Elections Commission City and County of San Francisco

Viva Mogi, President Lucy Bernholz, Vice President Roger Donaldson Christopher Jerdonek Charles Jung Jill Rowe



John Arntz, Director of Elections City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 48 San Francisco, CA 94115.

June 18, 2020

To: San Francisco Mayor London N. Breed

San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Budget and Finance Committee Chairperson Sandra Lee Fewer

Re: FY2020-21 and FY2021-22 Department of Elections Budget Cuts

Dear Honorable Mayor London Breed and Honorable Supervisor Fewer,

On Wednesday, June 17, 2020, the San Francisco Elections Commission was alarmed to learn that due to the City's budget shortfalls, the Director of Elections was required to modify his proposed FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 budget to include \$2.8 million in cuts. The Elections Commission feels strongly and unanimously that anywhere near this kind of budget cut would very severely jeopardize the City's ability to conduct a free, fair and functional election in 2020. At a time when the security and integrity of elections are facing profound threats across the country, San Francisco should not add to the chaos by cutting necessary funding for essential election services. We understand the City's current budget problems and the need to make difficult choices, but if election security fails, then all government services fail with it. The Elections Commission urges the Mayor and the Supervisors to approve the budget as initially submitted by the Director of Elections, and to disregard the cuts that the Director was mandated to propose in the amended budget.

Sincerely,

Viva Mogi, President

San Francisco Elections Commission

Cc: San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Kelly Kirkpatrick, Mayor's Budget Director
Ashley Groffenberger, Mayor's Deputy Budget Director
John Arntz, Director, San Francisco Elections Department
San Francisco Elections Commission