

Alameda County Elections Commission

Approved Meeting Minutes

June 18, 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 4:00 p.m. with President Dieter presiding as chair.

Present: *Commission Members:* Judy Belcher, Karen Butter, Irene Dieter, Jim Lindsay, Karl Seabrook, Tiega Varlack, David Wagner, and Allie Whitehurst, 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:* Susan Henderson, Alissa Moore, Alexander Ramon, and Sasha Ritzie-Hernandez.

County staff in attendance:

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

County Counsel: Jason Allen

2 Agenda Changes

No changes were made to the agenda.

3 Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the May 21, 2026 Elections Commission meeting minutes by Commissioner Lindsay, seconded by Commissioner Butter, and was approved by acclamation.

4 Announcements and Communications on Issues Not on the Agenda

President Lindsay said he appreciated the video time being included in the meeting minutes. President Dieter announced that public comments on non-agenda items will be taken first, and again as each agenda item is heard, and comments will be limited to three minutes.

5 Public Comment on Issues Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments on non-agendized items.

6 Monthly Update from Registrar of Voters (ROV) Office

Interim Registrar Cornejo provided an update on the two elections winding down. She said California elections officials may process vote-by-mail ballot envelopes as soon as they are received, which means capturing the image of the envelope, checking the signature, extracting the ballot from the envelope, and storing until they can be tabulated on election night. She also said ballots post-marked on or before election day will be accepted for another seven days.

7 Ongoing Agenda Items

7-A Ad Hoc Committee Reports

7-A(1) Voting Participation Committee (video time 15:51)

Commissioner Seabrook reported that the committee gathered demographic data on African-American voters and will meet with an outside group to request data on Hispanics and other demographics.

7-A(2) Youth Participation Committee

Commissioner Varlack reported that Albany is having some problems getting their youth voting off the ground because they have been waiting to get cost estimates from the ROV. The committee offered to help the ROV in some way.

Jason Allen said that he had sent the youth-voting MOU to Albany's school district legal counsel a couple of months ago and they had reached back within the last couple of weeks about joining the MOU, and counsel had just requested the cost information earlier in the week.

Clarifying questions began. Ms. Cornejo said it was known that the initial costs would be higher than the ongoing costs. She explained that initial costs were to develop the software, programming, special ballots and elections materials, so the cost to cities in the future will be lower. The cost estimate on reimbursing Oakland and Berkeley for startup of development of the software is being provided to Berkeley and Oakland. The deadline is June 30 for jurisdictions to notify the ROV if they want to do youth voting in November.

Mr. Allen clarified that youth voting in Albany is allowed in both school board and city municipal elections and that he has been dealing with the school district's attorneys, not the city's. Ms. Cornejo added that the system for youth voting is not set up for anything other than school district elections, which Albany could do this year. She said the ROV would give the school district a cost estimate before the end of the week, and she had provided the costs to the Albany city clerk and would follow up with her.

One public comment was made. Ms. Cornejo said the ROV is working on MOUs, RCV, and youth billing for providing future cost estimates.

7-A(3) Budgeting for Elections

Commissioner Lindsay reported that the committee was unable to meet during the month.

7-A(4) Rules and Procedures (video time 48:28)

President Dieter said the proposed additions to the commission's rules and procedures were categorized in the agenda packet. Commissioners expressed agreement on the additions.

8 Regular Agenda Items

8-A Ranked Choice Voting Memorandum of Understanding (video time 1:00:38)

Ms. Cornejo updated the commission that the MOU has been amended to include the City of

Albany and that the affected jurisdictions requested more information or discussion on those amendments before signing the contract. A meeting will be scheduled.

Ms. Cornejo explained in detail how each jurisdiction pays the cost generated by its own contests. Each jurisdiction's billed cost includes all the costs incurred for the specific contests the ROV has been contracted to run. The invoice includes an itemized list of costs incurred by the ROV in conducting that specific jurisdiction's contest, including the additional costs incurred for an RCV contest.

A motion was made that the Budgeting for Elections committee entertain the status of updating the RCV MOU and provide recommendations to the ROV about what should be in the MOU by Commissioner Belcher, seconded by Commissioner Varlack. Discussion ensued, and a substitute motion to refer this issue to the ad hoc committee to bring back its suggestions for the ROV to the full commission was made by President Dieter, seconded by Commissioner Lindsay. After discussion, President Dieter withdrew that motion to attempt another motion recommending the ROV discuss the MOUs with the city clerks at their July meeting, and after discussion withdrew it. An amendment to restrict the original motion to finance was made by Commissioner Lindsay and was accepted. Commissioner Belcher rephrased her original motion saying it was updating the RCV MOU in regard to financing and referring it to the Budgeting for Elections ad hoc committee, which passed 5-2-1 with Commissioners Butter and Wagner dissenting and Commissioner Whitehurst abstaining.

8-B General Memorandums of Understanding (video time 1:36:41)

President Dieter explained that the topic has to do with all the jurisdictions lacking MOUs in general and how the commission wants to handle it. After commissioners' clarifying questions, one public comment was made. A discussion ensued.

Commissioner Pham said a MOU for election services is something that the city clerks throughout Alameda County want to have and it is important that both parties are actively working together to get it done. He suggested the commission make a motion that the commission check on the status of the MOU on a bimonthly basis until the MOU has been created and signed. A motion was made for the commission to recommend that the Registrar of Voters office enter into MOU discussions with the City Clerks regarding election services and report back to the commission every two months on progress by Commissioner Lindsay, seconded by Commissioner Belcher. Public comment was re-opened for two members of the public. Then the motion passed 5-1-1, with Commissioner Seabrook dissenting and Commissioner Wagner abstaining. Commissioner Whitehurst had stepped out of the room when the vote was taken.

8-C June Post-election Assessment (video time 2:06)

President Dieter said that initial ideas were listed in the agenda packet and asked for input. Discussion ensued. A motion was made to authorize the president and vice president to draft an assessment and bring it back next meeting by Commissioner Lindsay, seconded by

Commissioner Butter, and passed unanimously.

9 Special Report from the ROV

There was no special report from the ROV.

10 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.