a database with the help of Commissioner Hernandez, and they will analyze the data.

8-A(3) Youth Participation

Commissioner Varlack reported that the committee met with Ms. Cornejo and the Outreach staff who gave a presentation and reviewed the work they have been doing to engage and preregister youth, and the efforts with the NAACP and the League of Women Voters. The committee plans to gather the names of students deputized to register youth voters. Commissioner Whitehurst reported that McClymonds High School had a newsworthy event on youth voting. Ms. Cornejo concurred and noted the committee has assisted the ROV to partner with some of the more difficult high schools for the high school voter education week. Commissioner Butter asked that the ROV give their presentation to the commission.

8-A(4) Budgeting for Elections

Commissioner Wagner reported that the committee met with the Registrar and her team, who presented a thorough overview of how the cost allocations for elections and operations are determined and distributed among jurisdictions. The committee has learned that costs are in proportion to the number of registered voters, but costs can increase and possibly double based on two shares for five or more ballot measures. Ranked choice voting and youth voting are accounted for separately. RCV costs are shared among RCV jurisdictions, and youth voting costs are shared among youth voting jurisdictions. In the short term, the committee plans to work with the ROV to make the costs more predictable, and the ROV is working to improve communications with the city clerks. The committee's longer term goal might include looking

into how costs are allocated and made more equitable. Commissioner Lindsay added the committee reviewed and accepted a proposed wording for charges. Commissioner Butter noted that it is important for communities to be able to consider the cost of ranked choice or youth voting before implementing such changes.

8-B Contracts over \$100,000

Vice President Ramon introduced the item and said the three contracts over \$100,000 were attached to the agenda. Ms. Cornejo summarized the services each of the vendors provide and the funds used to cover costs. Commissioners Butter, Ramon, Lindsay, and Varlack asked related questions.

8-C Rules and Procedures

President Dieter said the commission's rules and procedures document needs to be updated. A motion to form a new Rules and Procedures ad hoc committee composed of Commissioners Dieter and Henderson was made by Commissioner Ramon, seconded by Commissioner Varlack and passed 10 to 1, with Commissioner Wagner abstaining.

8-C Selection of Liaison to Help Onboard New Commissioners

A motion to select Commissioner Lindsay to become the new Liaison of the commission was made by Commissioner Varlack, seconded by Commissioner Ritzie-Hernandez and passed unanimously.

9 Special Report from the ROV (video time 1:09)

Ms. Cornejo explained recently chaptered laws affecting elections that were attached to the agenda. Commissioners asked clarifying questions.

10 Public Comment on Agenda or Non-agenda Items

One public comment was made on an agenda item.

11 Adjournment

The meeting ended at 5:40 p.m.